

Town of Chevy Chase
Environment Committee
September 13, 2010
7:00 pm
Town Hall
Minutes

Present: Sally Kelly, Chair, David Lublin, Council Liaison, Sabrina Coble, Keith Blizzard, Sarah Smith, Peggy MacGlashan, Coralee Hoffman.

I. Approval of minutes: June minutes will be circulated for approval.

II. Announcements: The Committee's recommendations for additions and revisions to the Town Services Survey were considered by the Council and several were accepted, including questions about the consulting arborist. Bethesda magazine is planning an article on the Town's environmental and climate change activities. The article may appear in the November issue. The Committee may help to promote awareness of the Global Work Day to be sponsored by "350.org" in October. The day will focus on carbon emission reduction and on green energy alternatives generally. The Climate Committee is interested in co-sponsoring, with the Environment Committee, the Town's annual spring house and garden tour. The event is usually held in May. The 2011 tour could include such green garden features as rain gardens, use of native plants, tree care and general methods of greener gardening. In addition the tour may feature green renovations (e.g. solar and geothermal systems) and techniques for greener building. The Committee will continue to support the Town's efforts to ensure that useful items are recycled as part of Trash and Treasures.

III. Public Comment. No members of the public made comments.

IV. Liaison Report: The Council will meet on Wednesday night. Please remember to vote in the upcoming primary election on September 24.

V. . Status Reports : The Town Council approved a budget for legal review of the materials put together by the Committee to support the conservation easement program. Committee members have developed a range of materials for interested residents and interviewed several attorneys with expertise in this area, particularly related to tax benefits for potential donors. The Committee is conducting a third-year review of the implementation of the Town's Tree Ordinance, as requested by the Town Council. A survey has been developed and will be circulated to property owners who have had experience with the provisions of the ordinance, as well as to selected neighbors. In addition, the survey will be available to any Town resident who wants to respond. Committee members may conduct follow-up interviews with respondents. Based on the survey and other review activities, the Committee will prepare recommendations for the Town Council. Town staff provided the Committee with statistics on tree removal and planting activities in the Town. The Committee is reviewing the Town's tree program in light of damage from recent storms and concerns raised by residents. With the coming of leaf collection season, the Committee will work with Town staff to prepare follow-up educational materials on noise reduction. Topics were solicited for upcoming "Shades of Green" features in the Forecast, including managing yard services, greening kitchens, holiday decorating, leaf composting, tree care and others. Recycling organizations will again be located in the Lawton Center parking lot during the Saturday of Trash and Treasures weekend. The recycling program appears to be very successful. Town staff will ensure that there is someone at the parking lot on Saturday to assist in organizing and trouble shooting.

VI. Trees: The Committee discussed recent storm damage to trees in the Town and resident concerns about safety and proper maintenance of large trees. It appears that many residents are not aware of the full range of services available from the Town to assist in these activities. The Committee will work with Town staff to prepare an educational brochure on the services available to residents to assist in conservation and maintenance of healthy trees and on the established process for those who want to remove a Town canopy tree.

VII. The Committee adjourned by 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Coralee Hoffman