

Sustainable Poolesville

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2021 (via Zoom)

Attendees:

Matthew Kierce, Ed Reed, Danny Embrey, Jane Harris, Joyce Breiner, Don Street, Thomas Jagodits, Maria Bowman (not yet approved by Commissioners; Ed will look into this at next Commissioners meeting).

1. Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

2. Announcements:

The next meeting will be April 28, 2021.

3. Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the February 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. New Business:

Sustainable Maryland Webinars: Don reported that Sustainable Maryland will be offering a number of webinars over the next couple of months; all are free to team members. He will forward information/links to all. Sustainable Maryland also hosts a virtual connection meeting on Friday and Don will forward the information from Sustainable Maryland. It is open to anyone and everyone as an opportunity to exchange ideas on sustainability.

Joyce reported that Ed has been working with the Commissioners to enable Poolesville to become a "Water Sense Partner". No real progress due to current situation re town manager replacement. She will also speak to Cathy Bupp.

Don described his effort to update the contact information in the Town's Sustainable Maryland account, opining that the information should reflect the Town as the account owner and not the town manager as it currently is set up. Don removed Seth Rivard as the primary point of contact and put himself as primary with Bobby (acting town manager) as secondary. Some further changes may be made in the future.

5. Old Business:

Sustainable Recertification: Don stated the new Sustainable Maryland platform will be easier to navigate and update information regarding our current projects/actions. He attended a Zoom meeting where Sustainable Maryland shared information about the new website and provided a list of new initiatives/actions that will be available once the website goes live in May. We will be able to

take advantage of some of the new actions for points for our recertification. Don noted that one of the new initiatives is public WiFi, which is becoming more popular nationwide. Some further discussion regarding the EV charging stations ensued.

Sustainable Poolesville Award update: Thomas did not have much new to report, but did note that the advertisement did appear in the Monocle.

Pollinator Habitat/Meadow: Jane and Joyce still working on details, nothing new to report. Jane was in contact with an individual who suggested a new area to establish a pollinator habitat, specifically the area near the entrance to Stevens Park on Wooten Parkway (pathway leading to Collier Circle pond). She will speak further with the person to get more information. This will be added as a separate agenda item for future meetings. The effort to have the State designate the Public Works solar array as a pollinator habitat is still being worked on.

Member bios: Get those photos and (short) bios in. Danny stated t-shirts will be coming along soon.

Town Master Plan Review: Question has been discussed several times previously about this Committee being involved with the Town's review of the Master Plan, but there has been no definitive answer from the Commissioners or the Planning Board. Danny has been speaking with Cindy (no last name given, but thinks she is the head of their "Green Team".) in Middletown (Maryland) where a review of their Master Plan is underway and their "Green Team" is participating. According to Danny, they have a list of about 20 pages of recommendations at this point. He pointed out that our Committee could do the same sort of thing, using the Water Sense initiative as an example. He will also speak further with Cindy to find out how they are interfacing with their town government. The Water Sense initiative can provide us with points for re-certification as an Innovative Demonstration Project. Ed indicated that he told the Commissioners about our interest in being involved in the Master Plan review, and continues to bring it up to them at each meeting. He stated that there probably isn't any harm in someone from our Committee making contact with the Planning Committee regarding our input in the review, since we are the best source of information for sustainability issues. Ed further emphasized that we need to keep ping the Commissioners and the Planning Committee about our Committee being a part of the review process, and that we can gain much by speaking with Middletown as they may have some good ideas on how best to help the Planning Committee. Danny will speak with Commissioner Martin Radigan and Chair of Planning Committee and will keep us updated on any progress.

Montgomery County Solar Co-Op: Joyce reported that the Commissioners approved the Town becoming a promotional partner with the Montgomery County Solar Co-Op, which is due to kick off April 1st. Joyce has scheduled two Zoom information sessions via Poolesville Green, April 29th at 7 pm and May 20th at noon. Basically, Poolesville Green will host the Zoom session and a representative of the Co-Op will present information about the Co-Op.

6. Informal discussion regarding the town manager situation. Ed asked us to provide him with some ideas on what characteristics we think are important for an ideal town manager. He stated it's

important the Commissioners hear from those individuals who have to work with the town manager, i.e., members of the various Town committees/boards/commissions.

Some discussion regarding what sort of budget line item amount we might need in the future. Ed will look into this further. Maria suggested that having some money available for training would be good. (Could this maybe be part of what the Town budgets for continuing education for the paid staff?)

7. Adjournment at 8:22 pm.

Submitted by: Don Street