



Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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Josh Hatkin, Chair
Sandra Zebal, Vice Chair

Brenda Dinne, Staff Liaison
Department of Land Use,
Planning and Development

Meeting Summary for September 18, 2013

Members

Josh Hatkin, Chair - Absent
Sandy Zebal, Vice Chair
Karen Leatherwood - Absent
Kim Petry
Chris Spaur
George Schooley

County Government

Brenda Dinne, Special Projects Coordinator
Kim Dubbert, Recording Secretary

Other Attendees

Doug Hinrichs, Maryland Energy
Administration

CALL TO ORDER –

Ms. Sandy Zebal, Vice Chair, officially called the September 18, 2013, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Reagan Room (003) of the County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion 184-13: Motion was made by Chris Spaur and seconded by George Schooley to approve the August 21, 2013, meeting minutes, as amended to add “and located within or outside of a municipality” to the end of the third sentence under Open Burning. Motion carried.

CHAIR & COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- a. SOLAR ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE: See Agenda item #6.
- b. STORMWATER FEE ADVISORY GROUP: Ms. Dinne advised that the Commissioners were going to be presenting certificates to the Advisory Group on October 10, 2013.
- c. SOLID WASTE WORK GROUP: Ms. Zebal reported that she watched the presentation made to the Board in August regarding the proposal to implement some of the recommendations from the Work Group’s report. Proposals included a feasibility study for composting and possibly funds for recycling carts.
- d. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Zebal asked for members to serve with her on this subcommittee. Ms. Leatherwood and Mr. Schooley agreed to serve.

The subcommittee will be reviewing the documents and awards nominations. The process to solicit nominations will begin in January and would be due in March. Ms. Dinne will be sending the updated nomination form and criteria to subcommittee members for their review. Ms. Zebal mentioned the public might be looking for information on the website in the early winter for nominating a person or organization. Mr. Schooley asked if the previous winners were still up. Ms. Dinne replied the winners from 2012 were still on the website. Ms. Dinne will update the electronic documents from the previous years. Ms. Zebal mentioned that Ms. Dinne had prepared a “work plan” for the awards process, which will be helpful for the subcommittee members. The timeframe for soliciting nominations will be tightened up this year so that less momentum will be lost between making the nomination materials available and the deadline for submitting them.

TREE COMMISSION –

Nothing to report.

STAFF LIASION REPORT –

- a. *New Members:* Ms. Dinne shared that two additional people had been invited to serve on the EAC. One of them declined, and the other still has not responded or been reached by the Commissioners. Mr. Schooley indicated he had someone he could encourage to apply. Ms. Dinne will send the form to Mr. Schooley to pass along. Mr. Spaur’s term ends January 12, 2014. Since he has already served two terms, and the Commissioners will not reappoint him.

Ms. Dinne mentioned the Group will need to discuss work plan at the November meeting and finalize the draft in December. The Energy Use & Cost Savings project will be on the November agenda to discuss next steps for Mr. Hatkin. In addition, Mr. Singer, with the Carroll County Health Department, will give an overview on the requirements associated with open burning (per Ms. Zebal’s request in August).

OLD BUSINESS –

- a. **DISCUSSION OF SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT:** Mr. Doug Hinrichs with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) gave an overview on Solar Energy programs in Maryland. He provided a PowerPoint presentation, which included the information he presented. He discussed Maryland’s goals for alternative energy sources, explained many of the acronyms, and clarified questions related to “selling energy back to the grid.” He provided several examples of larger solar facilities, as well as several websites where more information can be found. He described land requirements and related issues for certain photovoltaic (PV) facilities. Mr. Hinrichs also provided information related to Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs).

Mr. Hinrichs discussed ways that MEA is trying to encourage the use of solar energy and some of the grant programs that are available. He suggested that the EAC may want to take on a project to recommend a process for Carroll County to standardize and expedite the permitting and inspections process for solar facilities. He offered to assist the EAC if they undertake such a project. Ms. Dinne suggested the EAC could consider adding it as Task 4

to the EAC's existing solar facilities work plan if they choose to pursue this. He mentioned a best practices guidebook that for setting up this process, which would reduce costs and administrative burden.

Ms. Dinne will email presentation to the EAC members. Ms. Petry commented that they needed to talk Mr. Voight about what is allowed and permitted.

NEW BUSINESS –

Nothing to report.

OTHER –

- a. *October Meeting:* More than one member indicated that he or she would be unavailable for the October meeting. Since this could potentially result in lack of quorum, the members discussed canceling the meeting for October.

MEETING CANCELATION – Motion 185-13: Motion was made by Chris Spaur and seconded by Kim Petry to cancel the October 16 meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion 186-13: Motion was made by Kim Petry and seconded by George Schooley to adjourn the September 18 meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:23.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm. The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. in Reagan Room (003) of the County Office Building.