

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Minutes

August 1, 2024

Present: Margaret Johnson (Chairperson), Lee Maxwell (Vice Chairperson), Elise Snavelly, Jeweleen Mustard, Vacant, Vacant, Vacant, Vacant

Absent: Sue Davidson

Staff: Brady Golden, Bill Craft (Town Council Liaison), Brice Taylor (Stormwater Administrator)

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am ET.

- **Motion to Accept Meeting Agenda** 1. Lee Maxwell 2. Jeweleen Mustard
Approved Unanimously
- **Motion to Accept June 2024 Minutes** 1. Elise Snavelly 2. Lee Maxwell
Approved Unanimously

Announcements

- Elise Snavelly has accepted a new full-time position that may limit her ability to attend committee meetings. The committee agreed to work to find a solution, such as setting-up a virtual meeting link for meetings that cannot be attended in person.
- Friends of Stormwater plaques for the 2023 awards that were approved by the Town Council in April have gone missing. They were last seen in a white bag at Town Hall. Presentation of the awards has been postponed until the plaques are found or remade.
- T-shirts from the 25th Anniversary Celebration were distributed by Margaret Johnson.

Reports from Staff

- **Brice Taylor (Stormwater Administrator):** Bryce was introduced to the committee. He has extensive experience in construction, stormwater management, and government-related projects.
 - ❖ **MS4 Permit Concerns:** He is currently working on the MS4 permit, which is due in October. If the MS4 permit is not approved by the deadline, the town will face a \$50,000 daily fine.
 - ❖ **Elicit Discharge:** Non-compliance related to discharge of paint and concrete at construction sites will start with a written warning followed by fines+fees. Random compliance checks are now being conducted at all construction sites.
 - ❖ **Contractor Education Initiative:** Bryce is organizing a "Lunch and Learn" event for contractors to educate them on the new compliance process. The process will start with a written warning. If contractors remain non-compliant, fines and fees will be enforced. An online application has been created specifically for contractors to access these resources, with a goal to have everything available online. Drawings for permits are now available online for contractors.
 - ❖ **Dune Infiltration Stormwater Variance:** Bryce is working on the dune infiltration stormwater variance, which is expected to be addressed over the next month.

- ❖ **Tree Grants and Planting Initiative:** The town has received tree grants, and the planting of trees is scheduled for December. The estimated cost for the tree planting is between \$25,000 and \$30,000. A watering plan will be needed post-planting to ensure the trees thrive.

➤ **Brady Golden:** Brady successfully obtained permission from the Police Chief for the placement of recycling cans in the right-of-way. The next steps for the Recycling Rangers program are currently being planned by Sue Davidson.

➤ **Bill Craft (Town Council Liaison):** A stakeholder group meeting will be held as part of the comprehensive land use plan development. This meeting will include participation from surveyors and architects. A steering committee will also be formed, which will include 6 to 7 members. A lead member from the advisory committee will be appointed to the steering committee, Lee Maxwell will represent the EAC in this matter.

- ❖ **Veterans Park Cleanup Effort:** Margaret will be donating pavers for the cleanup effort at Veterans Park. Bill suggested recognizing participants in the cleanup effort by awarding them "Seeds to Trees" awards for their trash pickup contributions.

Old Business

➤ **Membership:** The committee discussed planning an upcoming Fall Membership Drive aimed at recruiting new members to support ongoing initiatives. Various ideas for advertising the membership drive were proposed to maximize outreach and engagement. Jeweleen Mustard and Margaret Johnson to make a plan, more details to come.

➤ **Conservation Conversations:** Margaret Johnson will facilitate this month's Conservation Conversations at the Nature Center of 8/2 from 10:30am -12pm. She will have participants play a game of Environmental Jeopardy. This is the final Conservation Conversation of the summer.

➤ **Public Programs:** The committee discussed hosting a Comprehensive Presentation at 801 Event Center to be open to the public, the presentation is anticipated to last for 2 hours.

- ❖ In addition, the committee discussed the need to update *The Trees of Oak Island* information packet to be reprinted and distributed at upcoming events.

➤ **Living Shoreline:** The next living shoreline cleanup is scheduled for September 21, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

- ❖ Elise Snively brought to the attention of the committee that the bulkheads at Veteran Park need to be restored. The Living Shoreline is in need of an update, ideally a solid system. The committee along with public works should begin exploring different grant funding to help with these efforts.

➤ **Recycling Rangers:** Concern was raised about labeling bins located on private property. It was suggested that labels should only be applied when bins are placed at the curbside, which is in a public egress area. This allows for labeling from the street without the need to enter private property. The recycling bins are the property of GFL, and the labeling initiative has been

approved and appreciated by GFL, as confirmed by Operations Manager Josh Toler. To date, 500 labels have been disseminated.

- ❖ Labeling presents an opportunity for public education on recycling practices. Frequently asked questions include specifics of recycling and whether the process is effective in Brunswick County, to which the answer is yes. A primary educational focus is on preventing recyclables from being bagged in plastic. Sunoco requires clear visibility of the recyclables entering the sorting line, and plastic bags prevent this, leading to the diversion of recyclables to the Sampson County landfill. This diversion increases costs, adds environmental impact due to more trucks on the road, and shortens the landfill's lifespan.
- ❖ Residents are encouraged to visit the Town's recycling webpage for information. The webpage features a five-minute educational video and a presentation by Josh Toler on recycling, given to the Town Council. Scott Thornhill has placed a form on the Town website for residents to report missing or damaged bins in need of replacement.
- ❖ Residents are reminded that bins should be placed with the wheel side facing away from the curb. The front side, with the metal bar, must face the street for the GFL truck to attach and lift the bin efficiently. Incorrectly placed bins cause delays, as GFL staff must manually reposition the bins. Additionally, two feet of clearance is required on either side of the bins for the truck arm to operate effectively.

➤ **EAC Property:** EAC Property has been misplaced. The Enviroscape, rain barrel, and miscellaneous materials that were previously thought to be stored at the airport storage locker have not been located.

- ❖ Moving forward, the committee discussed having a sign-out sheet and a dedicated storage closet within the Ocean Education Center or Town Hall where materials can be easily stored and less likely to be misplaced.

Adjournment at 9:35 am ET.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn**
Approved Unanimously

1. Lee Maxwell

2. Jeweleen Mustard

Minutes compiled and submitted by: Jeweleen Mustard

Appendix

Appendix 1:

Living Shoreline Events

- ❖ Summer: September 21, 16:30-18:00 *Alt. Date/Time: September 28, 11:00-12:30*
- ❖ Fall: November 16, 13:30-15:30 *Alt. Date/Time: November 30, 12:30-14:30*