

Environment Committee Meeting, Thursday, March 10, 2022, 8-9pm (via Zoom, zoom recording not possible because Barton was unable to become “host”)

Present: Barton Rubenstein, David Kathan, Ralph Wooden, Donna Harmon, Veronique Marier, Yogesh Rajkotia and Robin Barr, and other town residents.

1. Minutes of the Jan 6, 2022 meeting were approved. Donna moved the approval, and Ralph seconded. The motion unanimously passed.
2. Apiary Project: Barton reviewed a previously recommended Apiary Project. He indicated that Sarah Keele is now no longer available but neighbor Elizabeth Harris, a certified beekeeper, is. Steve S and Robin B has asked for the EC to re-recommend the apiaries for the town. Ralph moved the approval and Donna seconded. The motion unanimously passed.
3. Solar Panel Project: Barton indicated that Little Cumberland Ave neighbors are very opposed to solar panels on grass north of the tennis courts, so the TC will consider the roof of the town garage. Marnie indicated that this idea was considered a few years ago and a solar contractor indicated that the location would work. The TC will now consider this location and the pool roof. Veronique indicated that we should explore the viability of the Town Hall roof as well and consider only using MD SRECs to determine the financial viability of the project (assuming we can't tap into the more valuable DC SRECs). Robin indicated that the EC needs no further action.
4. Digital Town Journal: A discussion weighing the options between an opt-in vs opt-out occurred, to reduce the use of trees and save the town up to \$13,000 a year to print and deliver the Journal. Marnie Shaul indicated that older residents only read the Journal and also some of them do not own computers. Donna supported this argument. Veronique indicated that it should only be digital for environmental reasons. The consensus is that Barton will write an article about going more digital for environmental and budgetary reasons and remind residents that those not needing the printed copy are urged to contact the town and cancel their printed subscription, opting to use only the digital content.
5. Distribution of GPLB flyers: Barton reminded EC members to pick up flyers on his porch and distribute them door to door in the next weekends. Barton will send an email to neighbors letting them know to look out for EC members at their doors.
6. Shredding Day and Earth Day: Robin introduced the importance of having a celebration of Earth Day and Barton introduced the idea of combining this and the shredding event and members agreed it was a good idea. Barton will reach out to Carrie W., tennis committee chair about asking all tennis players not to use the parking lot on this day. Like last year, we also discussed bringing neighbor's EV for show and tell, LED light bulb exchange (organized by Dave K) and a new idea of distributing native plants (introduced by Dave K and supported by his wife Sarah Morse). The June 4 date was chosen but other dates are now being considered. Ralph moved the approval and Donna seconded. The motion unanimously passed.
7. New Construction all Electric: Ralph introduced the idea, citing the new law in NYC banning the use of fossil fuels in new construction starting next year and 2027. Veronique thought that NYC is a different place with different issues. Yogesh mentioned how a hybrid in-line hot water heater is the most cost-effective machine at present. Barton indicated that the

world needs to accelerate all sustainable actions in parallel and this ban of fossil fuel (primarily natural gas) should be considered. The consensus is the Yogesh has agreed to write a personal story about his cutting edge environmentally friendly house for the May, 2022 Town Journal, as a way to encourage neighbors to consider a plethora of sustainable options for their homes. The EC will also create a welcome document for new residents and builders so they know what the town expects and hopes for as it relates to environmentally friendly options for building new homes. This would be a non-binding request without creating new town laws.

8. Recycling, a Visit to Goode's Oliver Street Recycling Plant in Anacostia: Barton reports from his visit to this plant that dual stream recycling is still a very viable and successful option for dealing with recyclables, particularly since this plant has added high tech machines with various types of sorters (including vision machines). Barton feels that using Goode Comp. as a dual-stream recycler is still a good option for the town. Other EC members were happy to hear about the good news concerning dual stream recycling systems.

The meeting adjourned about 9:15pm.