

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES**  
**Potomac Building**  
**Minutes of May 7, 2008**

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Susan Blake, Sandy Neville, Daryl Calvano, SMHD, and Frank Allen. Members absent were Bill Shreve, and Caroline Miller. Others present were Jada Stuckert, Recording Secretary.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of April Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 2, 2008 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III) **Continuing Business:**

- a. **Update on COE letter on Adequate Public Facilities (APF) Proposal:** Mr. Wheeler stated the APF proposal will go back to the Planning Commission on 5/12/08 and he does not see any reason to send the letter until after they have made their decision. Mr. Wheeler stated the APF proposal is simply a change to the existing APF document that deals with the overcrowding of schools. Mr. Wheeler stated the Growth Policy is a separate document which deals with the 70/30 split and 2.25% growth rate. Mr. Wheeler stated he is concerned that the growth policy is not being formalized at this point. Mr. Wheeler stated he would like clarification as to when and how the growth policy is going to be adopted.

Mr. Wheeler stated he received comments from Mr. Jeff Jackman regarding the draft letter on APF. After discussion it was the consensus of the commission that some clarification of the COE's letter was necessary; but to make these amendments until after the Planning Commission has made their decision and a revised document is available.

- b. **Update on COE gray water letter:** Mr. Wheeler asked if the Plumbing Board approved the concept. Mr. Calvano stated yes and the ordinance changes are going through the County Commissioners process for approval. The commission discussed sending a letter to the County Commissioners recommending that the appendix G be passed. After discussion it was decided to send a letter to the County Commissioners regarding the gray water issue, and included our previous input to the Plumbing Board as an enclosure.

c. **Go Green! Save Gr\$\$n Forum:**

1. **Thank you letters – status:** Mr. Wheeler stated the thank you letter have been sent and thanked Ms. Stuckert for the mailings. Ms. Stuckert stated she would send the master list to all the members for next year. It was agreed that a thank you letter should be sent to Blue Wind Gourmet, even though they were paid, because of the extra effort they had made to make the Forum a success. Sue Veith is in the best position to draft such a letter.

2. **Forum improvements discussion:** Ms. Kelsey gave the following list of improvements for next year's forum:

- Feedback forms did not work. Should be handed out as vendors are leaving.
- Play environmental videos in a separate meeting room.
- Some people did not sign in. Possibly have a larger sign in table.
- Need a banner or signs on Route 235. Stuckert stated she would look into this.

- We need to sign up now if we plan to use the airport for next year's forum. Ms. Kelsey stated she would book the airport for March 7, 2009 with a rain date of March 14, 2009.
  - Ms. Neville stated she would look into the Higher Education Center to have more space.
  - A better speaker system is needed as it was hard to hear the speakers.
  - Need to do more about recycling properly.
  - Need to use local foods.
- d. Update on Solid Waste Issue:** Mr. Wheeler stated he sent a letter to Keenom James and is expecting information from him very soon to be posted on the greensomd.com website.
- e. Status on LUGM Critical Area Update:** Ms. Veith will give a briefing at the June meeting.
- f. Land Subsidence Update:** Mr. Allen stated he sent a letter to the State Geologist and basically the response was that they weren't going to do anything about the land subsidence issue.
- g. Name Tags:** Mr. Wheeler thanked Ms. Stuckert for getting the name tags.

**IV) New Business:**

- a. Green Building Task Force ala WPTF:** Ms. Neville stated she would like to implement a Green Building Task Force under the purview of the Commission on the Environment to raise awareness. Mr. Wheeler stated he would find out if we can implement a subcommittee. Ms. Neville stated she would head up the initiative. Ms. Blake recommended using our forum participants and sending out a questionnaire to find out what other issues people find important.
- b. Oyster vs. Menhaden Restoration Initiative:** Mr. Wheeler stated he would like to place information on menhaden on the greensomd.com website. After discussion it was decided to have Ms. Neville contact teachers within the school system who would allow their students to study the oyster vs. menhaden and present the commission with their findings. Mr. Wheeler would be responsible for writing up a purpose, scope of work and time-frame for accomplishment.
- c. COE Webpage:** Mr. Wheeler stated greensomd.com is growing rapidly and that the web manager, Chris Burch, has asked for someone from the COE to do some of the postings. Mr. Burch would initially train Mr. Wheeler. Ms. Blake stated she would also like to receive the training.

**V) Announcements:** None

**VI) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.