

MEETING MINUTES
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 25, 2019
Thursday 7:30 pm – Vienna Town Hall

In Attendance

Susan Patton
Sammy Thomson
Desiree DiMauro
Joanne Burke
Christine Horner
Sean Casey
Bob Robinson
Susan Stillman
Christina Caplan
Kana Furukawa

Absent

Rochele Kadish

Guests

Richard Miller
Brian Land
Avril Garland

7:30 PM: Welcome/Call to Order

Approval of minutes – Joanne Burke moved the approval of the minutes of June 27, 2019 meeting. Susan Patton seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Presentations - Brian Land

- Interested in helping to plant more trees within the Town and is concerned that new homes are taking down mature trees.
- Noted that other jurisdictions have tree foundations and tree stewards. Recommended Town rights-of-way for additional tree placement.
- Susan Stillman noted the Town's Heritage Dedication Program as an opportunity for citizens to purchase trees for the Town to plant.
- Discussed lot coverage and tree credit available in Town. Christina Caplan recommended working with Town Attorney for potential changes to Town Code regarding tree coverage. Discussed impacts of Dillon's Rule in Virginia.
- Recommended that the Town have an award for homebuilders that provide additional tree protection.

Guest Presentations - Richard Miller

- Discussed concerns with leaf blowers and questions about Vienna Market.

Guest Presentations - Avril Garland

- Presented concerns with the noise, microbial activity and environmental impact of leaf blowers.
- Cited Audubon Society and DC's 2022 proposed ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.
- Additional concerns with health impact of fumes and noise level associated with gas-powered equipment.

- Recommends electric blowers and raking (potential to coordinate with James Madison High School volunteers).
- Recommends working with private landscape companies and the Town to switch to electric- powered equipment.

Green Expo – Joanne Burke

- Received five exhibitor responses from feedback poll.
- Exhibitors that responded agreed that the event was worth the time to attend.
- Recommend including vendor names in next year's survey.
- Survey feedback suggestions were to host more of the electric cars, expand the exhibit space, and provide logistics information earlier.
- Positive feedback on Earth Day timing, general preference for weekday over weekend, mixed reviews on the event's length of time, or on holding a two hour or longer event.
- Susan Stillman will talk with Leon about next year's space reservation potentially including the hallway and coordinate to place the date on the Town's calendar.
- Recommend coordinating with Clean Fairfax Council as a potential exhibitor for next year.

Bee City – Susan Stillman

- Received certification as a Bee City USA.
- Published in VML Magazine article.

Recycling/Composting/Litter – Christina Caplan

- Bigbelly solar compacting trash receptacle installed at the Community Center.
- There is a potential to place two new units at Southside Park.
- Fairfax County installed a purple glass recycling container at its Providence Community Center.
- Discussed challenges and potential locations for purple glass recycling containers within or near the Town. The recycling containers would deliver to the glass to the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton for processing, crushing and then recycled for use in new roads and road repairs.
- The Town's current recycling contract has a pre-set sorting ratio for various materials.
- Discussed challenges and benefits of with single stream recycling.
- Bob Robinson and Christina Caplan agreed to do more research on this topic.

Composting – Susan Stillman

- The Town is working towards a compost collection container at a centralized location, such as the Fire Department.
- Discussed neighboring jurisdictions' compost programs, subsidies, vendors and contract options.
- Need to check with Compost Crew to see if they measure the weight of the full container to determine the amount of compost eliminated from the traditional trash stream.
- Town applied for a grant to assist with the educational component of a Town composting program.

Solarize Vienna Program – Susan Stillman

- Twenty seven homes have gone solar in Vienna since 2015 and seven permits have been pulled in 2019.
- Susan Stillman to participate in national solar tour and reach out to others in Vienna to participate.

Sustainability Challenge – Desiree DiMauro

- One awardee to date with one pending.
- Looking for new businesses to grow program.
- Looking for opportunities with individual churches.
- Program runs to September 30, 2019.

Police Station Request for Proposal (RFP) – Sean Casey

- In the design phase of the project and planning for a solar-ready building.
- Interested in resiliency and battery backup possibility for command center operations.
- Considerations for electrical wiring to isolate the command center.
- Dewberry Architects Inc. completed a net zero energy design for the police station.
- Arlington has built net zero designed schools.

Eco – Efficient Homes – Sean Casey

- Add tree information to brochure and potential recognition for homebuilders.
- Recommended mailing brochures to homebuilders when the update is complete.
- Potential recognition in the Vienna Voice.

Twitter/Facebook for CSC – Susan Patton

- To report back with additional information in August.
- Recommendation that social media can be a consolidated place to show all accomplishments and initiatives taken by the CSC.
- CSC to request additional posts on social media to highlight accomplishments.

Plant Sale – Susan Patton

- Decision made to hold plant sale on Saturday, September 21, 2019.

Sustainable Garden – Susan Patton

- Susan Patton requested assistance with article. Follow up required.

Pollinator Pathway – Susan Patton

- Already occurring in Arlington.

Piney Branch Stream Restoration – Christine Horner

- Provided project overview and requested planting plan comments within the next two weeks.
- Construction estimated for late Fall 2019 or early Winter 2020.

9:00 pm: Meeting Adjourned