

Green Team Committee Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 on the benches in front of the town hall.

Attendees:

Linda Draper

Melanie Crowder

Madeleine Blake

Joannie Martin

Annette Taylor (new member)

Joanne Mattingly (new member)

Sally Bissell

Tree City

- Linda opened the meeting by describing her presentation at the June 15th town council meeting for the Tree City ordinance. The council will vote in July on whether to adopt.
- Melanie suggested that, after the vote, the Tree City committee meet with Holly to discuss next steps, complete the application, and revisit the five-year plan that she received six or eight months ago.
- Mel outlined the planned planting of ten trees at Bayfront Park and five at the water tower. They should be chosen and planted in the fall.
- The budget committee includes Melanie, Linda, Sue Alexander, and Ken Rasmussen (but all are welcome to join!)
- Mel mentioned that there has been talk of hiring an arborist to evaluate our tree situation at Bayfront Park, especially the proliferation of vines which have been removed by some on the committee but will now be done by the town landscaper. She feels that we should allow the Bayfront Park trees to recuperate for a year and engage the arborist to assess the overgrown trees on the Fishing Creek trail near the pollinator garden.
- Joanie reminded the group that the brochure boxes along the trail and near the pollinator garden have broken covers so the brochures will be damaged by weather. Linda to check with Valerie Beaudin to see that these are replaced.

Walkability Committee and Kellam's Field Renovation

- Madeleine reported that Walkability Committee, of which she is a member, met with a landscaper from Annapolis who made recommendations for plantings at various pocket parks within the community. She would like to see the Green Team members included in talks regarding best practices.
- Melanie also expressed concern that the Kellam's Field project has not conferred with the Green Team for advice on tree ideas for the parking lot. Pink dogwoods have been mentioned as a preferred tree but Mel, as a Master Gardener, recognizes that this would be a poor choice for the parking lot beautification.

Upcoming Events for Town Calendar

- Paddle and Pickup is set for October 5, 2023
- Requesting February 24th for an environmental program on the watershed sponsored by both Green Team and CBOCS to be held at the Northeast Community Center.
- Melanie again suggested renowned Patuxent River Park scientist Greg Kearns who is a popular and vibrant speaker.
- Spring Cleanup is set for April 20, 2024.

Paddle and Pickup

- The committee bandied around some excellent ideas on how to increase attendance and fun at this fall event.
- Madeleine to take the lead on this working with our new members Joanne and Annette, and Joanie
- Annette to check with Abner's about availability of their food truck.
- Check with local commercial entities for involvement, possibly get some volunteer entertainment.
- Linda to check with Val about having a banner made that could be displayed at Veterans' Park so that more folks driving through town become aware of the Green Team's activities.

Tree Survey

- Evaluation of the tree survey has been tabled until winter when we can meet indoors around a table so that we can all spread it out, see it, read it, and discuss.

New Business

- Melanie reported that Holly had received a call from a citizen concerned about the preservation of Bay Front Park. Discussion ensued about the possibility of hiring goats to work their way through the dense weeds at Bayfront. Linda mentioned that this project would be great PR for the town as The Washington Post has covered other communities that have done this. Melanie said that there

are currently three companies advertising goat services in Calvert County. We will encourage investigating the possibility.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

The next meeting of the Green Team will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday July 26th at the pavilions at Kellams Field.