

Mayor Tracey Furman

Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle



Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Ann Lichter

Sustainable Kensington meeting: April 17, 2023. Town Hall

Attending: Ann, Nate, Carolyn, Olwen, Ken, Ben, Kate, Daphne, Amy, Karen, Katherine, Tracey

Notes:

1. Reading Our Sustainable Maryland Application

- Report out from Carolyn and Olwen - Sustainable Maryland Webinar on Submitting Your Application
 - Limit number of people doing data entry. All docs have to have "Kensington" in the document title.
 - Due June 30 for our submission. If submit by June 1, can get initial feedback and resubmit. Post-June 30 will be an external review (some feedback), and then final review in September. Will lock the application during any of these reviews.
 - Review will mark actions as "approved" or "revise", and what needs to change.
 - We indicate how many points we think we should receive for each action. Be optimistic with inputs. May be able to get credit for some things not completed but planned/in the works.
 - Several reasons why we might not get certified. Mainly around outreach and education. Example of pet waste. Never did outreach to link to environmental benefits when ordinance was passed. Should include in outreach over next month and could also flyer at dog parade too on May 13 and post signs in Town parks indicating the environmental harms of pet waste.
 - Earth Day e-blast. **Everyone to check education and outreach requirements for their actions and we can prepare a quick eblast this weekend as catch-all for any outreach and education missed, if needed.** If not able to get in an e-blast, last option would be June Around the Town Journal (deadline May 11).
- Priority Actions (Green Purchasing Policy, Energy Audit, GHG Inventory)
 - GHG Inventory/Municipal Carbon Footprint under way with UMD student.
 - Green Purchasing Policy requires more analysis and work; can't get done this round. Pursuing the Energy Audit instead, which is something we need anyway.
 - Green Bank may be able to provide 50% of the cost for an audit. **Nate and Ben will continue to work on the details of scoping and implementing this with the County and the Town.**
- Updates from all on completing actions materials and submissions
 - Community-based Public Art (Olwen). 15 points estimated.
 - MD Green Schools (Karen and Ken). 30 points estimated. Some questions about how to ensure long-term maintenance of the program via the PTA.
 - Create Green Team and Participate in Green Team Training (Kate). 10 +5 points.
 - Create Action Plan (Daphne). 10 points.
 - Sustainability Resource Center (Ben). 5 points. Tying the resources by "Businesses" and "Residents". Still need to do education and outreach around this. To be ready for May 11.
 - Local Farmer's Market (Carolyn). 15 points.

- Electric Vehicle Charging (Nate and Karen). 15 points.
- Energy Audit (Nate and Ben). 10 points. Education and outreach undetermined.
- Municipal Carbon Footprint (Nate and Ann). 15 points. Education and outreach tbd.
- Pesticide-free Ordinance. (Olwen). 5 points. Pet waste and pesticide free park signs.
- Green Purchasing Policy (Ann and Nate). Tabling for year 2.
- Promote Local Business Directory (Amy). 5 points.
- Organic Waste Composting (Ben). 20 points. Ben and Nate to look further into this. Still need education and outreach.
- Watershed Engagement (Katherine). 10 points. Weed warriors.
- Insect Hotel (Kate, Ken, Penny). Year 2.
- Tree City USA (Katherine). 15 points.
- Pet waste program (Carolyn). 10 points. Just need education component.
- Establish National Register Historic District (Kate). 10 points.
- We estimate we have approximately 200 points that we can document based on actions done to date in our draft action plan.

2. Action Plan Review

- What else to Include?
 - Need to add years 2 and 3 for those eligible for recertification. ***Everyone to add in the Action Plan where this is needed.***
 - Bay-Wise programs – consider how to make this available for residents – fold into watershed action(s) for years 2 and 3.
- Issues elevated by community survey
 - Still needs to be systematically evaluated and included in Action Plan.
 - Meet May 1 to finalize Action Plan for May 8 Town Council meeting consideration, particularly the long-term actions.
 - Action “packages” for each folder ready with documentation and write-ups by April 28th.

3. Next Steps

- E-blast paragraphs (if needed), to be sent to Nate and Ann by April 20th. Here is the [shared doc](#) to input e-blast material by Thursday (cob) April 20th.
- All other outreach and education info – last chance – May 11th June Town Journal Article. Please let Ann and Nate know if you are submitting a blurb or article for the Journal.
- Action “packages” and folders completed by April 28th. Please also add your year 2 and year 3 actions (if there are any) to the Action Plan.
- Carolyn kindly offered to work with Alex on doing the official submission.
- May 1 meeting at 7:30pm in Map Room to finalize Action Plan. Ann to send calendar invite. Be ready to discuss survey responses for longer-term Action Plan completion.
- Ann to present Action Plan to Town Council on May 8th – it would be great if other SK members can join in support.