

**Town of University Park
Sustainability Committee**

February 27, 2019
University Park Town Hall

Present

Committee members David Brosch, Joe Schultz, Joe Thompson, Ross Salawitch, Roy Alvarez.

Guests: Director of Public Works Mickey Beall

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting notes

1. Prince George's County will begin accepting commingled yard waste and food waste from municipalities this year. University Park is the pilot municipality, and will begin combining yard-waste and food-waste collection within the month. Mr. Beall summarized the immediate implications for the DPW: a large savings in direct costs, and increased flexibility in crew assignments. Long-term, this significantly improves options for expanding the food waste program, in terms of items accepted – meat, dairy, compostable containers and utensils – and in terms of households participating.
2. A team of students from the University of Maryland Environmental Science and Policy program will conduct a study of transportation in the town. The committee reviewed and approved the letter of engagement outlining the scope of work.
3. Continued discussion of comprehensively evaluating environmental benefits of food-waste composting, with focus on landfill gas and the global warming potential of methane gas produced by decomposing food waste. While the county's decision to accept commingled yard waste and food waste radically changes the direct costs to the town in a positive way, better information on the environmental effects would improve public understanding of town policy. Ross Salawitch has done a lot of relevant research, including most recently a 2018 study of methane emissions in the Baltimore-Washington area.
4. Continued discussion of 2019 projects.
 - i. David Brosch reported on discussions he's had with staff in Takoma Park and New Carrollton re. LED retrofit for street lights
 - ii. David Brosch suggested that there should be a forum at one of the coming council meetings to discuss climate change and what we can do as a community.
 - iii. Joe Thompson raised the idea of modeling or otherwise anticipating stormwater impacts in Wells Run and surrounding areas from an Ellicott City-level storm, as an input to planning re. the town park among other purposes.

iv. The native plant exchange needs a sponsoring group. Roy Alvarez suggested that the trees, parks, and environment committee might be interested.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.