



Environmental Advisory Committee MEETING Summary

Thursday, February 1st 2024 3:03pm

In Person: King Street Meeting Room - 100 North King Street

Present members: Nancy Diaz, Chris Berg, Jay Naparstek, Deb Johnson, Arielle Emmett, Jere Brittain, Kevin Campbell

Others present: Amy Schmitte, Marcus Jones, Autumn Radcliffe

- 1. Approval of December Summary *Unanimous***
- 2. Approval of February Agenda *Unanimous***
- 3. Informal Public Comment *N/A***

4. New Business

- a. Guest: Marcus Jones, County Engineer
 - i. Clear Creek Sewer Update Marcus gave overview of the Clear Creek Sewer, Transfer Station Expansion, and Ecusta Trail.
 1. Information on the NCDEQ public hearing scheduled for Feb 5th All Henderson County public schools are on public sewer system except Edneyville elementary (on-site sewer system). Septic system does not accommodate for new school growth, BOC committed to connecting to a public sewer system. Sewer system will serve the elementary school and will take a few package plants offline (Blacksmith run, Camp Judea, Justice Academy) and Edneyville library and community center off of Septic. The system will be a gravity system. General vicinity, Fruitland road and clear creek proposed location for treatment plant. Working on getting discharge permit for clear creek. State run public hearing for permit being held on Feb 5th. Expect to hear back in March. Required testing involved monitoring water upstream and downstream and effluent water reports, all send to state.
 2. <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/events/public-hearing-be-held-feb-5-clear-creek-wastewater-treatment-plant-permit>
 - ii. Transfer Station Expansion Transfer Station will be adding 3rd transfer station bay. This will improve safety and increase capacity for both MSW and recycling. Goal to separate residential traffic from commercial traffic. Currently taking in around 600 tons of waste per day, around 30 trucks leaving the facility each day. Anticipated to be done March 2025. Waste goes to Union County landfill in SC, anticipated ~ 40 year lifespan on



landfill.

- iii. **Ecusta Trail update** Contract awarded. Started project in December, clearing mostly completed. Using plats to map properly, not leaving trail property line only exception in vegetation that is a safety concern for line of sight for trail users and cars. Installing erosion control measures. Half way through with installing cross water pipes-re-establishing ditches. Expected 6 mile stretch completion date Dec 2024. Phase 2 will be starting design
- b. **Tree Canopy update** Arielle, Jay, and Ben working on topic. Documents discussed were sent out with meeting agenda for review. Currently not much data on the County level, working to find out how development has affected tree canopy loss. Hoping to find comparative data of now vs 20 years ago to showcase development and any tree canopy loss. Possibility for proposal of better regulations on tree canopy preservation/forest preservation.
Example of Leon County, Florida (Not mountainous region like Henderson County) has strict regulations. Also looked at Asheville as an example.
Next steps: Continue research, ask BOC to review existing regulations related to tree canopy, form a group to review and make recommendations for updates to zoning regulations. Make sure to have clear goals, look into grant funding for study-look only at County (take out Jurisdictions, public land, property in conservation easement, forest service land).
- c. **Possible recommendations for Courthouse expansion** Possible to make recommendations for County policy for all new builds/renovations on existing buildings. To make recommendations: EAC discuss, make a detailed list of recommendations, send via memo to County manager/letter to BOC. Have deliverables, first draft with reasoning behind recommendations should be sent to staff to review. Include reasoning behind, ex. Cost savings, energy efficiency, etc.

5. Old Business

- a. **ECO Heroes award program** Discussion on promoting again this Spring with 3 awards for adults and 3 awards for youth (Jr. program). Will send out to the schools for the Spring and BRCC.
- b. **Adopt-a-highway** Waiting for info from NCDOT
- c. Subcommittee groups
- d. Field trips/guests

6. Environmental Programs Update

- a. **HHW/Paint Collection** March 12, April 9, May 14
- b. **Foam collection** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month
- c. **Compost Program update**
- d. **Charger update**
- e. **Grants**
- f. **Community events** Earth Day Fest-April 20th, Mills River Day-May 4th



7. Next meeting

- a. Thursday, April 4th

*On the joint planning board/EAC meeting that has been discussed- Autumn mentioned having Nancy join for an upcoming Planning meeting as chair of the EAC to discuss some of the initiatives the EAC is looking to pursue. There may also be possibilities to connect with other committees like Historic Resource Committee, etc.

8. Adjournment 4:36pm