

**Baltimore County Commission on  
Environmental Quality  
Minutes of Meeting October 27, 2010**

## **Attendance**

The meeting was convened at 7 PM by chair Brian Fath in the Planning Conference Room of the Jefferson Building.

CEQ members present: Kathy Reiner-Martin, Russell Donnelly, Carri Beer, Linda Davis, Brian Fath, Mike Pierce

CEQ members absent: Lois Jacobs, Joan Norman, Rex Wright, Nell Strachan, Jerry Jurrick, Ray Davis, Willie Greer, Tom Moore

County Staff: John Alexander

Guest: Bridey Gallagher, intern

## **Minutes**

Approval of the September minutes was held over until the November meeting.

## **NeighborSpace**

Barb Hopkins, Executive Director, provided an informative presentation on NeighborSpace and how it fits into the big picture of land preservation. Unlike other land trusts that deal in large tracts of land, almost exclusively in the rural areas, NeighborSpace deals with small tracts inside the URDL, often ones that one house could otherwise be built on.

It was formed in the late 90's and now owns 6 parcels and holds easements on 3 others, for a total of 26 acres. Some of these have been donated.

Under the current Baltimore County Code, a developer that does not provide sufficient open space within a new development is required to pay a fee in lieu of. Up to 10% of the money may go to NeighborSpace, which provides a bulk of its funding (during a good economy).

Along with owning or controlling easement, NeighborSpace takes on many responsibilities including maintenance, liability, and conservation defense insurance. In most cases, a community sponsor must be identified before a tract is acquired.

As a fund raiser, NeighborSpace will hold a breakfast on November 19, 7:45 am at the Towson Field House, Minnegan Room, to honor Robert Barrett who is leaving his position as Director of Recreation and Parks.

## **Logo**

Bryan Dunn agreed to work on a CEQ logo which could then be used on letterhead, business cards or the web site (with County approval)

## **Living Sustainably**

The CEQ will work with the county to distribute/produce material. (Kobler)

Kathy mentioned an environmental listserv which provides information from local groups.

## **Plastic Bags**

Since Lois was not present, there was no discussion on this issue.

## **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan**

Brian drafted a letter to the state TMDL coordinator to express the CEQs concern with the elimination of fees in lieu of, which have become an important source of financing for the County's highly successful reforestation program. CEQ approved the text of the letter for submission to MDE TMDL coordinator.

## **Sustainability**

The Sustainability network will be meeting on November 22 when there should be a report on results of the study.

## **Deer**

It was agreed that one of steps in getting action taken in County Parks on deer population control is to make a minor change to the County Code which currently prohibits hunting or harming wildlife in parks. A specific exception needs to be added.

Mike will draft a letter with the necessary code changes, and the CEQ will decide when and how it would be appropriate to introduce it to the new Council.

## **Tours**

With five new Council persons, as well as the potential for some new department directors, it may be advisable to redo some of the tours that were done in the past two years. Kathy will arrange a 5th district tour.

## **Action Items**

Kathy - arrange 5th District tour

Mike - draft County Code changes for deer population control

Kathy - ensure that CEQ members are listed on the next notice of Boards and Commissions published by the County Executive's office.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be November 17 (the 3rd Wednesday) and there will not be a meeting in December.