

MEETING MINUTES
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING
June 27, 2019
Thursday 7:30 pm – Vienna Town Hall

In Attendance

Kana Farukawa
Desiree DiMauro
Sammy Thomson
Susan Stillman
Rochele Kadish
Leslie Herman
Susan Patton

Absent

Sean Casey
Joanne Burke
Bob Robinson
Christina Caplan

Guests

Alex Shy

7:33 PM: Welcome/Call to Order

Approval of minutes – Susan Stillman moved the approval of the minutes of May 23, 2019 meeting. Susan Patton seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Welcomed Urban Arborist Alex Shy

- Alex discussed differences in industry standards regarding tree protection with fencing, planting and pruning.
- Alex discussed a goal of his to require contractors to bond privately owned trees of neighboring properties. He has noticed critical root structures being damaged by the contractors.
- Suggestion to have a 2.5 year bond after CO is awarded would be a good compromise. 5 years would be ideal.
- Town Attorney shared with Alex that this would be difficult to accomplish in Virginia.
- Suggestion on how to make it happen:
 - Change canopy coverage multiplier if they bond.
 - Encourage contractors to be good neighbors. Share with contractors good examples of what other contractors have done.
- Alex discussed requirement of contractors that plant outside the planting schedule:
 - Have to get planting waiver.
 - Provide water schedule.
 - Permission by homeowner to access protection of trees.
- Susan Patton commented that residents building new houses would be interested in having a landscape design plan, which would encourage natives for shrubbery. This native shrubbery would not be included as tree canopy unless it's part of the rain gardens. Suggestion was made to develop a list of landscape design companies. These companies would not be endorsed by the Town but provided as a courtesy. Alex suggested working with landscape companies in town to develop design and installation plans that are native everything.

Monarch Butterflies – Rochele

- Discussed integrated pest management.
- Planting milkweed.
- Rochele will send pledge action items to Alex.

Green Expo – Susan Stillman

- Recap will be discussed at July meeting.

Bee City Resolution – Rochele

- Town Clerk paid the registration fee.
- Rochele will inquire whether payment was received.

Recycling/Litter – Susan Stillman

- Christina submitted a grant but has not heard the results yet.
- Litter App – snap photo of areas with litter to help document problem areas.

Composting – Kana

- Principal Hood is interested in composting at Madison High School.
- Discussed challenges to implement this – sorting of food, transportation of food, volume of food, how to fund.
- Desiree offered to help Kana contact teacher at Madison High School that might provide assistance.
- Susan S. suggested that the schools will need to set up their own composting rather than expecting to put materials in the Town's containers. This might be done through FCPS Get2Green.

Sustainability Coordinator – Leslie

- Christine Horner, Storm Water Engineer, will serve as the Sustainability Coordinator.
- Leslie to meet with Susan Stillman to develop recommended expectations of Sustainability Coordinator to share with Christine.
- Leslie to schedule meeting with Christine to develop expectations of the Sustainability Coordinator.

CSC Promotions – Rochele

- Design and produce banner to promote CSC at events.
- Suggestion to work with Lu Cousins of the Vienna Art Society to design logo.

Vienna Public Art Commission (VPAC) - Rochele

- No new information to share on painting the storm drains.
- Planning a mural for the Marco Polo construction site through a proffer.
- VPAC will not meet in July. Will gather more information in August.

Sustainability Challenge – Desiree

- No news to report.
- Has not met with local businesses.

Citizen Topics – Desiree

- Recycling – resident requests list of items that can and cannot be recycled. Susan Stillman commented that this is in flux as requirements are different based on contractors collecting recyclables. Suggestion made to develop stickers that can be placed on trash cans and magnets for refrigerators.
- Sister City – resident recommendation to identify a city/town that the Town can partner with.

Police Department RFP – Sean

- No update. Sean was not present.

Eco-Efficient Home Brochure – Sean

- Sean emailed that he has made edits to the brochure and sent it to Corinne for an updated draft.

Twitter/Facebook – Susan Patton

- Open conversation with Lynne Coan, Town Public Information Officer

Budget – Susan Stillman

- Requested to know the amount funded to the CSC in the Town budget for FY20.

Native Plant Sale – Susan Patton

- Lacked signage identifying the Plant Sale and no directional signs.
- Janet was down \$1600 in sales.
- Janet requested date for the fall sale.
- Alex suggested having tree donation brochures available at the Native Plant Sales.

Sustainable Yard and Garden Recognition – Susan Patton

- Discussed developing criteria for recognizing native gardens.
- Discussed the need to promote this recognition program so that residents will make nominations.
- Recommended writing an article in the Vienna Voice for September. Susan Patton volunteered to write it.

Leaf Blower – Susan Stillman

- Avril Garland sent email to CSC proposing leaf blowers be banned in the Town and requested to attend CSC meeting to discuss. She was extended invitation to attend July CSC meeting.
- Discussed the need to start with the Town to eliminate gas powered leaf blowers.
- Are there battery operated leaf blowers and what is the cost? How long does the battery last? Concern about battery not lasting long enough to get the work done.
- Does Town have clean air attainment?

Pollinator Pathway – Susan Patton

- Discussed having a pollinator pathway in Town.
- Leslie shared that the Town is requesting council to approve a resolution to apply for a grant for a recreation trails program grant.

Articles:

- August – Kana – Stream monitoring, pesticide harm
- September – Susan Patton - Sustainability Yard and Garden Recognition

Meeting Adjourned – 9pm