

## Sustainable Poolesville

### Meeting Minutes

May25, 2022 (in person and via Zoom)

#### Attendees:

Don Street, Joyce Breiner, Maria Bowman, Jane Harris (by phone/Zoom), Ed Reed, Thomas Jagodits  
Guests: Erika Reed

#### Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

#### 1. Announcements:

The next meeting will be August 24th, 2022.

#### 2. Approval of minutes:

April 27<sup>th</sup> minutes approved unanimously.

#### 3. New Business:

##### Poolesville Day – To booth or not to booth?

Although it was noted that we are one of (if not the only) town committee that has a booth at these events, the decision was made to go forward with having a booth at Poolesville Day. Joyce is on the Poolesville Day committee, and volunteered to investigate whether it would be possible for us to get a booth location on the shady (south) side of Fisher Avenue to make sitting at the booth a bit more tolerable than in previous years. Joyce noted that the paper deadline to register for a booth was June 8, but likely flexible.

##### Expanding the committee

Ed noted that because our committee is not state-mandated, we have flexibility on committee size and could recommend to Wade that we expand the size of the committee, and he would decide whether to put forward to the commissioners. There was some discussion about whether it was appropriate to reach out to the third person who was interested in serving on the committee who did not provide much background or a resume on their suitability for the committee, and it was ultimately decided that we would give them the opportunity to submit more information. Rather than waiting until the August meeting to decide whether to expand the size of the committee and which candidates to move forward with, we decided to communicate about these two items via email.

#### 4. Old Business:

##### Spring Fest – (Canceled)

##### Maryland Sierra Club clean energy resolution – Tabled for now

Don plans to recirculate the details and asks around the MD Sierra Club clean energy resolution, and we will follow up via email before the August meeting to discuss whether to move forward.

## Recycling bins for parks

Don noted that he had previously asked Wade if he could add recycling bins at Halmos, and it sounds like there has been progress on this front. However, we still have a number of questions about next steps:

- Can older blue bins at Halmos (and possibly other parks) get recycling labels added? Erika noted that there are two at Halmos that are still not labeled (next to the upper and lower baseball fields).
- An additional bin at the Halmos pavilion for recycling would be helpful.
- Who is currently bearing the responsibility for maintaining and emptying the recycling bins at town parks? Although we are assuming that town staff will pick up and empty, it would be good to confirm that that is the case and that the recycling is making it into the recycling stream.

## Litter initiative – “Pick It Up, Poolesville!”

Erika Reed provided a planning and brainstorming document highlighting the suggestions that came forward from a discussion with local girl scouts, and noted successful post-Springfest cleanup. In addition, Girl Scout Troop 32009 has organized dates for focused trash pickups around town at the following locations/dates:

- 5/30/2022 - Whalen Commons
- 6/3/2022 - Poolesville High
- 7/4/2022 - Halmos Park
- 7/30/2022 - Stevens Park

Town members can sign up to participate on the [SignUpGenius site](#).

Committee decided that we might be able to support in several ways, and Don noted that he would follow up with Wade and/or Cathy about these options:

- Inform via Marquee (request could be submitted directly via website)
- Potential email blast, facebook promotion etc.
- Support via materials (e.g. plastic bags) - right now, plan is that participants will provide own materials (gloves, trash bags, etc.)
- Add to activities in Monocacy Monocle

Erika also noted that she would follow up with the organizer about whether signup is necessary or whether folks could just show up—and also on whether SSL hours could be available to participants.

Broader discussion centered around whether there were other steps that the town could take—such as additional cleanup days and what the structure of these could look like, as well as whether there were any liability issues associated with hosting these. One proposal floated was to have smaller, neighborhood cleanups during the summer with a larger event in the fall (e.g. with sponsors and food). Joyce and Jane also noted that there continues to be a need for education around what is recyclable within town limits (since this is different from what is recyclable by the county), and a need for education and awareness around littering. Joyce noted that one potential follow up item could be to look into Litterati (<https://www.litterati.org/>) to see if this could be a useful resource.

## Comprehensive Plan

Danny and Ed provided several updates about the comprehensive planning process. Ed noted that the consultant and planning commission are still working to incorporate the feedback that was received at the event on the Commons a few weeks back. Danny had an email update from Wade that they were currently developing a list of people/groups who would be invited to speak with the consultant and provide input on the comprehensive planning process.

Danny also noted that he had recently learned that the new development plan for the Willard property adjacent to the Commons was presented, but when asked about how they were incorporating sustainability into the plan, they did not provide a strong response. Discussion centered around how this seems like an example where our committee could be incorporated into the feedback process via closer

involvement with the planning commission, as well as something that might be institutionalized in the next Comprehensive Plan. Next step is for Don to reach out to Bryan Bupp to set up a conversation about how we might be able to provide input on the process, and to include Danny in the conversation with Bryan.

### Compost

Continuing the compost conversation from previous weeks, there were a number of perspectives on the committee about how to move forward. Ed suggested we move forward by pitching potential options and gathering additional feedback about town needs and wants, while Thomas and others thought moving forward with a small pilot could be an immediate next step. Ed suggested that we put together a presentation for the Commissioners on the topic, while also pursuing additional information about the cost and logistics associated with a pilot. Don said he would have a conversation with Wade to get his input.

### **Public comments:**

#### **5. Other:**

It was mentioned that Montgomery County Public Schools had added one new green school, and that a number of schools had been recertified. John Poole Middle School attained the Sustainable Bronze Level. This is a great achievement, and contributes to our Sustainable Maryland certification. <https://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/staff-bulletin/mcps-adds-one-new-green-school-27-recertify/>

Let's continue to keep tabs on potential inclusion of the Community Based Public Art initiative in our certification—in particular in terms of staying engaged with Riverworks Art Center as that moves forward to see if there are ways that the town can be more involved. <https://www.riverworksart.org/>

#### **6. Adjournment at 8:51 pm**

Submitted by: Maria Bowman