

Minutes from E&E Committee Mtg  
December 07, 2011

The meeting, which took place in the Village Hall, was chaired by Marilyn Bracken and called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Those present included:

Jay Treadwell, Larry Heilman, Chris Knopes, Ralph and Betsy Stephens, Marilyn Bracken and Marea Hatzios, Suzie Eig, and Jonathan Lyons.

### **Agenda**

Old Business:

1. Review of recent activity (Chevy Chase Club) re: Methyl Bromide. The Chevy Chase Club decided not to use Methyl Bromide after consideration of the information provided by representatives from the Village and other neighborhood communities.

#### 2. Sub-committee Reports

**a. Recycling and Hazardous Waste:** Ollie Davison provided an excellent report (e-mailed to E&E Committee members) on his meetings with Village Management staff which focused on the Village recycling program. The report was summarized by Marilyn as Ollie was not able to attend the meeting. Many Village residents are still not following recycling procedures and are including hazardous materials in regular trash or not segregating their recyclable waste. Suggestion was made that we should include a page in the ChCh Village Manual on where to recycle waste and trash collection; include a flyer in Spanish and Portuguese that residents can give to employees and contractors. The advantage of composting was discussed; it really cuts down on organic waste and can be used as a fertilizer on flower beds, vegetable gardens and lawns, with many advantages over inorganic fertilizers, including less nutrients leaching into water which makes its way to the Chesapeake Bay.

**Action:** Betsy will work with Jay Treadwell to put a story in the Crier on Composting.

#### **b. Tree-mendous MD program** (Ralph and Betsy)

Provide (mostly native) deciduous trees at low cost to people to plant in the public right of way. Betsy sent a letter to the Village Board (Pat) requesting that fees for planting trees in the public right of way be waived. Pat has the authority to make decisions about anything in the right of way. Pat was enthusiastic about the idea of making it easier for residents to green the right of way but wants this to be discussed/coordinated with the Tree Committee before any action is taken on permits.

**Action:** We need to discuss this at our planned joint meeting with the Tree Committee.

**c. Chris on GPS Mapping of Tree Canopy Cover and Carbon storage estimates**

Spoke to Michael Younis. He is interested in this since he has a GIS background. We have an old inventory of trees but not reliable. Tree Committee plans to do a full mapping and inventory of the Village trees/canopy cover, which would be available in a couple of years.

Chris also met with Mr. Danger (Chair of Tree Committee), who is interested in taking this forward and emphasized all the different services trees provide, including storm water runoff and erosion control. Chris presented a couple of decision support tools to inform residents of the Village about the value of trees (tree benefits calculator, etc.). Although the E&E Committee has presented such evidence to the Board in the last couple of appeals for tree removals, we need to provide this information more systematically in collaboration with the Tree Committee.

**Action:** Chris will set up a joint meeting with the Tree Committee and Public Works Committee.

**d. Open Space –Wolfarth Property (Jay Treadwell)**

Jay submitted a rough draft of the report on recommendations of the CCV Advisory Committee for the CC Urban Park (based on meetings Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>).

**Action:** E&E Committee should make recommendations to the Open Space Committee on specific objectives of our Committee, like planting additional trees.

**e. Noise—Jonathan Lyons**

Residents have been voicing their frustration about the noise and pollution from leaf blowers, which shatter the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood during the fall. Decibel limits on leaf blowers are difficult to enforce for a variety of reasons and there was a lot of discussion on what remedies the Village might take. One suggestion was to require that use of gas powered leaf blowers (which have a higher noise output than lawn mowers) be regulated by permits from the Village to ensure they meet noise and pollution standards, and discourage their use.

**Action:** Give further thought to introducing fees or permits for use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers

**f. Energy Audits and Reducing Carbon Footprint/lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Marea)**

Marea reviewed initiatives in the County and in particular by the Town of Chevy Chase to mitigate climate change and reduce the overall carbon footprint of residents. According to the report prepared by the Town of Chevy Chase, household energy/fossil fuel consumption is the greatest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in residential communities, followed by use of cars.

Household audits can provide an accurate picture of energy consumption. Some grants are available at the County level to subsidize the cost of doing these and other surveys to help us get a handle on overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Village and establish a baseline. We may also apply for funds from the Village Board, which has a line item for professional services/studies to inform decision-making.

**Action:** A sub-committee will get together to develop a questionnaire that can be posted on the Village website or administered through a Monkey Survey to Village residents, to get a handle on household energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from consumption patterns. This will help us develop a baseline of the Village's overall Carbon footprint.

**Articles in the Crier:** January 2012 Marilyn on Hazardous Waste or Marea on Household Survey and Energy Audits.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marea Hatziolos