

CEC Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2022

Attendees:

Sheila Blum	George Schu
Dan Clohossey	Dian Seidel
Alice Horowitz	Joy White
Sally Kelly	

Minutes

- Last month's meeting minutes were approved
- Dan used a PowerPoint to lead the rest of the meeting discussion
- We did introductions to welcome new member, Alice Horowitz
- Joy announced the hiring of a Town Assistant Manager, Brian Wood; we will stay tuned on how the increased Town Staff bandwidth might help us accomplish additional projects, after Joy has had a chance to meet with Brian, etc.
- Dan reviewed this month's news and announcements, particularly 3 upcoming CEC events: 1. Feb 3 webinar on Maryland Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, 2. March Town event with Community Relations on trees and 3. April "Earth Month" tabling event at Community Relations' Lawton Parking Lot Cherry Blossom-themed event
- Because of the Feb webinar, we need to reschedule our February monthly meeting – Dan has sent out a Doodle poll to find a different day early in February
- Joy and Dan met with Tolbert and Dave to discuss the tree die-off issues, which is what led to the decision to co-host an event with Tolbert as presenter in March – more info to come; this event will be roughly March 10.
- The County is sponsoring a GoElectric Fair on March 19 which we will participate in, to help foster use of non-gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn equipment. There's also another AGZA-sponsored landscaper training the County may offer in March which we are trying to help the County fund.
- Dan has added a Communications Calendar tab to our GoogleSheet (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nylkC3JbyNXyjXOEP1s0O7NI490T4Np72yIPD3tjJUK/edit?usp=sharing>) to track various communications plans so we have an overview of what's happening, when and so we can coordinate timing and planning of messages
- Forecast Tip: For February, Dan is up for Rainscapes/Green Infrastructure
- Dan is working with Emily to continue to do updates to our 2 web pages (CEC page and Greening Our Town page).
- **Greener Gardens**
 - There was a good discussion about what to do about the proposed Rosemary Triangle project. Sally suggested perhaps the focus could be as a "Town/Urban" landscape demonstration planting area so we would have Rosemary for "Town/Urban" and Lee Dennison Garden for "Home/Residential" demonstration areas. Sheila and Dian are going to meet to discuss ideas about this.

- Sally talked about Lee Dennison Garden and possibly having an opening event; Dan suggested maybe do in conjunction with Arbor Day on April 30; Sally is thinking about setting up a tour schedule to take small groups through LDG
 - Zimmerman Park project was discussed in terms of plantings; Joy took the action to ask Town staff to insert CEC in the review loop for the planting decisions so we can help influence and ensure no more invasive, non-natives are being planted
 - Simma has been working on the Communications rollout for the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower ban which was effective 1/1/22; she will reach out to her team with more info and to get help
 - Sally suggested we send a resolution to Town Council for the Town to adopt a “no invasives, no non-natives” planting approach and use an existing website (Univ of MD, Audubon, etc.) for the definition of “non-invasive” and “native”.
- **Greener Homes**
 - We have no Lead for Home Waste Collection; Dan has agreed to be the Lead on T&T for now.
 - We talked about the number of projects we have that we don’t have people to work on and doing a Town Neighbors solicitation. Dan will draft something for us to look at.
- **Greener Transportation**
 - George mentioned the issue of truck idling which he’s noticed with trucks around Town. He said he would send the existing MD state law on this topic.
- **Additional Discussion Items we did not have time for in the meeting:**
 - Dan has pre-arranged to have a County presentation (separate from CEC monthly meeting) for County rep(s) to come and tell us how we can best help them; we need to find a day/time to do this – Dan is checking with Adriana Hochberg, the County CAP Administrator, to find a time to do this.