

Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

December 15, 2022

Attending: Margaret Johnson, Chris Riegert, David Merkle, Allen Dearry, Carolina Candelaria, Lee Maxwell, Maureen Burns

Staff: Scott Thornall

Guests: Sue Davidson, Elise Snavely

Absent: Pam Johnson, David Sonnenfeld

Chris Riegert made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, David Merkle seconded and the agenda was approved.

Chris Riegert made a motion to accept the November minutes, David Merkle seconded and the December minutes were approved.

Announcements:

Margaret announced that Skip Cox will be relocating to Greensboro. He will be greatly missed as the EAC liaison for the Beach Preservation Society and the Adopt to Highway program.

Matt Kirkland and Brady were unable to attend today's meeting. Brady will work on a presentation on the permitting process for the January meeting.

Staff Report: Scott Thornhall

Scott announced the possibility of hiring a new position which would be responsible for multiple roles including arborist.

Margaret asked about the Bradford pear removal program. Scott said there are about 7 to 8 sites prepared currently. Chris inquired what the EAC's role will be. Scott answered the care of the trees after planting. Carolina suggested recruiting neighbors. Sue mentioned the article in the newspaper has increased awareness. Margaret requested Carolina investigate how best to approach and recruit neighboring property owners to care for the new trees. David M suggested perhaps an official letter from the town.

Old Business

EAC Website: Allen Dearry

Allen provided updates on the website development. He suggested a deadline for feedback for the end of 2022. Allen also reiterated to members not share the link with anyone outside of the committee.

Lecture Series: Maureen, Sue

Although the contract with the 801 Event Center has not been signed, Matt advised moving forward with planning. Maureen will reach out to Michael Emory about advertising in The Current.

Skip the Straw Initiative/Resolution: Lee Maxwell

Lee reviewed material for the restaurant packet. Seaview printing has the material and is working on a more professional layout that should be available early January.

Sue mentioned many residents have read the newspaper article. Lee stressed that it was important to note that the initiative does not advocate any particular type of straw material. Lee also mentioned contacting the restaurants before the packets are delivered and also getting feedback to provide results for the town. Chris and Sue suggested sending an email to save paper.

Allen suggested approaching restaurants that already follow the ocean friendly guidelines as a reference for the talking points Sue also suggested getting data from those businesses as well.

Tree Ordinance

Margaret shared that the tree ordinance updates were on the planning board's agenda for today. However, Rick was not able to attend the meeting.

Chris commented that regardless of the outcome, it is a great list of native trees and plants and perhaps should be listed on the website.

David Merkle made a motion to support the tree ordinance updates that have been codified, Carolina seconded and the motion was approved.

Living Shoreline: Elise Snavely

Elise and Margaret will prepare a proposal for the January Town Council meeting.

Beach Preservation Society/Adopt a Highway: Skip Cox

Skip sent his report via email:

AAH had 13 volunteers last Friday for the last pick up event of the year. Ten garbage bags and 1 recycle bag were collected. He intends to schedule the 1st event of 2023 and can hopefully run it.

BPSI will begin preparing in January for their annual fundraiser.

New Business

Arbor Day/Earth Day

Margaret asked the committee for input on Earth Day/Arbor Day celebrations. Carolina will present tentative plans for an EAC Arbor Day program for the next meeting. Maureen suggested inviting Eric Falkenhagen to attend the January meeting to fill new members in on the Earth Day festival.

Carolina made a motion to separate EAC Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations, Maureen seconded and the motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM