

CITY OF WINCHESTER
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD
January 27, 2011
Winchester City Yards Conference Room
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS

- I. Board Chair Dave Worthington welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In attendance were Gerald Crowell, Dave Worthington, Woody Bousquet, T'ai Roulston, Jim O'Connor, and Tom Hoy.

- II. The minutes from the meeting on November 18, 2010 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Gerald Crowell, seconded by Dave Worthington. Approved by a 3-0 vote. The minutes from the work session on January 13, 2011 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Gerald Crowell, seconded by Woody Bousquet. Approved by a 3-0 vote.

- III. Status of previous action items:

Dave Worthington said all the previous action items have been completed, except work on sign designs for Whittier and Friendship Parks, which will be pushed back to the next meeting.

- IV. No Mow Zone Action Plan:

Dave Worthington said Jim Lawrence modified the information from the work session about the No Mow Zone. Dave Worthington said he would like to use the modified paper as the example and work through it to try to get this done and then work on how the Natural Resource Advisory Board wants to present this to City Council. Gerald Crowell suggested changing the name of the No Mow Zone to Natural Landscaping Zone. Woody Bousquet suggested adding at the bottom of the new name in parenthesis i.e. No Mow Zone. Dave Worthington suggested making the name change in the paper. Tom Hoy asked if the information paper or the actual ordinance goes out first. Dave Worthington said the Natural Resources Advisory Board discussed using this information paper to discuss with some members of City Council on a one on one basis and to address everyone. Woody Bousquet said one of the things he would be willing to do, after the Natural Resources Advisory Board addresses the concepts, would be to make the information paper a more uniform language. Woody Bousquet, in the second part of the information paper, said there should be an additional example not associated with streams. Dave Worthington said an example could be an area adjustment park or median strip. Woody Bousquet said in the second part of the information paper, there needs to be a new question because the second sentence does not pertain to the question. He said the second sentence pertains to the legal authority to have a natural landscaping zone, which is a separate matter. Woody Bousquet said that we need to go off of what Jim Lawrence said in his email, which is to make sure that it is clear that this ordinance was drafted by city staff and the Natural Resources Advisory Board. Woody Bousquet says the second part needs some word snipping because there is a lot of action verbs that are more related to what the purposes are. Woody Bousquet thinks the question

can be rephrased. Gerald Crowell suggested in section three part (d) of the paper, to replace “revised” with convert. Woody Bousquet also suggested in part three that there be an example where a private landowner would want to have a no mow zone, because most of these examples are governmental incorporate. Dave Worthington said this is kind of what (c) gets to with “replace lawn areas with native plants around homes and community parks”. Woody Bousquet suggested that community parks could be moved up into (b) to read “create natural areas and community parks”. Woody Bousquet said he noticed that there are some areas that are kind of repeated and he said he would make a note to combine and delete repeated sections throughout the paper. Tom Hoy asked if no mow needed to be hyphenated or not because some places are and some places are not. Dave Worthington said for the proposed ordinance it need not be hyphenated. Woody Bousquet said that this information paper is for the general public, city council and anyone who asks why the Natural Resources Advisory Board is doing this and what it is all about. Woody Bousquet said that this information might be put into two brochures, one with no mow zones and one with how the ordinances work. Dave Worthington said other communities have had newsletters or pamphlets mailed out to inform their citizens. Dave Worthington mentioned that the Natural Resources Advisory Board might mention how the board fits into this ordinance. Dave Worthington asked if anyone knew specific parties of the DEQ that could review this that they can send this information to. Woody Bousquet said he would check in with DEQ and see if there are regional people that could take a look at this.

V. Tree Commission Liaison Report:

Gerald Crowell said Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative will be at the February meeting to discuss tree growth regulators. He said Perry Eisenach is also coming to the February meeting to present the plan about the trees along the front of Valley Avenue in front of Handley High School and also they are going to improve the sidewalks on Valley Avenue from Jefferson to Bellview and see what trees need to be taken out and replace them.

VI. City Preserves Report:

Dave Worthington said the City Preserves Report was very well received and presented to the Parks and Recreation Board. Woody Bousquet said after talking with Brad Veach, there seemed to be a mutual feeling that the Natural Resources Advisory Board can offer its expertise in protecting and managing the natural features of the city’s two preserves, Shawnee Springs Preserve and the Abrahams Creek Wetlands Preserve. Woody Bousquet said Brad Veach was most interested in having a management plan for Shawnee Springs Preserve, like the one for the Abrahams Creek Wetlands Preserve. Woody Bousquet said the comments were positive and one in particular said “Our expertise on the Parks and Recreation Board is with baseball fields and events and maintenance and so on; your expertise is in an area we do not have and we welcome that partnership”.

VII. New Items:

Dave Worthington said that a work session for February 10, 2011 should be scheduled to address the 3rd draft of the information paper and all members agreed. Dave Worthington said he talked to Tim Youmans and he said the comprehensive plan will be coming up for another review and Tim Youmans said he would like the Natural Resources Advisory Board to look at it sometime in late February or early March, because this plan will go before the Planning Department in the April timeframe and then it will go before City Council. Tom Hoy asked Dave Worthington if he has seen the comprehensive plan with the revisions. Dave Worthington said not yet, but that he would ask for the revisions from Tim Youmans and the Natural Resources Advisory Board would review those first. The Natural Resources Advisory Board reviewed their brochure. Woody Bousquet suggested adding “working with city staff to develop a Natural Landscaping Zone Ordinance” under recent activities. Dave Worthington suggested adding “provides recommendation on air quality issues to city staff” under recent activities. Tom Hoy said to change the logo on the brochure. Woody Bousquet suggested changing “...works in conjunction with the Public Services Committee...” to “...works in conjunction with city staff...” Dave Worthington said the Natural Resources Advisory Board would review a second draft of the brochure at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

NO.	ACTION ITEM:	ASSIGNED TO:	TARGET DATE:	STATUS:
1	Have Ron Tuttle, a local expert, to address any necessary revisions of the information paper about the Natural Landscaping Zone Ordinance	Jim Lawrence and/or Dave Worthington	2/24/11	
2	Take the information paper about the Natural Landscaping Ordinance and make a 3rd draft based on the discussion at the meeting.	Woody Bousquet	2/10/11	
3	Get with Tim Youmans to get the revised Comprehensive Document Draft.	Dave Worthington	2/24/11	
4	Coordinate the development of a plan for Shawnee Springs Preserve.	Jim Lawrence and Gerald Crowell	2/24/11	