



Environmental Advisory Committee
MEETING Summary

Thursday, October 6th, 2022
3:00 PM, **Virtual Meeting**

Present:
Sissy Owen
Michael Savage
Nancy Diaz
Stephen Tillotson
Neil Brown

Amy Schmitte
Jay Naparstek
Chris Berg

Others:
Janna Bianculli

Meeting called to order at 3pm

1. Approval of the October Agenda

Neil made a motion to approve agenda. Stephen seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. Approval of the April Summary

Neil made a motion to approve summary. Sissy seconded. Unanimously approved.

3. New Business

- a. Introductions- Amy-Introduction/background, Started position in July. Comes to position with Env. Education background including a 2 year AmeriCorps position. Has lived in NC for about 8 years.
 - i. New EAC members- Jay- background, 30 years in Env. Regulatory programs for the Massachusetts dept. of Env. Protection with a focus on clean up programs.
Nancy- background, Born and raised in Henderson County. Southern Regional Director for MountainTrue.
- b. EAC Chair
 - i. Discuss recommendation- Neil agreed to fill the EAC chair position for the remainder of his term. Neil suggested the new vice-chair would “train” and learn from the current chair and fill the chair position when vacant. Sissy made motion to approve Neil filling the Chair position. Chris seconded. Unanimously approved. Amy will send this information to the board for approval.
- c. Vice Chair- Vice chair would step in to lead meetings when Chair is not present and ideally would fill vacant Chair position. This position can be filled internally by the EAC. Nancy offered to support Neil as Vice chair. Sissy made motion to



approve. Chris seconded. Unanimously approved. Neil suggested a meeting between chair, vice-chair, and secretary to discuss the future of EAC.

- d. EAC priorities FY22/23
 - i. What do you want to accomplish?-Chris-suggested continuing work on the comp plan. Neil will reach out to Andy (previous chair) to get info about comp plan responses from EAC members.
 - ii. Potential field trips/guests? - Sissy in support of field trips. Have been great in the past for inspiration and to see what the community is working on. Stephen- field trip suggestion for Bullington Gardens for garden visit to learn about pollinators, native plants, activities. Maybe be able to coordinate/support their missions. Field trip to see the foam densifier once up and running.
- e. Update bylaws
 - i. Meeting bimonthly or quarter- Amy suggested updating bylaws. Not updated since 2011. Meeting frequency needs updating. Neil brought up in person vs remote meetings. Can the meetings continue remotely since the emergency order has ended. Janna offered to assist with guidance on this matter. Will adopt schedule for the 2023 calendar year at the next EAC meeting.

4. Old Business

- a. EAC Letter to BOC- Comprehensive Plan
 - i. Updates since last meeting- Janna spoke on EAC input on comp plan. Andy had sent 2 letters to the planning board in regards to the comp plan. Janna clarified that the Comp plan is for Henderson County for 2045 replacing the 2020 plan. Required by NC state for any county with zoning with main focus on land use. Policy not regulatory. It is a guiding document. Currently have draft plan that they're getting public feedback on. May need to call a special called meeting if the EAC is wanting to provide anymore guidance/recommendations to the planning board. Two documents submitted by the EAC already one for transportation and one for Affordable housing. Janna will forward to documents to Amy to disperse to the EAC for review. Chris suggested considering a special meeting before the meeting. Any additional comments submitted by the Oct 20th planning meeting. Sissy suggested members review Comp plan and decide if they feel more comments need to be submitted. Neil suggested members review and provide input by noon Monday following meeting.
- b. ECO Heroes Award- Sissy suggested that EAC may need better/more outlets to get the word out to the public about the awards. Stephen added that there are published guidelines with details for the program. Number of applicants per year limited but wanted a minimum recommended by EAC to BOC. With hopes that the selected recipients would be awarded at BOC meetings. Chris suggested outreach with the school district and chamber of commerce. Stephen suggested reviewing



the guidelines and to make a plan on how to proceed and bring ideas to the next meeting.

5. Environmental Programs Update

- a. HHW- September numbers HHW=103 Paint=139. Next event in October
- b. Hard 2 Recycle- September numbers 303. Next event 2023 possibly moving location to a different part of the county to reach other community members
- c. Compost Program Update
 - i. Schools-6 schools from previous year have started composting this school year again
 - ii. Receiving Bay- In process still
- d. Foam Densifier Update- Training scheduled for staff to train on densifier. Once training is complete collection plans will be solidified. Chris suggested looking into collection at both convenience center and transfer station.
- e. DC Fast Charger update- In progress still.

Other:

Question about vacancy on EAC- One vacancy with 2 applications submitted. BOC fills the vacancy.