

Minutes of the Environment and Energy Committee  
Chevy Chase Village  
September 21, 2011  
Co-Chairs—Marilyn B. Bracken and Marea Hatziolos

The Environment and Energy Committee met on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 in the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 7:30 PM. In attendance were the two Co-Chairs, Larry Heilman (Board Liaison), Oliver Davidson, Jay Treadwell, Christopher Knopes, and Betsy Stephens.

Agenda Items:

1. **Mission Statement:** The Environment and Energy Committee was established to promote a healthier environment for all village residents and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Village. Toward this end, the Committee develops and sponsors voluntary programs to encourage conservation and enhancement of the Village's natural resources and promotes environmental friendly policies and practices.
2. **Committee Membership and Responsibilities:** Since both of the two chairs have very busy schedules, Committee members were asked to take on more responsibility and become pro-active in areas of their special interest. It was also suggested that if members knew of others in the Village with expertise in these areas they consider recruiting them as additional members.
3. **Trees as a valuable asset.**
  - The Committee discussed working with the Tree Committee to develop a GIS mapping of the Village's tree canopy, and create a data base of trees with emphasis on trees planted by the Village and trees in the right-away. Christopher Knopes will take the lead on this and coordinate with the Tree Committee.
  - Marilyn Bracken will continue to provide the calculations of CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and other services provided by trees proposed to be removed for additions or other reasons using the Tree Benefits Calculator and will make this information available to the Board as they requested.
  - Ralph Stephens will arrange a meeting with TREE-MENDOUS, a Maryland non-profit organization which provides native trees and other plantings at low cost to communities for a briefing on their program in coordination with the Tree Committee.
4. **Alternative Energy Sources and Energy Audits**
  - Marea Hatziolos will arrange a briefing for the E&E Committee on energy audits from the Town of Chevy Chase. Residents that have incorporated solar energy systems will be asked about their experience and if they are willing to share information with Village residents.
  - An Energy Audit was conducted on the Village Hall and turned over to the Building Committee for implementation. The E&E Committee was interested in their assessment with regard to lighting and solar heating recommendations.
5. **Hazardous waste and Electronic Equipment Pick-up.**

- Information was provided on various alternatives for disposal of used electronic equipment and possible pickup in the Village for delivery to a suitable disposal site. Oliver Davidson will meet with Village Staff to discuss various alternatives and their costs.
6. Open Use Property
    - Jay Treadwell provided a brief on the status of the Open Use Property. Non-native plants were removed and the site was cleaned-up, which has made its potential as a community asset more evident. Meetings with Montgomery County Planning Committee on ideas about how to use the property have gone well but funds are limited so progress will be slow. Jay has volunteered to organize neighbors to plant bulbs in areas to brighten up the property.
  7. Education program-Sustainability Series
    - The idea was to organize periodic lectures by compelling speakers on issues related to sustainable communities. This would be an important part of community outreach and trying to engage Village residents in a more open dialogue about how to lower our overall environmental footprint, and incorporate greener ways of doing things that are of interest to residents (like green gardening, switching to renewable energy, conserving energy, etc.). Members were asked to provide names of speakers and other educational ideas of interest to Village residents. A program on use of Native Plants and Trees in Village Gardens was suggested for the first lecture.
  8. Articles for the Crier
    - Larry Heilman has agreed to solicit and edit articles for the Crier. Committee members were each assigned a month to prepare an article. September-Oliver Davidson, October-Marilyn Bracken, November-Marea Hatzios, December- Jay Treadwell, January-Betsy Stephens. The Crier deadline is 3 weeks prior to the date of the Board Meeting (which occur on the second Monday of the month). Suggestions and contributions from E&E Committee members who were not at the meetings would be welcome.
    - New Business
      - Methyl Bromide use at the Chevy Chase Club. A recent article appeared in the Washington Post regarding the Chevy Club's proposed use of Methyl Bromide on the golf course. Committee members and other residents raised concerns about its use in a densely populated area. An article is being drafted for the Crier as a first step to raise awareness in the Village about the issue and to indicate our interest in meeting with the Club as a next step.

Respectfully submitted:

Marilyn Bracken