

**CITY OF WINCHESTER
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD**

March 24, 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, Jim Lawrence, Woody Bousquet, Jim Giraytys, T'ai Roulston Tree Commission Liaison, and Tom Denney.

II. The minutes from the meeting on February 24, 2011 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Jim Lawrence, seconded by Jim Giraytys. Approved by a 5-0 vote.

III. Status of previous Action Items:

Dave Worthington said he will bring a copy of the February minutes synopsis to the next meeting for everyone to review. Dave Worthington said he will take the sign designs for Whittier and Friendship parks off the agenda until Jim Lawrence says to put it back on the agenda. The Comprehensive Plan was taken off the list and will be worked on this meeting and the work session on March 31, 2011. Send email to members about possible dates for Ron Tuttle to speak to the members was postponed to April 28, 2011. Contact City Councilors about the Natural Landscaping Zones was postponed until April 28, 2011. Discuss air quality proposals for the Comprehensive Plan with the Planning staff was postponed until April 28, 2011.

IV. Synopsis Discussion:

Dave Worthington said he sent out a synopsis of the January 2011 minutes and asked if there were any comments. Dave said he would re-email it, so everyone has a chance to see it.

V. No Mow Zone Action Plan Status:

Dave Worthington said he met with John Willingham this week and he said he was extremely supportive and he thought it was a great idea. Dave Worthington said the only thing is that he wanted Perry Eisenach's opinion as well.

VI. Tree Commission Liaison Report:

Gerald Crowell said Tim Stern, the arborist, has resigned as of Tuesday March 22, 2011. Tom Denney said he is hoping to get the position filled as soon as possible. Gerald Crowell said the Tree Commission voted for the removal of all trees for the Valley Avenue sidewalk project as a whole. Gerald Crowell also said Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative is tabling their request to use TGRs (tree growth regulators) for about six months. T'ai Roulston said Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative will engage the

Tree Commission in the conflict with aerial space between trees and power lines and what all the tools are, how things work and how they will be able to compromise instead of working against each other. Jim Lawrence asked T'ai Roulston if there was a mitigation aspect since we have an urban tree canopy plan to try and increase our canopy since they are at odds by decreasing it; is there any discussion about using this chemical and what Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative has to do, but they have to plant trees elsewhere. T'ai Roulston said that very point came up in the last Tree Commission meeting and the Tree Commission told Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative. "This is what you are proposing and your goals do not match ours, is there some way that your goals will not conflict with ours?" T'ai Roulston said that is why Shenandoah Valley Electric wanted to postpone to another discussion.

VII. Comprehensive Plan Discussion:

Dave Worthington said the Comprehensive Plan is on the City's website and the City asked the Natural Resources Advisory Board to offer some suggestions and recommendations because they are now in the process of discussing it with the citizens.

Recommendations:

Page 1, #4 under "Citywide Environmental Objectives":

Delete word "riparian"

Change to read "Undertake measures to address the causes of pollution contributing to the state designation of certain city waterways as "impaired waters"."

Page 1, #8 under "Citywide Environmental Objectives":

Add "...water quality, water quantity and environmental health..."

Change to read "Develop a more environmentally sustainable approach to handling urban stormwater runoff resulting in less detrimental impacts on water quality, water quantity and environmental health of downstream areas."

Page 2, #9 under "Citywide Environmental Objectives":

Delete the word "sensitive" Add "...wildlife corridors and other habitats."

Move "Preserve healthy, mature trees..." to page 2, #10.

Change to read "Preserve and restore wetland wildlife corridors and other habitats."

Page 2, #10 under "Citywide Environmental Objectives":

Move "Preserve healthy, mature trees..." to page 2, #10

The line will read: "Preserve healthy, mature trees while promoting the city's urban tree canopy."

Page 2, #11 under "Citywide Environmental Objectives":

Change "improvement" to "measures"

Add: "...natural landscape areas...low impact principles"

Change to read "Pursue changes to development regulations to encourage the use of environmentally friendly site measures such as pervious paving, natural landscape areas, 'Green' building techniques, and low impact principles."

Page 2, second paragraph under "Reduce the exposure of the public to hazardous environmental conditions":

Change "fine dust: to "particulate matter" Remove "immediate" "smoke"
Add "long term"

Change to read "Certain other gases and particulate matter also pose immediate and long term health hazards."

Page 2, second paragraph under "Reduce the exposure of the public to hazardous environmental conditions":

Add sentence after "Certain other gases and particulate matter also pose immediate and long term health hazards."

Sentence will read: "Relatively few are monitored regularly."

Page 2, second paragraph under "Reduce the exposure of the public to hazardous environmental conditions":

Start a new paragraph about water pollution where it reads "Pollution also threatens Winchester's five creeks and streams."

Page 2, second paragraph under "Reduce the exposure of the public to hazardous environmental conditions":

Remove "...the Chesapeake Bay farther downstream." Replace with "...water areas farther downstream."

