

**CITY OF WINCHESTER  
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD**

**August 26, 2010**

**Winchester City Yards Conference Room**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS**

- I. Board Chair Gerald Crowell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. In attendance were Gerald Crowell, Dave Worthington, Woody Bousquet, Jim Lawrence, and Jim Giraytys.
- II. The minutes from the meeting on April 22, 2010 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Woody Bousquet, seconded by Jim Giraytys. Approved by a 5-0 vote.
- III. The minutes from the meeting on July 22, 2010 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Dave Worthington, seconded by Woody Bousquet. Approved by a 5-0 vote.

- IV. No-Mow Ordinance:

**Suggestions and Questions:**

**Section 30-49. Definitions.**

Line 121: Add “natural streams, watercourses, intermittent streams and storm water conveyances when necessary to deter erosion or protect water quality.”

- V. Shenair Update:
  - a) Jim Giraytys said the Shenair program is no longer in operation; they had two years of funding and three years of operation. James Madison University, Virginia Tech, and University of Virginia were the three universities involved with it; James Madison University was the lead on all this. Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission was the fiscal agent for the grant. The grant was given to Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission and from there went to James Madison University. They accomplished a fair amount in terms of setting the groundwork and getting the basics in order; it was unfortunate that they did not have a third year funding. They were able to develop a set of programs that ran at Virginia Tech which emulated the programs that were run at D.E.Q. for determining air quality components. They were able to determine that there was a difference in air flow in the northern and the southern part of the valley, which was quite significant. The air coming into the northern part of the valley is basically westerly through northeasterly. The air coming through the southern part of the valley is easterly all the way through westerly and southwesterly. This was because of the dominant air systems that exist in the country. They were at a branch point where the high pressures systems and low pressures come through the northern part of the valley. The systems, like the hurricanes, moving off the Atlantic coast push from the east and give a

very distinct difference, which makes a big difference in the air quality in the northern versus the southern part of the valley. The division between the northern and southern valleys floats back and forth, but if you take the seasonal averages, then it begins to sort itself out. The division is not in the middle of the valley, but between Harrisonburg and a little bit north of Harrisonburg. It is impacted by the height of the terrain, the Appalachians, and the Blue Ridge; which both get steeper as you go south. About halfway through the three year program, they saw the levels of ozone at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park, drop significantly, which they think means the clean air act was beginning to have affect and that the coal fire plants were producing less. The main issue was locally produced ozone as opposed to ozone which was being transported. They were able to see a reduction in the ozone level at the rest stop which is the site just north of Winchester and a little bit to the east of the rest stop on I-81, however they were not able to see what the cause was. The bottom line of Shenair is that they laid the groundwork and plucked out a few interesting facts from that groundwork, but did not get started.

VI. Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve:

- a) Woody Bousquet said when the Natural Resources Advisory Board was being formed city officials suggested that the Natural Resources Advisory Board should assume the responsibilities of the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve Management Advisory Board. The primary accomplishment of the Preserve Management Advisory Board was to develop a management plan for the preserve, after the preserve was dedicated in October 2003. They did develop a plan and had neighborhood meetings to get input on the plan and the management plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation advisory board. It was then presented to City Council and is now the operative plan for managing the preserve. There have been some recent and ongoing problems about intrusions in the area and when that happens Brad Veach has developed a letter to contact the neighbors with, which then referrers them to the management plan, which is online. Woody Bousquet emailed Brad Veach and asked if the Natural Advisory Board should assume the responsibilities of the management advisory committee, to reduce the number of committees. Brad Veach said he would be happy to have the Natural Resources Advisory Board take a look at the plan.

VII. Chairman Term:

Gerald Crowell said his term for Chairman is up on September 30, 2010. Woody Bousquet then brought up that Dave Worthington should be the new chairman for the committee, Dave Worthington and the Natural Resources Advisory Board agreed. Dave Worthington will be the new chairman, starting on October 1, 2010.

VIII. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 30, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Yards Conference Room.

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

NO.	ACTION ITEM:	ASSIGNED TO:	TARGET DATE:	STATUS:
1	Send revision of line 121 of No-Mow Ordinance to Tom Hoy and thanks to Vince Diem for the revisions.	Gerald Crowell	9-9-10	
2	Think of ideas that the NRAB can do to help with the Valley Air Now Program.	Jim Giraytys	Next NRAB meeting	