

Mayor Tracey Furman

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



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

**Sustainable Kensington
May 15, 2024**

Attendees: Katherine Wood, Daphne Wegner, Olwen, Tracey Furman, Ann Lichter, Nate Engle, Ken Amaditz (via phone)

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)**
 - Weed Warriors - still going - on Town Calendar and listserv promotes events
 - Recruited Temple Emanuel for May 19th - Temple property – own to the sidewalk - will invite Warner Presbyterian stewardship committee
 - Could buy handclippers from Greenscape Committee budget
 - Tree Care 101 this May 18th – starting at Howard Ave – small suburban trees
 - Native Plant Sale - on Kensington Parkway in North Chevy Chase - Inverness
 - Will ask Kariann to do an eBlast
 - Johnson's - could approach them about putting Sustainable Kensington approved tags on plants they are selling
 - Tree City Ordinance - working with Helen on that through Greenscape Committee
 - Jane Houlihan - could document good environmental projects and practices
 - Nature Forward is not interested in Silver Creek for stream monitoring; it's essentially stormwater - not a stream - not worth the research money to study the water since they know there's not much in it
 - Could involve them in Natural History Day - education about water in the creek, etc. - Carolyn has contact if we decide to pursue
- **Insect hotel/bee city/pollinator gardens (Kate, Ken, and Ann)**
 - Found a nice design at Brookside
 - Could be made with reclaimed wood - could get donations, old siding, and cedar
 - Ken will put something on the listserv with pictures
 - Could reach out to people in town that have woodshops etc.
 - Jason Swain - if want scrap wood from recently downed trees.
- **Rooftop solar and resilience hub for Town Hall (Nate and Ann)**
 - Nate will reschedule meeting with KHS (Kate, Olwen) to discuss views on solar panels on our historic Town Hall building; recommendation to include Helen Wilkes since she is part of KHS and on the LAP that informs

- 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 into solar project
 - Investors will buy renewable energy credits
- **Bike and Pedestrian Plan (Nate)**
 - BPPA Plan should be finalized soon (still pending)
 - **Sustainability Resource Center (Ben)**
 - **Stormwater Management (Ben, Ken, Karen, Carolyn, Katherine)**
 - Could do the walking audit - where people have issues with water, then identify possible solutions. Tabled this for discussion next time.
 - **Trash/Recycling/Composting program (Olwen residential, need business rep)**
 - Could tour the facility at Jessup; likely May 31st
 - 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.

- Year 1 - ended May 2023
- Year 2 June 2023 - May 2024 (update what we've done this year)
- Year 3 June 2024- May 2025 (update what is planned for next year)
 - Please link to relevant documents that you've put in the folders.

2. Homeowners education

- Town of Chevy Chase did a community education event- could consider doing the same thing in Kensington.

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- Want to learn how you can save money while helping to save the planet? Last weekend the Town of Chevy Chase's Climate & Environment Committee held Go-Electric EcoFest to share options on how to electrify your home.
- [Watch Presentation by DEP/Watch EcoFest Highlights](#)

3. Next meeting – (a non-Monday in June/July). July 18.

- Include discussion around silver designation.