



July 27th Green Team Meeting Minutes:

- 1) Organizational structure: The team discussed the organizational structure; however, the team did not decide on a person to take a lead.

Key points:

- a. It was discussed that Town staff should not necessarily be a part of the Green Team rather that Town staff should be engaged for planning for resources and funds needed to implement priorities of the team. John Bacon discussed some of the issues that were presented in the previous Green Team set up and how to avoid those moving forward.
- 2) Mission/ Vision Statement: the team discussed the vision and mission statement and the importance of it.
Key points:
 - a. The team discussed that they need a mission and vision statement, but did not want to spend a large amount of time writing and rewriting it. The team wants to focus on action items that are attainable for the group.
- 3) Initiate Short / Long term projects: there was a lot of great discussion regarding short and long-term projects that the team wants to consider.

Key points:

- a. **Bay Wise certification:** Our green team is lucky enough to have a master gardener, Melanie Crowder, that is very familiar with the Bay Wise Certification process and can certify residences as Bay Wise. The group discussed increasing Bay Wise certifications in town from the estimated 20 residences to 1,000. This program has no cost associated with it and focuses on educating residents on how they can personally contribute towards preserving the Bay by installing native plants, reducing the need for extra watering, removing the use of pesticides, paying attention to down spout locations etc. The group discussed setting up a date where Melanie could provide additional information on how certification can be obtained.

Melanie provided the following resources to the team regarding Bay Wise Certification:

<https://extension.umd.edu/baywise>

<https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/programs/bay-wise/2015%20BW%20Brochure.pdf>

Here is a short video on Bay wise: <https://extension.umd.edu/baywise/program-certification>

Below is a copy of the Bay wise yardstick for home owners:

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/docs/programs/bay-wise/Baywise_5pager_06_17_14_FINAL.pdf



Other information includes:

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/bay-wise/FS-1014%20Landscapes%20That%20Help%20the%20ChesapeakeBay.pdf

- b. **Community gardens:** The idea of creating a community garden was discussed. Tyrone Aiken presented ideas that involve gardens inside greenhouses within the community. Community gardens were also discussed to increase education related to planting and eating healthy.
- c. **Buffer gardens:** The team discussed the desire to revisit the original Green Teams plans for buffer gardens. The buffer gardens were implemented in Richfield Station and can be expanded upon in many other areas of Town. John Bacon presented the team with a map of the locations that were plotted out as well as information on how plants are selected for the use of buffering the Bay from storm water. Barbara Kete took the map and some of the plans provided by John and took the lead of considering ways that the Town could work with HOA's on implementing buffer gardens further.
- d. **Creating projects that vary in commitment levels:** There was discussion about creating projects that are long term and projects that are short term. It was discussed that not every project will appeal to every volunteer and that the team needs to be considerate of that and plan accordingly.
- e. **Interacting with the community:** The team discussed connections with the local schools that are currently in place and using those connections to further green efforts in Town. Tiffany Geare recently set up a Green Team facebook account, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Chesapeake-Beach-Green-Team-231409234046787/>. Tiffany also created the Green Team logo for marketing the team's efforts, thank you Tiffany!



- f. **Trash:** There was discussion about finding ways for community residents to discard of items that might otherwise be disposed of improperly; such as, ink cartridges, monitors / recyclable items that would not go out in the regular



recycling. The Christmas tree mulching idea was discussed again as something the team wants to implement in January of 2018.

- 4) The team discussed issues with Copperheads in the area and how to educate the community. Melanie Crowder provided information to the Town for Andy Brown a naturalist with Calvert County Parks.
- 5) Discuss Green Team Training with Sustainable MD: The team discussed setting up Green Team Training in September or October. There was interest in coordinating with other Towns to determine new projects for the Town. The desire would be to hear more about this during training and see if Sustainable MD could help with making some of those connections.

Action Items:

- 1) Set up the next meeting: The team can coordinate which dates work best for everyone. Please let Holly know if she can be of any assistance with this.
- 2) Set up Green Team training: Holly Wahl will confirm the training dates available with Sustainable MD and provide some options to the Team by next Thursday.