

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Mary Ellen Langan, Virginia Childers-Davidson, Alex Daly, Colleen Sanford, Colleen Wilson, Linda Martin

Absent

Sally Craig, Betsy Henifin, Amy Kyle, Roy Williams

Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alex, seconded by Colleen Wilson, to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Sustainability Plan Review

The draft of the Community Sustainability Plan was presented to Town Council at the September Council Meeting. Once the final copy of the Plan is approved, all Committee members will receive a copy of the Plan.

Old Business

Mary Ellen would like to restart the initiative to eliminate the usage of plastic straws/bags/balloons in Fenwick Island. She recently met with the Surfrider Foundation who are encouraging using paper bags instead of plastic bags. Virginia noted that this upcoming summer, she will be offering 5% off a purchase if you bring your own reusable bag.

Mary Ellen suggested for the next Earth Day event giveaway that reusable shopping bags be provided and to defray the cost of the bags get businesses to advertise on the bags.

Colleen Sanford questioned about replacing the provided dog waste bags since they are plastic. Mary Ellen responded that they could be replaced with compostable bags.

For funding to fight the usage of plastic in Town, the littering goal could be used from the Sustainability Plan. A grant could be obtained like the one that the Town received for the "No Smoking" campaign. Mary Ellen also suggested that a workshop be conducted with the local businesses in attendance to promote the elimination of the use of plastics. Alex commented that the elimination of plastic usage be presented to the Business Development Committee at their meeting on October 23rd.

Colleen Wilson asked about the dune grass planting. Alex suggested DNREC be contacted now so it can be put on their schedule to be installed this Spring, prior to the March deadline. Mary Ellen will check with Terry to see who should be called but also will call Joanne Wilson to see if she has a contact. If DNREC does not plan to put in the dune grass, maybe the Town could put it in instead.

New Business

Alex asked if flooding was included in the Sustainability Plan. In the past there was a plan to raise the streets on the bay side to eliminate the flooding issue. Mary Ellen noted that it was included in the Sustainability Plan and maybe the Town could apply for a grant to obtain money to raise the streets.

Colleen Wilson suggested that living shorelines be installed on the bay side to reduce flooding.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2020 at 2:30 PM. At the meeting, the Committee will begin planning for the Earth Day event in April.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Colleen Wilson, seconded by Virginia, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM.