

Mayor Tracey Furman

**Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle**



**Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Ann Lichter**

**Sustainable Kensington
March 6, 2024**

Attendees: Katherine Wood, Daphne Wegner, Carolyn Morrissey, Penny Veerhoff, Ben Levy, Jeff Zitelman, Mike Gordon, Olwen, Tracey Furman, Ann Lichter, Nate Engle

1. Activity areas updates: *What has been done, what needs to get done, what are resources needed and timelines (including dates/specific periods where support wanted from broader SK)?*

- Watersheds (Katherine and Carolyn, Daphne)
 - Katherine reported on Weed Warriors. Katherine is now a supervisor for Weed Warriors
 - 3 events every month - 1 for students (SSL hours), 1 adults, 1 with supervisor
 - Stream Valley Park – identified our area along Silver Creek for planting
 - Kensington volunteers were featured in the Weed Warriors Quarterly Newsletter
 - Tree City - Ordinance needs to be updated (refer to Greenscape Committee)
 - Through Greenscape Committee also planning a Tree Care 101 workshop with Tree Conservancy organized May 18th + Native Plants Sale (morning)
 - Natural History Day - would like to plan for this 2025
 - Carolyn reported on water quality monitoring in Silver Creek with Nature Forward. A significant commitment of having a Leader (who needs to be trained), with a team of at least 4 that monitor the water quality at least 4 x per year. Sustainable Kensington would need to make a long-term commitment to this. Cost of the training for the Leader would be \$200. Carolyn will find out how long of a commitment they would require so we could consider timing.
 - Carolyn: Master Gardeners and Baywise will be at Farmers Market. Can include a reminder - no pesticides.
- Insect hotel/bee city/pollinator gardens (Kate, Ken, and Ann)
 - Greenscape Committee has some ideas and requests for putting in pollinator gardens in higher-visibility areas. Taking measurements and looking into where to implement. Will get cost estimates for the FY25 budget.
- Rooftop solar and resilience hub for Town Hall (Nate and Ann)
 - Resilience hub (room for charging equipment at Town Hall in emergency situation) likely doesn't make sense given costs and return on investment.

- Solar on Town Hall is a challenge. Would need to be over the arched part of the building over the drill hall. Because this would be visible on historic building, would need to get approval from MD Historical Trust.
- Will get additional analysis from the Green Bank to share.
- SK committee discussed sustainability and green building/solar - for new Public Works building.
- Started to explore Community Solar with the Green Bank; will get more info from the Green Bank on this.
- Opportunity to communicate to residents how community solar works.
- Great opportunity for homeowner,
 - Don't have to put money down - but then get money off your bill
 - Good option for homes that don't have sun exposure or are historic
- Usually very large developments – subscribe in to solar project
- Investors will buy renewable energy credits
- Bike and Pedestrian Plan (Nate)
 - BPPA Plan should be finalized in April
- Sustainability Resource Center (Ben)
 - Some brainstorming has occurred
 - Will continue to work with Kariann
 - Carolyn offered to help this
 - Need to update on the version prepared for the Sustainable Maryland certification process.
- Stormwater Management (Ben, Ken, Karen, Carolyn, Katherine)
 - Discussion with Matt, Nate, and team. TOK has significant planning and work going on with town controlled stormwater infrastructure; using ARPA dollars for this.
 - Takeaway was to focus on private properties and what could be done there.
 - Team will consider putting together a stormwater management plan/prioritization process like the Pedestrian and Bike Safety (PBAS) Working Group. Could survey/gather data to know where the problem areas are on private property; town stormwater data on private property is incomplete
 - Baywise - private property - working on stormwater issues with property owners
 - PBAS example: Did walking audits to identify 13 priorities - some long term, some shorter term, 4 month exercise - then had the priorities.
 - Stormwater management and watershed areas to work together on putting together this stormwater/flood management prioritization plan.
 - Development has a huge impact - seems like stormwater not adequately accounted for in permit review - cutting down trees also has an impact
- Trash/Recycling/Composting program (Olwen residential, need business rep)
 - Olwen checked with Sustainable MD on examples
 - University Park, Greenbelt, Riverdale – all of them in different ways had strong positive response from community

- Will get more info/data from Town Manager on options and then brief the committee.

Make sure to document all actions as you plan them in the Action Plan, with links and drop information in the shared folders.

- Also, if there are any budget implications for these activity areas, let Ann and Nate know asap.
- Daphne will take a look at our Action Plan to see what needs to be updated.

2. Community Budget Forum. Ann and Nate

- Will be April 3rd, 4-6pm at Town Hall. Please join and participate.

3. Next meeting – (a non-Monday in April or May)

- Wednesday, May 15th, 7:30 Town Map Room.