Change to read "Contaminated streams support less wildlife, have less recreational value for the city, and contribute to the poor health of water areas farther downstream."

Page 3, last paragraph under "Map of Winchester's 100-year floodplain":

Remove "blacktop" Replace with "surfaces" Add "...protecting..."

"...restoring floodplain functions..." "...utilizing natural landscaping"

Change to read "Actions which slow stormwater runoff-daylighting streams, restoring and protecting wetlands, restoring floodplain functions, trees, and reducing impervious surfaces, utilizing natural landscaping-also reduce the risk of flooding."

Page 4, under title "Undertake riparian measures to address the causes of pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as "impaired waters"."

Remove "riparian" Add "...water..."

Change so title reads: "Undertake measures to address the causes of water pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as "impaired waters"."

Page 4, first paragraph, under revised title "Undertake measures to address the causes of water pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as "impaired waters"."

The Natural Resources Advisory Board will revise this paragraph.

Page 4, second paragraph, under revised title “Undertake measures to address the causes of water pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as “impaired waters”.”

Take out sentence: “Riparian means “having to do with rivers or streams”.”

Page 5, 3rd point below paragraph 3 under revised title “Undertake measures to address the causes of water pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as “impaired waters”.”

Remove: “Culling” Add “Reducing...populations...and streams”

Change to read “Reducing waterfowl populations at city lakes, ponds and streams.”

Page 5, 4th point, below the third paragraph under revised title “Undertake measures to address the causes of water pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as “impaired waters”.”

Reword to say “Implementing low impact stormwater management techniques.”

Page 5, 5th point, below the third paragraph under revised title “Undertake measures to address the causes of water pollution contributing to the State designation of certain city waterways as “impaired waters”.”

Add “...enforcing erosion sediment controls.”

They will offer suggestions for this sentence to be left in or taken out.

Change to read “More carefully inspecting construction sites and enforcing erosion sediment controls.”

Page 6, second paragraph under “Work with surrounding jurisdictions as well as federal and state agencies to (a) monitor air and water quality, and (b) address regional environmental issues such as air quality, water quality, and solid waste management.”

Add sentence after the second sentence “In addition, studies conducted by...” Woody Bousquet said he would look at this sentence and finish it.

Page 6, first paragraph under “Reduce the city’s carbon footprint and overall environmental impact on air quality by looking at the way City business is conducted on a daily basis and also encouraging residents and the business community to do their part in order to create a more sustainable and responsible community.”

Delete: “However...” Add “...reducing energy consumption, improving air quality and...”

Change to read “Some practices definitely reduce carbon footprint while reducing energy consumption, improving air quality and also yielding other benefits.”

Page 7, last paragraph under “Reduce the city’s carbon footprint and overall environmental impact on air quality by looking at the way City business is conducted on a daily basis and also encouraging residents and the business community to do their part in order to create a more sustainable and responsible community.”

Change word "...costs." to "...consumption."

Change to read "Finally, the city's Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) should inform households and businesses seeking to reduce their energy consumption."

Page 8, section 8, Jim Lawrence said he would take a look at this in interest of time.

Page 8, second paragraph under "Develop a more environmentally sustainable approach to handling urban stormwater runoff resulting in less detrimental impacts on downstream areas."

Add "Preserving and..."

Change to read "Preserving and restoring wetlands is one aspect of more sustainable handling of stormwater runoff."

Dave Worthington asked Jim Lawrence to look at section 9 on page 8 in interest of time and Jim Lawrence agreed.

VIII. Sign Designs-Whittier and Friendship Parks:

Jim Lawrence said he has not had a chance to do anything with this particular area. Jim said they do have funding for the sign at Whittier but not for the sign at Friendship Park. Jim Lawrence said there will be a need at some point and time to have this sign funded for Friendship Park. Woody Bousquet asked if this sign at Whittier is for the Whittier Wetland part or the whole park. Jim Lawrence said the sign is in conjunction with the tree planting and what was done with the detention basin. Gerald Crowell asked where the funding is coming from and Jim Lawrence said it came from the Department of Forestry through a grant they received a year ago. Dave Worthington asked if there is anything the Natural Resources Advisory Board can do to help and Jim Lawrence said there is not at this time. Dave Worthington asked Jim Lawrence to let him know when this needs to come back on the agenda because he will take it off for the time being.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

NO.	ACTION ITEM:	ASSIGNED TO:	TARGET DATE:	STATUS:
1	Review synopsis of February meeting minutes for format.	Everyone	4/28/11	
2	Send email to members about possible dates for Ron Tuttle to speak to members	Jim Lawrence	4/28/11	
3	Contact City Councilors about the Natural Landscaping Zones	Jim Lawrence and Woody Bousquet	4/28/11	
4	Discuss air quality proposals for the Comprehensive Plan with the Planning staff.	Tom Hoy and Jim Giraytys	4/28/11	
5	Find out deadline for Comprehensive Plan from Tim Youmans and if the revisions can be submitted in two parts or just as one.	Dave Worthington	3/31/11	