



Environmental Advisory Committee MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 6th, 2023, 3:00pm

In Person: EMS Training room - 100 North King Street

Present members: Neil Brown, Kevin Campbell, Chris Berg, Stephen Tillotson, Joe Criscione

Others present: Amy Schmitte

- 1. Approval of April Agenda-[Unanimous approval for agenda](#)**
- 2. Approval of February Summary-[Unanimous approval for summary](#)**
- 3. Informal Public Comment-[N/A](#)**
- 4. New Business**
 - a. Subcommittee groups summaries
 - i. Tree Canopy Preservation-Neil gave a summary of the groups findings so far. Science behind maintaining a tree canopy. Asheville Greenworks will be completing survey of heat deserts in relation to tree canopy. City of Hendersonville City tree board draft of zoning codes to recommend: including encouraging larger trees to be planted, encourage tree diversity, requirement to replace cut trees with trees of substantial size. Will follow along with AGW work and Hendersonville City tree board. Can try to incorporate this work into the county recommendations. Tree board for city will have tree canopy survey done via drone.
 - ii. Single use plastic ban-Will discuss next meeting
 - iii. Transportation-Chris gave summary of groups findings so far. Hopes to give ideas on other municipal/county policies in terms of electrification of Transportation. Chris looking to apply to be on the Transportation Board. Visited new city parking deck, they have 4 electric charging spaces.
 - iv. Flood Plain/Residential Commercial development-Will discuss next meeting

Guest speakers: Amy will try to reach out to Asheville regarding single use plastics to see if someone can speak to the EAC about single use plastics.
 - b. Litter-DOT Litter sweep in Spring and Fall. Spring dates April 15th-29th. County and City collaboration for litter clean up. County commissioner, Rebecca McCall, and City Mayor, Barbara Volk, along with a few others filmed a promo video for the clean up. Clean up day April 22nd. Discussion of thoughts on how to tackle litter in the county. EAC could adopt a highway-Clean ups 4 times a year. Amy will follow up to see what locations are available and will bring options to the Committee.



Suggestions to start a EAC program to recognize/incentive based program to reward people/organizations for their clean up efforts. Public recognition/"prize". Separate from ECO Heroes. Need a new name for this initiative. Overview of the presentation about litter management options given at a recent BOC meeting. Need to work out details of the litter clean up program. DOT representative as possible guest to talk about litter clean up in the county. Plan to have county litter initiative ready to roll out by Fall and coincide with NC DOT litter clean up. Discussion about locating problem areas within the county and about initiatives to prevent litter not just clean up litter. Interest in looking into any requirements from businesses to provide trash cans specifically places that create a lot of these trash items: fast food establishments, gas stations, etc.

5. Old Business

- a. ECO Heroes award-Amy shared draft of flyer for ECO Heroes and press release to group. Members will review and give feedback before press is pushed out. Need to do press for the award to get people interested. Look into interviewing past award recipients and possibly having Mike Morgan film a video to publicize the award program.
- b. Field Trips- Foam densifier field trip coming up next week. Bullington Gardens visit tentatively for a June date.

6. Environmental Programs Update

- a. HHW-2 more event for the Spring then will pick up with 3 in the Fall.
- b. Hard 2 Recycle-Still working on a location
- c. Foam collection-Second Tuesday of the Month may eventually expand to more dates.
- d. Compost Program Update-No major updates
 - i. Compost bin sale-County offering backyard bin sale, 100 available at \$25 each to county residents. Pick up dates towards the end of June.
- e. Charger updates-No updates
- f. Grants
 - i. DEQ-FWR-County received \$20,000 grant to expand compost facility.
 - ii. EPA-SWIFR-Waiting to hear back about this grant
 - iii. USDA-New grant for Composting and Food Waste Reduction
- g. Community Events
 - i. Kids in the Creek-April 18th-20th-Soil and Water event, Env. Programs will be there each day. Volunteer opportunity if anyone is available.
 - ii. Earth Day-April 22nd-Will be tabling this event. Volunteer opportunity if anyone is available.
 - iii. Litter Sweep-April 22nd- Litter clean up at Dana and Four Seasons. Volunteer opportunity if anyone is available.
 - iv. Mills River Day-May 6th-Will be tabling at this event. Volunteer opportunity if anyone is available.



Member recruitment needed for the EAC. After June the EAC will be down 3 members. Help spread the word about the EAC.

7. Adjournment 3:58