

Town of University Park
Sustainability Committee
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Attending: committee members Joe Thompson, Rosemarie Calabro Tully, Leslie Jenkins, Roy Alvarez, Dave Brosch, Steve Hurtt, Joe Schultz.

Notes

1. Leslie Jenkins summarized a visit she made to the University of Maryland Van Engelsdorp Bee Lab, which is one of the town's partner's in the pollinator meadow project. The lab is especially interested in research activities most relevant to commercial beekeeping, such as testing samples for verroa mites or other types of parasites or disease. However, native bees, and bee habitat, are another significant research focus, which provides the underlying basis for its collaboration in the Adelphi meadow project. There are about 4000 species of native bees in the US, 800 in Maryland.
2. Schultz summarized an idea put forward by a resident to have a mural painted on the bridge wall next to the pollinator meadow. After discussion, the sense of the committee was that it would not support such a project at this time.
3. David Brosch summarized the PEPCO Home Performance with Energy Star Program. The consulting firm working for PEPCO to implement the program is interested in University Park because of its earlier experience with STEP-UP. ICF is presently working in Greenbelt, and are interested in getting more work for contractors working there now. The program represents no cost to the town, but neither would the town have any role in implementing it. This committee could help to publicize the program to residents in town.

4. The committee discussed several ideas related to communications on "sustainability" topics within the town. An immediate practical step that drew general support was for the committee to contribute something to the newsletter every month. A tentative "editorial calendar" was agreed to.
5. The Sustainable Maryland recertification proceeds apace.
6. The committee commenced discussion of a draft "Climate Action Framework" developed by Joe Thompson. The framework consists of a simple set of questions that could act as a versatile tool to would help elected official and town staff consider greenhouse gas emissions reductions and increased resilience to climate change as part of every town decision. Discussion touched on how such a framework could be practically integrated into everyday routine and effectively applied. The committee agreed to take the draft up again at its next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.