

Minutes

Town of Chevy Chase Environment Committee

January 21, 2010

7:00 pm, Town Hall

In attendance: Sally Kelly (Chair), David Lublin (Council Liaison), Kristin Gerlach, Jimmy Light, Sarah Smith, Keith Blizzard, Coralee Hoffman, Vicky Taplin

I. Approval of Minutes. The approval of the December minutes was deferred until the arrival of more committee members who had attended the December meeting. *

II. Announcements.

Sally Kelly attended a Committee Chairs meeting on January 5th, where it was agreed that more outreach to neighboring communities was needed.

On Jan. 28, from 7-9 pm, the Climate Control Committee will host a "Meet the Experts" evening with home energy efficiency experts present.

Climate Control Committee is planning a Bike Day for the spring.

Sally has made contact with the environmental specialist at B-CC High School about whether students can help on Trash and Treasures weekend by lifting large furniture from the curb to the Lawton Center Parking lot for charitable give-away and looking through piles and pulling out recyclables. (Later in the meeting Kristin Gerlach volunteered to help work out logistics with the Town/BCC)

The Climate Control Committee is working on a green building fund to encourage residents to build greener houses.

III. Public Comment. No members of the public were present.

Keith Blizzard arrived at 7:20.

IV. Liaison Report.

A public hearing on the proposed noise ordinance was held in earlier this month. The in-person testimony was positive; the emails were more mixed. After the hearing, the Council made two amendments to the ordinance, so another public hearing will be held on the amended version of the ordinance in February. The committee discussed aspects of the ordinance having to do with enforcement.

The Climate Protection Committee's energy audit and improvement incentive program is fully subscribed – 50 residents served.

On Jan. 27th, the Council will hold a working session on the Environment Committee's water ordinance review recommendations.

Following up on the committee's discussion at the December meeting, David Lublin investigated recycling bins and learned that there are many varieties offered through the county. He also began discussion with the Town Manager about whether yard waste pickup could be reduced to once a week.

V. Conservation Easements Update.

Sally Kelly asked for member input on revised eligibility guidelines to take to the Council in February. The Committee will get Council reaction and feedback on these guidelines before putting in too much time figuring out the mechanics of the program. It's likely the program will both accept applications and solicit some. Vicky Taplin reported other progress: an upcoming meeting with the Garrett Park Conservation Trust; consulting the County on its open space programs to ensure compatibility; researching maps of the Town's existing easements, creeks and streams; and an upcoming walk through the Town to inspect topography and trigger further considerations. The committee recommended keeping donor's maintenance requirements simple. There was discussion of Town obligations, public access rights, and whether small structures, such as benches and swing sets, would be allowed on easement properties.

Vicky Taplin left at 7:55.

VI. Shades of Green Status Report:

Sally Kelly reported SOG has been consolidated and moved with home page "quick link" for easier access.

All content has been organized by topic with intent of linking in information from the Climate Protection Committee, and producing online content to supplement what appears in the forecast. Once the content has been rounded out, committee members will be asked to do an "email tree" type promotion.

VII. Discuss Noise Education Project

Sally Kelly reported the project was outlined as including outreach in two directions: to contractors, and to residents. Building contractors will be reached as part of the permitting and PREPAC process. Landscape contractors will be invited to an informational meeting in March, (presuming a new ordinance is passed in February council meeting) and asked to pledge to follow County and Town ordinances and also additional mitigation practices. Those who sign the pledge will be published by the Town. There was discussion of outreach to residents, and it was suggested that instead of circulating packets including lots of paper, (which might not be read) we should keep the mailing minimal, and use other avenues (Forecast, and website) to send the messages and information. Part of the mailing was to be a "complaint form" to capture data on the noise incidents that remained of concern, and to track how the new ordinance performs. Kristin Gerlach suggested that we tone down "complaint form" to something "softer" as we don't want to be seen as asking for complaints or inciting discontent. The committee agreed and decision was to term it a report or something similar.

VIII Discuss Greening of Town Government

Discussion centered around best way to take the ideas to the Town staff and get them implemented. Decision was to organize the committee's ideas by type, priority, ease and/or cost of implementation and send them to the Town Manager ahead of a brainstorming session to get staff ideas and feedback. We asked David, as Council liaison, to ask the Council for their support in these efforts, especially as they affect budget

decisions. Keith Blizzard will re-visit the proposal, and David will ask for a meeting when we have it redrafted.

IX. Discuss review of Tree Ordinance.

Sally described the review as following along the lines of the water review.

Representative stakeholders (tree board, staff, residents, contractors) should be interviewed to identify possible improvements to the ordinance or how it is administered. After discussing findings, the committee will take recommendations to the Council. David Lublin suggested that Tom Heath would be the logical person from our committee to head the effort. Jimmy Light agreed to help work on this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

*As no more attendees of the December meeting arrived, the vote was not taken. I consulted Roberts Rules of order, and our Council Liaison David Lublin, who agreed that the required "reading of the minutes" and incorporation of changes had been accomplished via email before the meeting. RR says the Chair may simply deem the minutes "approved as read", which I so now do. (Sally Kelly)