

## Environment and Energy Committee

### Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2015

---

The Environment and Energy Committee met from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at the Village Hall. The meeting was chaired by Marea Hatzios, Co-Chair of the E&E Committee. Those present were: Marilyn Bracken, Co-Chair; Susie Eig; Ollie Davidson; Jonathan Lyons; Betsy and Ralph Stevens; and Diana Pape. The Agenda for the meeting is included here as an Annex.

The Chair asked for an update from Committee members on various activities and topics of interest on which individual Committee members were taking the lead.

- *Sustainable Living Lecture Series*: the meeting Chair (MHG) reported on the successful launch of the Sustainable Living Lecture Series on February 26, 2015, inaugurated by Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who spoke about “Congressional Updates on Climate Change.” The next lecture will be delivered by Prof. Doug Tallamy, Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology of the University of Delaware. It is scheduled for Earth Day + 1 (April 23, 2015), at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. The talk will be on green gardening to create living landscapes featuring native species, which support a healthy, resilient ecosystem with benefits to people and wildlife. The E & E Committee agreed to open up the lecture to a wider audience to ensure a full house, now that CCV residents and co-sponsors have had a chance to register. Weekly posts have gone out from the Village Hall on the e-mail blast to residents and the CCV list-serve, in addition to a flyer in the April issue of the *Village Crier*. MHG also suggested publicizing this series to (residential and Village) Landscaping Contractors to help disseminate greener practices. Other ideas for events in the series included a viewing of the 2015 DC Environmental Film Festival’s award winning documentary, “Racing Extinction,” which will be out in theaters in November; a talk about community solar projects that are gaining traction in many nearby communities; and a combined talk on advances in LED lighting and the new (more affordable) models of Tesla, now in production.
- *Composting Food Waste*: Ollie Davidson (OD) updated the Committee on events related to the Composting Food Waste survey, and the discussion of results at the March 9 Board Meeting. The status of the initiative is unclear pending more research on service and payment options. OD agreed to follow up with Village Staff on this as well as on the terms of the new contract for the regular recycling service in the Village. At issue is the effectiveness of “single stream” collection and post collection sorting, given that much of the recyclable material (particularly paper) is contaminated by broken glass resulting from the compression of waste (including bottles) in the truck that transports this to the recycling facility.

- *Parks Committee and Western Grove Park:* Susie Eig (SE) gave the Committee an update on the status of hard and green landscaping plans for the Western Grove Park. Bids will go out in September for landscaping and other works (including the entry gate, granite cobblestone paving on either side of the main path, the water fountain and other features). Some existing trees will be moved around, others removed entirely, and new trees planted, with an emphasis on native species. SE also updated the Committee on the status of the Parks Committee's proposed landscaping plans for the Village Hall in the area facing Laurel Parkway. The E&E Committee had endorsed the Parks Committee's revisions to an earlier landscaping plan submitted by the Village Arborist, Dr. Feather, which included many non-native species and plantings in heavy use areas which were unlikely to stand up to traffic. The Parks Committee's plan emphasized native species and more resilient, low-maintenance plantings. The Board will consider 3 options at the Board Meeting on Monday, April 13. These include: (i) approving the arborist's plan; (ii) approving the revised plan submitted by the Parks Committee and endorsed by the E&E Committee, and (iii) hiring Lisa Fendrick (a well-known landscaper from the area) to develop a new plan, taking into account concerns voice above. MHG agreed to send a note to Shana and Michael Denger, expressing the E&E Committee's endorsement of the Parks Committee's plan and the view that the Parks Committee should be consulted on any future landscaping plans for the Village. (N.B.: This note was sent out on Friday, April 10, 2015), for inclusion in the briefing book to the Board, in advance of the meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>).
- *Pesticides.* Marilyn Bracken (MC) drafted a guidance memorandum to the Board regarding the **Montgomery County Healthy Lawns Bill 52-14**, which is currently pending before the Montgomery Council. The Bill calls for restrictions on non-essential uses of certain pesticides deemed harmful to human health and the environment. If it passes, in addition to prohibiting use of certain pesticides on lawns, the Bill will require posting of notices of applications of allowed pesticides on personal property and certain county owned properties. The E&E Committee will continue to monitor the bill during the public commenting period and will keep the Board apprised.

Following these updates, the Chair turned to New Business, which focused on the Annual Report to the Board. This would include highlights of activities and accomplishments over the past year along with an outline of priorities for the coming year. The discussion then focused on what these priorities should be for the remainder of calendar year 2015 and the first quarter of 2016. Referring to the E&E Committee's updated Mission Statement, which was approved by the Board in January of 2015, the group agreed on the following themes as focus areas for the Committee's activities. It was agreed that these should be undertaken in the context of the Committee's overarching goal, which is to help make Chevy Chase Village a Sustainable Community:

- Education and Outreach (e.g., through the Sustainable Living Lecture Series and regular articles in the *Village Crier*)

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Green Energy Alternatives
- Recycling and Compositing
- Collaboration with neighboring communities on issues of common concern
- Measuring results

Other Activities would include:

- Continuing support to the Parks Committee and other Committees in areas of overlapping interest
- Reducing pollution in the Village (e.g., nutrient pollution from run-off, noise pollution, black carbon and airborne particulate matter)
- Recruiting new members

Those present also expressed the view that closer engagement with the Village Board on the priority issues identified above (and approved by the Board in the Committee's 2015 Mission Statement) was important to advancing this agenda. More regular and open communication with the Board was called for. The Committee also expressed satisfaction with the Board's new procedures for monthly Board Meetings, which are designed to ensure that issues of popular concern to residents are properly vetted and to allow more time for feedback on these issues from those residents attending.

Respectfully submitted:

Marea Hatzios, PhD, Co-Chair  
Marilyn Bracken, PhD, Co-Chair

April 13, 2015

## Annex 1. Agenda

### Environment and Energy Committee Meeting April 08, 2015

1. Update on E&E Committee activities
  - a. Sustainable Living Lecture series
    - i. Upcoming speakers (Prof. Doug Tallamy on April 23, 2-15; Chesapeake Bay Foundation in June 2015 (?) ...
    - ii. Other ideas?
      - Organize an outing to see this year's DC Environmental Film Festival winner "Racing Extinction" (out this fall in local theaters)
    - iii. Getting the word out about the lecture series to other B-CC communities? landscaping contractors in the Village? Other stakeholders?
  - b. Composting food waste
  - c. Parks Committee landscaping plans for the Village Hall
  - d. Western Grove Park
  - e. Other
  
2. Annual Report to the Board
  - a. Activities to highlight in report
    - i. Launch of Sustainable Living Lecture Series
    - ii. Household Survey on a possible food composting service for Village residents
    - iii. Interpretation and E&E Committee Recommendations on new Pesticide Regulations currently pending in the Montgomery County Council
    - iv. E-waste recycling event
  - b. Priority issues that we would plan to address this FY and on which we would like to engage with the Board
  - c. Other?
  
3. Recruitment of new members
  
4. Other business?