

Sustainable Kensington – September 3, 2025 meeting

Penny, Ben, Al, Katherine, Marc-Henri, Olwen, Nate, Ann

Agenda

- Updates on activities - confirming full coverage/leads for all (e.g., Sustainability resource center, Community wildlife habitat certified, others?)
 - Ben will lead Sustainability Resource Center
 - Katherine to lead Community Wildlife Habitat certification
 - **Ann and Nate to discuss with Carolyn sharing folder/sub-folders for actions from last year to add to and build from for this year's submission.**
- Targeting articles for upcoming October Journal (deadline September 12)
 - For October issue:
 - **Olwen to draft one on food waste pickup update**
 - **Nate and Ann to check with Kariann** to make sure they do a "leave the leaves" article.
 - **Al to draft an electric vehicle update**, based on the work he and Bridget have done, with some updates on funding and soliciting feedback from residents and businesses on where to place chargers, challenges, questions, etc.
 - For November issue:
 - Buy local article, possibly to include green purchasing ordinance. **Ann and Carolyn to draft.**
- Stormwater Resilience Plan
 - Pre-Collective/Green Bank update
 - Not clear what we will get from Pre-Collective; we requested for Green Bank support around stormwater resilience.
 - This is not their area of technical expertise nor do we have immediate projects to help with.
 - We have sought a plan for how to finance stormwater needs into the future and broad roadmap to guide our work; Pre-Collective could take individual projects and scope financing options for them.
 - May still use their support to incentivize private property owners to deal with stormwater hotspots and how financing could be used to provide staff/consultant technical support to residents in addition to larger public works capex needs.
 - Seeking technical/analytical support from UMD students - a possibility that could come later, once the technical/analytical gaps are identified in the work delivered by Pre-Collective/Green Bank work.
 - Chesapeake Clean Water program - a good place to look for related grants.

- Local Government Energy Modernization Program - new MD program - for audits and studies
- ZipCar updates and EV charging infrastructure
 - Town Manager open to it - starting at Town Hall and maybe have it longer term at M&T lot. Some questions about market analysis. Could be fully electric (if placed with the chargers), or hybrid.
 - **AI to set up call with County and Town Manager** to see if there is a possibility to piggy-back off their contract and suggestions how to engage with Zipcar to see if there is interest on their end.
 - Pending follow up on examples of EV charging ordinances from MML and Sustainable Maryland. **Ann and Nate to follow up.**
- CSA discussion/collection site
 - Katherine did research and approached Town staff about possibly hosting one here at Town Hall.
 - Lancaster Farm, AstroFarm, EvenStar Organic
 - Option - instead of hosting CSA we could share info and promote CSAs with sharing information/resources.
 - After discussing, there is broad agreement amongst participants it's worth pursuing. **Ann and Nate to raise at the next Town Council meeting to discuss if/how to move forward.**
- Green purchasing policy - draft text
 - Nate updated on Karen's initial draft of a green purchasing policy. They'll refine and revise and send to the broader SK for feedback and review. **Karen and Nate to refine and share.**
- Other
 - Pepco grant Town submitted with AI's support for plug-in at MARC station to replace need for vendors to use generators. Did not receive the grant. SK recommends getting an estimate from electrician so it's 'shovel' ready for next grant or when Town budgets for it.
 - Food waste pick-up questions are being answered and will share with the Journal article. **Ann and Nate will have a call with DevCo to confirm answers and share relevant updates.**
 - Save the Date. Sustainable Maryland happy hour at BabyCat, October 30th. [Register here](#). We hope to have a strong showing from Sustainable Kensington.
 - **Next meeting.** November 4th. 7:30, Town Hall.