

Mayor Tracey Furman

Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle



Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Ann Lichter

January 21, 2025
7:30pm
Town Hall

Attendees: Ben Levy, Amelia Wegner, Al Carr, Nate Engle, Ann Lichter, Jeff Zitelman, Katherine Wood, Olwen Logan, Kate DeWitt

AGENDA and MEETING NOTES

1. Town-wide food waste collection - outreach and communications support

We discussed how the Sustainable Kensington committee can assist with outreach and communications as the Town prepares to start a new food waste collection program on March 7th. So communications and outreach should happen in February and early March.

Specific ideas discussed are shown below, with action items underlined:

- Create stickers pasted on bins that describe what can be put in there
 - Just QR code on the sticker - will take you to visual list of what you can put in the food waste bin
- Olwen wrote an article for the [February Town Journal](#) (see p. 12)
- Town will send a letter out to every resident
 - Front page instructions and information
 - Back page be pictures of what's allowable/dos and don'ts
- Town will purchase new toter for everyone; 500+ households
- Each SK committee member talk to 3 to 5 neighbors about the new plan – can collect any FAQs and outreach needs from these conversions (use info in [Town Journal article](#) for your conversations)
- Video - Maryland Municipal Cable - Nate to reach out and set up with MMC
 - Amelia W, Nate, Conor
 - Highlight the Compost Crew shed in the video
 - Some FAQs in this video
- Devco - can help with comms and outreach materials
 - Olwen to reach out and start working with them
- Farmer's Market outreach – Ameila and Jeff volunteered
 - Ann to email Shirley and cc Amelia and Jeff to set up outreach

2. Stormwater management/flood management - Green Bank proposal

- Nate met with Lauren Mondragon at Green Bank in November.
- She is leading their resilience work - wants to partner with communities and interested in working with Kensington and SK on stormwater management and flood risk mitigation
- They have a firm (PRE-Collective) that will do vulnerability and resilience assessment work
 - The town would cost share a small % (e.g., \$5,000) and Green Bank would finance the rest to explore stormwater management and flood risk management needs for building resilience (e.g., a strategic plan)
 - They can help us identify ways of financing infrastructure needed investments
 - Could be a facilitative component - how do we coordinate with County and State on issues that go beyond our boundaries
 - How homeowners can mitigate stormwater runoff
 - Would like to get a ½ page description of our main concerns and goals, what type of analysis are we looking for and want to achieve with the Green Bank funding
 - Ben, Katherine, Ken, and Karen to put together the ½ pager by Jan 31st, which will prompt a discussion with the Green Bank and PRE-Collective
- Water quality protection charge - we are all paying this on our water bills (you pay a different amount based on how much stormwater your property is generating) - that's money that is all going to the county to fund things like rainscapes
 - Town is probably paying a lot more into that fund than we are getting back in return
 - Municipalities do have the option to opt out (TKPK has done that and has its own stormwater utility fee). These financing mechanisms should be explored in the analysis with Green Bank.

3. E-charging station network review

- Pepco replaced stations in Town last week (they were out of service all over the county)
- Would like to do an assessment of what kind of network we would like to have and where to locate it - links with the Parking Task Force
- Engage community, business community, auto/shops
- Current thinking - put them in places where people don't have access to at home charging
 - Apartment building
 - Street parking only
- Charging infrastructure lead for DEP lives in Kensington Heights - could have him join a future meeting to present ideas and options
- Key questions for the assessment would be: 'Where are the current chargers, where do people have EVs, where are the places that people don't have access to chargers (apartment buildings), how/when do they want to charge?'
- Some programs to subsidize putting it in at apartment buildings
- Safeway and other parking lots where people stay for 30-40 minutes are good candidates
- Al, Bridget, and Jeff to lead this effort and will update at the next meeting

4. Other activity stream updates (if there are any)

- Interest in Maryland Energy Administration grants for solar - determined not enough time this year to apply, but should definitely be on our radar for next year, as soon as can be confirmed that they will be offered again.

- Need people to lead on this next year, in relation to the promotion of community solar and also siting solar on our new public works building
- Resent the link to our SK plan and action areas

5. Next meeting(s): Next meeting proposed for March 19th, 7:30pm