

Kensington Green Team Meeting
January 12, 2023
Town Hall – Map Room
Notes

Introductions of participants: Nate Engle, Ann Lichter, Penny Veerhoff, Ken Amaditz, Karen Fadely Craig, Olwen Logan, Daphne Wegner, Carolyn Morrissey, Katherine Wood, Kate DeWitt

1. Recap of major takeaways from Mike Hunninghake meeting in November

- Recapped the key points of Mike's presentation.

2. Community Survey

- Goals - priority focus for survey
 - Summarized the survey materials and guidance on the website. Main conclusion is that it needs significant customization for our purposes.
 - Primary purpose for our survey is to obtain targeted information from Town residents and businesses and use it as a branding tool and communication opportunity for the Green Team's efforts.
 - Focus the survey on soliciting inputs for the longer-term priorities where Town hasn't yet made significant advancements, while flagging the progress that we have already made on sustainability (for which we will document and seek initial bronze certification in June).
 - Also use it to recruit those passionate about a particular issue to join the Green Team and help with implementing it.
 - Key action categories discussed as potential priorities include:
 - Natural resources - Watershed management and stormwater management
 - GHG emissions/Carbon footprint. Deciding between the whole Community or just Town Government
 - Energy
 - Food and local food production/transplants
 - Community gardens/community based food systems
 - CSA drop off
 - Waste reduction programs
 - Recycling reform and education (innovative demo projects)
 - Climate Action Plan
 - Green Purchasing; Public Wi-Fi
 - Other areas where people want to focus on. Leave link to Sustainable MD website that lists all 90+ actions
 - Ultimately agreed the survey should take roughly 5 minutes to complete. Main question would be to ask residents to rank priorities across the main categories (currently 10, but several of which we have made significant progress already, or there is not much interest in pursuing amongst the Green Team). This could be done in a table format, with some examples of the types of actions included in each category (e.g., Bee City USA, Community Food Garden, etc.).
 - **Kate D. to draft an article for the spring Around the Town Journal on the work of the Green Team, highlighting in particular what progress the Town has already made that would allow us to submit for bronze status and mapping out the next steps for certification.**

- Format, timeline
 - It will not be a truly “representative” sample, but we will try to reach as many people as possible. The survey will use simple online tools (e.g., survey monkey) and be fully electronic. Will develop a flyer to hand out in English and Spanish at the farmer’s market, businesses, and apartment complexes.
 - Survey draft to be ready by Feb 3 for collective feedback. Finalized for Town Council approval before February 13.
- Create survey team to develop draft survey
 - **Team = Karen, Daphne, Ken to develop the survey - have draft ready for team review by Feb 1,** coordinating with Kate D. on the preambulatory text to coincide with the Around the Town Journal article being drafted.

3. Action Plan

- Firm up inventory
 - Need to finalize review of what has been done and what needs to be documented – how long it will take to do each and include in the Action Plan and bronze certification application in June.
 - **Team = Olwen and Carolyn to work with Alex to have reviewed before February 13 Town Council Meeting. * Still looking for one additional team member to support this.**
- Prioritization
 - Short term – documenting what we have already achieved or are close to achieving with little effort to secure bronze certification (from inventory)
 - Medium term – informed by the survey and interests of the Green Team members.
- Timeline

[See accompanying spreadsheet with Gantt Chart.]
- Budget
 - **Nate and Ann to make sure to ask for \$ for Sustainable Kensington in budget meeting at the end of Jan and consider how much to budget for implementation of the Action Plan in FY24.**

4. AOB

- Agreed to change the name of the group to “Sustainable Kensington” to avoid confusion with the Greenscapes Committee and PBASWG.
- **Next meeting of Sustainable Kensington is Tuesday, Feb 7 at 7:30pm in the Map Room.** Proposed agenda is:
 - Review project timeline - Feb to June
 - Finalize draft survey
 - Inventory status report
 - Prioritization -
 - begin to identify highest priority areas and potential actions,
 - team members identify actions they are most interested in working on as part of the action plan