

## Minutes

Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

May 23, 2018, 7 PM

Jefferson Building, Chesapeake Room, **105** W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are available online

Here: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html)

Attendance: Valerie Androutsopoulos, Linda Davis, Lynda Eisenberg, Glenn Elseroad, Lois Jacobs, Andy Miller, Carol Newill, Chris Overcash, Rex Wright, Kui Zhao, Brian Lindley.

### Open Meeting

- I. Welcome and Comments/Updates – Lois Jacobs, Chair
  - District 6 – Cathy Bevins still looking for a replacement for Dan Doerfer.
  - James Deriu – a letter will be sent after a new County Executive is appointed.
  - Funeral of late County Executive - Lois attended on behalf of CEQ and visited the family (Shiva) on Sunday.
  - Public Hearing on County Executive Appointment to fill out term of Kevin Kamenetz – Council Members and others felt no one running for office should be appointed. Don Mohler’s name came up several times (chief of staff since Jim Smith was C.E.).
  - New Equine Rehab Arena at Agricultural Center – for veterans of PTSD and named in honor of Kevin Kamenetz. One of only 3 facilities in US dedicated for this program and purpose. Horses and building donated by private groups; County pays only for upkeep.
- II. Discuss and Approve minutes of April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting – approved unanimously.
- III. Painted Tree Report: Follow-up
  - Meetings with Council members Bevins and Jones on May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Carol, Linda, Lois). The meetings were straightforward and involved explanation of what was in the report. They listened and heard our concerns. No new information was presented.
  - May 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting CEQ presentation. Valerie, Carol, Lois, Linda spoke and had 12 minutes. Karen was also in attendance. Our presentation was well received. Linda had a follow up call with Cathy Bevins and her legislative assistant; he will put this in front of her this week, and David Marks is also ready to cosponsor a bill. If this is brought to the Council it will probably happen in July or August. Linda will keep us up to date.
- IV. Ten-Year Solid Waste Plan – CEQ letter (report) delivered to DPW and EPS. Briefly reviewed.
- V. Solar Facilities Law Review: Document was sent out to CEQ. Wally Lippincott presented this document to the Planning Board last week; the Planning Board public hearing is on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Lois also sent out “Hudson Valley Guidelines” to CEQ members. We spent some time discussing the different points of view expressed by representatives of different groups. Glenn wrote a letter recommending that solar installations on farms be granted only to those whose primary source of income is

- from farming the land in question. The recommendations in the report cite CEQ and include some of our suggestions including the 5-year review. There are also recommendations to steer solar development toward greyfields and brownfields and to investigate whether additional conditions are warranted to reduce the impact on farms.
- VI. Possible re-purposing of County Parks – no new information. This came up at the Ag Forum where candidates for County Executive were present. Wade Kach told Glenn there had been a study but not much momentum. Linda talked to the VP of the Valleys Planning Council and they had heard about it and were going to bring someone in to update them on it. We should keep our eyes on this issue.
  - VII. Brian Lindley – EPS update and plans for forestry position. Brian has been appointed to Don Outen’s old position. He is now manager for Forest Management. Forest Conservation and Watershed Implementation Plan for the MS4 stormwater permit are two of the big responsibilities. There are obligations to mitigate additional amounts of impervious cover each year. The county might be getting into purchasing land for forest preservation which can get some credit. Median strips and roadside tree planting can be brought into the planning process. EPS and Planning are working together on some of this. We may want to make sure that our deer report is brought to the attention of whoever is appointed to replace Vince when he retires. We should reach out for an update on this issue of monitoring and culling the deer herd when we return in the fall – need to emphasize importance for the health of the forest cover in the parks as well as the reservoir watersheds.
  - VIII. Student letter – Towson. Carol will contact the student with a response.
  - IX. Road Salt Report – update: Brian L. and Linda Davis.  
Recent interest and public attention in part because of concerns about well water. The report from 2009 has been posted on the CEQ web page and anyone who has not read it should do so between now and the next time we meet. Linda suggested we work on an update with the most current information.
  - X. Possible Summer activity. Lois handed out an article about a possible field trip to Hart-Miller Island. Karen is on the oversight committee. She describes it as about a 20-minute boat ride to the island with a bus that takes people on tours; there are nature trails, bikes and kayaks for the public, and the tour with Maryland Environmental Services also explains how the reconstruction project used dredge spoil to rebuild the island on the remnants of two older islands. Karen will send us some possible dates to consider.  
Lois has also been in contact with the Pearlstone Center about their farm which is now open to school groups and the general public. There is a new sustainability division and Joan Plisko is the contact person; they would be delighted to host CEQ whenever we would like to go there.
  - XI. Adjourn.

Next regular Meeting: September 26, 2018, at 7 PM