

Agenda
Environment and Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Chevy Chase Village Hall

A meeting of the Committee will be convened to discuss the following topics:

- 1. Brief update on next steps regarding the Montgomery County Healthy Lawn Act, now that the Maryland Special Court of Appeals has upheld the lower (County Circuit Court) Law essentially banning the use of herbicides on lawns, with some exceptions for harmful and invasive species.**

- 2. A proposal by the Inter-neighborhood Environment Committee, currently in draft, outlining the case for phasing out gas-powered leaf blowers by January 22, 2020, in line with DC law, and urging Town and Village Councils to adopt a similar regulation. The draft proposal is attached. Please review before the meeting, as we will be discussing it at that time and how to move forward with a formal proposal to the Board. [N.B.: We have already shared a copy with Shana, Ellen Sands, and Gary.]**

- 3. Update on the status of Neighborhood Sun's Panorama Community Solar Project in Prince George's County**

- 4. Suggestions for speakers for the Sustainable Living Lecture Series (e.g., related to the above topics)**

- 5. Any other urgent business**

From: kirkrenaud@aol.com

Subject: Re: Draft proposal

Date: May 21, 2019 at 5:22 PM

To: stuart.l.sessions@gmail.com, simma.kupchan@gmail.com

Cc: marea.hatzilos@gmail.com, irene@greenloons.com, awodds@gmail.com, robmatties@aol.com, anglofiles1@gmail.com, Marcie@meditchmurphey.com, mfaic@aol.com, paul.magnusson@gmail.com, rolf@santafe.edu, krenaud@townofchevy Chase.org, sheilablum2@gmail.com, kathy_platt@yahoo.com, jtrocchio@chausa.org, marbracken@gmail.com, jslami@aol.com

I added a few edits to Stu's track changes document (attached).

In general, I think it looks very good. However, I would like to see it edited down to just two pages. I don't think we need to spend as much time explaining the problem. All of the listed points are good and should be included, but could be done more briefly because I think most people get it (that we have a problem).

The proposal section is currently organized by action item and also by date. The dates are helpful, and ultimately a separate schedule exhibit would be very useful. But at this stage, I suggest we reorganize this part by action item only. That would save some space, avoid some repetition, and make it easier for people to focus on specific actions we are asking them to consider. Those actions could be:

1. Enact a ban effective Jan 1, 2022
2. Expand quiet hours
3. Educate residents with articles, handouts, social media, workshops, demonstrations, etc.
4. Educate landscaping companies
5. Maintain a list of quiet companies
6. Help the Town contract with quiet companies
7. Explore group purchase discounts for quiet equipment and services
8. Coordinate actions with other jurisdictions
9. Enforce the rules

Thanks all. We are making good progress..
Kirk

In a message dated 5/21/2019 4:34:25 PM Eastern Standard Time, stuart.l.sessions@gmail.com writes:

Thanks, Simma and Irene, for your excellent work in putting together a fine draft proposal. I've attached some comments on your draft using Word track changes.

My primary comment is that I hope our group will do more work to come up with suggestions that could meaningfully reduce the overall amount of community noise from landscape maintenance equipment and activities. Others may disagree with me on this, but I believe our group should have two explicit goals:

1. Reduce the multiple harmful effects that occur from use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and
2. Reduce the amount of overall noise from landscape maintenance activities.

In my view, the draft proposal represents a very good step toward the first goal, but does little toward the second. I hope that we can focus more on the second goal as we move forward.

Thinking about the amount of noise as a function of both the intensity of the noise (e.g., dBA) and its duration (the number of hours over a year during which the noise occurs), the major source of landscape maintenance noise in our community is clearly gas-powered mowers. Gas-powered leaf blowers are less significant as an overall source of noise -- though they produce similar instantaneous decibel (intensity) levels, they are used for many fewer hours over all the seasons of the year as are gas-powered mowers. Neither of the regulatory measures included in our draft proposal (prohibition on gas-powered blowers effective 1/1/2022, and expanded quiet hours for gas-powered leaf blowers) addresses gas-powered mowers, and as such our proposal would do little to reduce the overall level of noise from landscape maintenance activities in our community.

We might consider as an additional or different regulatory measure the possibility of expanding our quiet hours for all powered landscape equipment and not for only gas-powered leaf blowers (as the Town's