

**Town of Chevy Chase  
Environment Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2008**

The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The following Committee members were present:

Vicky Taplin, Chair  
Sally Kelly  
Joan Rood  
Coralee Hoffman  
Rob Enelow  
Missy Goldberg  
Linda Wright  
Tom Heath  
Michael Payne

1. Vicky Taplin informed the group that the scheduled meeting for Nov. 6 had had to be postponed until Nov. 20, but that thereafter the schedule of the first Thursday of the month would be resumed, starting with Dec. 4. She said that she would distribute the minutes of September's meeting by email, and asked Committee members to review, amend, and approve them electronically.
2. Noise Control Initiative. Coralee Hoffman presented a revised summary of the noise control initiative proposed by the Noise Subcommittee. Under the initiative, Town staff would enforce the noise limits prescribed in the Montgomery County Noise Ordinance and the Town would conduct outreach to increase residents' awareness of noise standards, Town efforts, and individual noise control options. Informing and working with Town residents is a key feature of the proposed approach; enforcement measures should be used if other approaches fail. The summary incorporated suggestions collected from Committee members since the September Committee meeting, including the following. Construction noise generally, including Bethesda projects, and lawn service noise, are the major priorities. Other types of noise (e.g. barking dogs or loud parties) should continue to be referred to the proper County authorities. Town staff should send a courtesy notice to residents to alert them when a noise complaint related to construction or lawn service noise is received by the Town, whether or not there is a proven violation of the County limits. This would provide a chance to work out the issue. Off-hours noise (e.g. early mornings and weekends) is especially challenging when it comes to enforcement. The Town should track and respond to complaints about off-hours noise and should document how the problem is resolved. The Council should review the Town's implementation of these recommendations after six months. After discussion, Linda made a motion to send the summary on to the Council for consideration at its November meeting, and propose that the Council provide a 45-day comment period to invite residents' input before enacting the plan. Tom seconded the motion, and it was approved. Coralee will revise the plan to reflect minor changes suggested in the meeting. Rob suggested that he, Coralee, and Vicky meet with Todd Hoffman first about the

proposal before bringing it to the Council in November.

3. Relationship between Environment Committee and Climate Protection Committee. Concerns of some residents were brought forward about overlap and possible duplication between the two committees. The history of the Climate Protection Committee was discussed. While they recognized there would be some inevitable overlap of the efforts of the two committees, Committee members generally saw a distinction between the project-specific work of the Climate Protection Committee – meeting the obligations of the Mayor’s Climate Change Agreement -- and the broader work of the Environment Committee relating to Town governance. The Committee members concluded that since the goals of the two committees are qualitatively different, both should continue on their separate but related paths.

4. New Business. Sally Kelly described her idea for an “educate/facilitate” program in Town to help interested residents make choices in their daily lives that are more environmentally responsible. There is a plethora of information available on “green” topics, some good and some not so good. Sally suggested that the Committee could play a role in getting the good information out to people in Town who have good intentions about making environmentally-friendly choices, but who don’t have time to sort through all the confusing information. She suggested that the Committee would be able to do this by running short monthly columns in the Forecast newsletter, backing them up with additional resources on the Town website, and offering an interactive page for residents to share information and experiences. Sally agreed to write up a program description for Committee review. The Committee agreed that, since Sally already is so immersed in the topic, she would begin a monthly “Green Corner” in the Town’s Forecast newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Fort