

COE agenda for 4-1-15

Woods in Your Backyard Workshop

-I'll let Sue talk about this, since it was her successful project and she attended.

Website

-Has anyone had a chance to contact Jada Stuckert or Diane Gleissner about the website? If not, I will contact them before the next meeting, so we can have the website updated by the Earth Day in the Square. I figure that this will be a great opportunity to advertise our commission and having the website updated would be ideal.

PAYT programs

-I watched the PAYT webinar and learned a lot about various programs and obstacles involved in the implementation of these programs. Important questions that they recommend answering include: How do residents pay for trash to be hauled? (In Leonardtown and outside of Leonardtown) What yard waste options exist? Could composting be integrated into a program? They recommended larger recycling bins if ones are to be disseminated due to the increase in cardboard boxes from mail delivery and the reluctance of people to break down boxes. If disseminated bins are used, they recommend radio frequency tags as a successful way of tracking the program. They also recommended that low-income residents be thought of in the planning of a PAYT program. Of the three types of payments (per bag/bin, volume-based, and weight-based), I found weight-based to be the most effective, but need to research weight-based programs currently running and identify strengths and weaknesses.

-I will be asking Nick Zurkan about our waste hauling in the county to try and identify why our debt is so large, if there is a plan to pay it off, and his thoughts on PAYT programs.

Plastic Bag Fee Programs

-If Mark was able to research these programs, he can present his findings thus far.

County Commissioners Public Forum

-After speaking at the public forum, the Commissioners expressed interest in meeting in the future and hearing more about our suggestions. I will put together a draft presentation that we can work together to make better before I set up the meeting. We can discuss what should be in the presentation during the meeting.

Earth Day

-Helen took care of the tables and chairs for Earth Day (Thanks!). Sue will have the material for the tables at the meeting. A college student has also expressed interest in making a display, so if there is anything that we want to put on the display, we can put together some ideas for her. I think composting and how to recycle plastic bags are two things that could go on there.

Sustainable Maryland

-The same college student would like to help get Leonardtown certified and has begun working on an action plan as part of her St. Mary's Project, the large projects that college students finish before graduating. I spoke with one of the Councilmen and I am supposed to set up a meeting in the next couple of weeks with the Council. It should be an easy sell with a motivated college student willing to do all of the work.

Board of Education

-The board contacted me and we have a meeting scheduled for Friday, April 10th. I will be doing some research before the meeting. Paul sent me some great questions to consider, including whether composting actually decreases solid waste production or enable recycling of a waste product and how much of the school's solid waste is compostable food waste. He recommended that I contact DPW&T to answer some questions and better understand solid waste in our county. Helen, if you have contact information for the Master Gardeners that were interested in helping out with the composting project, I would like to discuss different options with them before my meeting with the Board.

Composting Toilets

-I have not had a chance to research this, but if anybody has, they can present.