

Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

The Environment and Energy Committee met on January 19, 2021 to discuss activities and programs for 2021. The Meeting was chaired by Marilyn Bracken (Committee Co-chair). Those in attendance included Marea Hatzios (Co-Chair), Betsy Stephens, Ralph Stephens, Jonathan Lyons, Oliver Davidson, and Ellen Sands (Village Liaison), and Emily Lawson (Guest)

1. Update on recent developments:

- Adoption of article 33B of County Pesticide Law by Village Board of Managers. An article will be in the February Village Crier with links and tips on what you can do now to improve your lawn without the use of pesticides.
- Town of Chevy Chase's has new restrictions on Gas Leaf Blower use. They are considering opting in to the Pesticide Law.
- Town of Somerset had opted in to County Pesticide Law and will consider a ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers (GLB's) at their February Council Meeting

2. Education and Outreach on existing noise regulations governing Leaf Blower Use and on GLB Ban as of January 1, 2022 for Village residents and landscape contractors

- Parallel efforts in DC

3. E &E Youth Initiative

- Proposal suggested by Emily Lawson to involve Village youth in Used Sports Equipment Round-up and donation to charities for refurbishing and reuse. The Committee endorsed the proposal. Oliver Davidson has agreed to serve as the Committee Liaison for the Youth Initiative and will work with Emily on a kick-off event with a bicycle pilot in April. They will work with Village youths to identify what equipment would be considered, temporary storage of equipment, and relevant organizations to repair and/ or accept the equipment.
- Athletic equipment in summer would be a follow-up activity.
- Use the CCV List serve to announce the initiative and survey resident interest in donating. We could also use the opportunity to ask for people's advice about organizations they may know of who would accept sports and other used equipment for refurbishing and distribution to needy groups. Marea and Emily will prepare an article to put in the List Serve soon. One such

organization that collects sports equipment is called “Leveling the Playing Field. Ellen had experience with several organizations that would pick up and repair bicycles. Committee members will investigate and come up with list of where to send lightly used equipment that could be repurposed?

4. Montgomery County Climate Action Plan -experts from EDP to present at joint meeting with the Town on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. Marilyn will attend.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87873228628?tk=9r6R2ekoPPOkfeJkYCYtubek2CfvQmOoXf72IAIkVYg.DQIAAAAUdacPVBZzcEVHN19sTINWYTNWdHZ6UjNuNGxRAA>

5. Promoting Use of Renewable Energy-- from PEPCO or alternatives. Jonathan will follow up with Neighborhood Sun to see if they can do another information session for the Village and neighboring communities.

6. Other Business

Concerns continue to be raised as to the best way of dealing with the control of Mosquitos. EPA and CDC do not recommend spraying due to the possible exposure to potentially dangerous pesticides and their impact on pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. What other guidance can we provide other than spraying only sparingly or not spraying at all? Is there a way to mitigate spraying and warn your neighbors when you or your contractor plan to spray? Marilyn will prepare a paper on mosquito management and what people can do at home.

Submitted by Marilyn C. Bracken