

The Committee met at 7pm, June 13, in the Town Hall.

As requested by Barney Rush, the committee first discussed leaf blowers in the town. The committee members noted that the objections to leaf blowers usually are either that they inconvenience town residents because they are noisy and that they pose health and safety problems for workers who use them. The committee members were concerned that a ban on leaf blowers would increase costs for town residents and would not have the desired effect of protecting worker health and safety because the small size of the town means that companies would be more likely to stop doing business in the town than to change their equipment. The committee was interested in exploring the possibility of regulations at the Montgomery County level in order to address this issue. One committee member did a presentation on the Montgomery County regulations regarding noise, which are quite robust, and described how town residents could report excessive noise.

The committee therefore determined that they would recommend to the council that the council should consider:

1. a subsidy for green landscapers, at such time as the town had adequate funds;
2. publicizing the Montgomery County noise regulations and the ways town residents can use them to address noise issues; and
3. having the town compliance officer do a series of noise spot checks, possibly followed up by letters to landscaping companies (depending on the availability of funds for a sound meter).

Next, the committee discussed a rotating roster of recommendations that would go in the town crier. Those were, broadly, and subject to further discussion:

January: reminders about the transfer station.

February: change the filters on the AC/heat units;

March: tree planting program;

April: disposal of medicines at Chevy Chase Town Hall (police station);

May: reminders about the compost program;

June: organic lawn company options (such as solar powered lawnmowers);

July: improving efficiency of home appliances (e.g. vacuuming refrigerator coils);

August: planting native plants;

September: second cycle of the tree planting program;

October; Change the batteries in your smoke detectors;

November: programmable thermostats; and

December: discussion of salt, sand, or kitty litter.

These would go into the town crier on a rotating basis and would be generally seasonal and plug-and-play.

The committee adjourned at approximately 8:15.