

- Minutes Glen Echo Environmental Committee (on Zoom)

Date Held: April 7, 2021

Attendees: Robin Kogelnik, Speke Wilson, Justin Ellis, Alec Graham, Dia Costello, Martha Morris, Beth Boa (Town Manager), Holly Shimizu (Chair), Susan Grigsby

Not Present: Willem Polak (Mayor), Tim Bragan, Julia Wilson, Patty Sieber

We are so pleased to welcome our new member Justin Ellis and appreciate his joining us despite having a newborn baby and a toddler!

Update on Sustainable Maryland

We anticipate submitting our application to qualify a Sustainable Maryland Town in June 2021 although we still have projects to do to be sure that we meet our point count. Beth Boa reported on our current status and mentioned some of the completed work including the new Town Sustainable Web Site and the ongoing project to measure the Town's carbon footprint. The certification would be presented at the Maryland Municipal League fall meeting in College Park.

Grant Application Chesapeake Bay Trust

Robin Kogelnik reported on the application which has been completed. We should hear the results by late June. If we do not get the \$15k funding for the Green Streets Grant for storm water study and conceptual plan, we hope to still initiate the green storm water study using Town funds and then continue to apply for grants.

Glen Echo Tree Planting Committee

Speke Wilson is heading this effort and will be working with Mary Parsons. Mary will do a write up for The Echo on sources for free trees so we can encourage our residents to plant trees on their properties. It was recommended that we have "tree mentors" to provide information on how

to plant, water, and generally care for new trees. We do have some Town Funding for trees but we may need that funding for larger trees once we get the Green Streets study completed.

Insect Hotel

Holly will send an email to Henry Barrow, Alec Graham and Troy Etulain to see if they would collaborate on creating an insect hotel for the right-of-way. In addition, Speke suggested we get children involved in creating insect hotels and bring in Colby Epanchin to make this a project that includes Glen Echo kids – perhaps a workshop with children to create their own insect hotels.

Food Forest Garden

We will not pursue this at this time but could reconsider at another time if we have a volunteer to lead the effort and a place to create it.

Adopt Pesticide Regulation

This is a possibility – we need a Town Resident to take the lead. Other Maryland Towns have created their own regulations about Pesticide use. Volunteer needed.

Wildlife Habitat Garden Certification

National Wildlife Federation – Holly will apply for the new Pollinator Garden to be certified. We need a water feature and she will make a request for donations in The Echo. Encourage residents to consider applying for this certification. www.nationalwildlifefederation.com

Bee City USA is another certification program set up to help galvanize communities to protect more than 3,600 species of native bees. By planting native plants, encouraging nesting sites, and reducing pesticides.

Nancy Long Bird and Butterfly Garden

Holly will order a plaque to honor the donors to this Garden.

We will put together a sign-up sheet for two week stints to care for the Garden and will provide instructions on which plants need water, which plants are weeds etc.

Once we get a load of annual plants for the garden, we will gather with our trowels to plant and take a photograph of our green team.