



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

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Sustainable Monocacy Commission February 2024 Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting Details

Meeting date and time: Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Meeting location: 1st Floor Conf. Room, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701

II. Attendance

Members present: Gary Magnuson (Chair), Andy Celmer (Vice-Chair), Chuck Eirkson, Matt Moran, Lonnie Ropp, James Ryder, County Council President Brad Young

Members present virtually: Kim Stewart

Members absent: Bill Allen, Dr. Drew Ferrier, Alderwoman Katie Nash

County Staff: Kimberly Gaines, Karin Flom, Andrew Stine

Meeting Attendees: Jack Lynch, Sam Roop, Ross Bradley, Janet Larkin

III. Call to Order

The Sustainable Monocacy Commission's monthly meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Chair Gary Magnuson opened the meeting with the first item on the agenda (#1), which was a review of the membership roll followed by a recognition that a quorum was present.

The second item on the agenda (#2) was a discussion of the January 25, 2024, draft meeting minutes for the open and closed sessions. Staff noted two corrections, identified by Andy Celmer prior to the meeting, including a typo and a correction to the meeting's location. With these corrections being noted, Chuck Eirkson made a motion for approval that was seconded by Andy Celmer and received unanimous approval.

IV. New Business

The Commission then moved on to new business. The first item under new business was the introduction and welcome of the newest member of the Commission, James Ryder (#3a). James provided a summary of his background and stated that he is a co-executive director of the Claggett Center, which owns approximately 150 acres of property contiguous to the Monocacy River.

The next item under new business was a review of the 2023 Annual Report (#3b). The document summarizes the activities of the Commission in 2023. Gary noted that, for future iterations of the report, it may be beneficial to include a brief description of any results that were achieved as part of the Commission's activities in this report.

The last item under new business was a discussion of outreach and recent and future tabling opportunities for the Commission in 2024 (**#3c**). Matt Moran and Chuck Eirkson reported on their observations in covering the Commission table at the recent Mobilize Frederick Climate Summit at Hood College. Gary added that 13 volunteers were signed up. Next, Members identified the following potential events as tabling opportunities. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be distributed at the next meeting for the following events:

- The Frederick Festival of Flight
- Frederick In the Streets
- Catoctin Colorfest
- The Great Frederick Fair
- Frederick Pride
- Fire In Ice

V. Unfinished Business

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of unfinished business, and it started with an update on the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) writer position for Frederick County (**#4a**). Gary reported that Member Bill Allen had represented the Commission at a recent County budget hearing on the matter. At Bill's request, Frederick Farm Bureau member Sam Roop was invited to attend the Commission meeting and provide a brief update. Sam indicated that the Frederick County Office of Agriculture has drafted a job description. He also stated that the University of Maryland Extension will hire approximately 7-8 plan writers across the state with one writer for Frederick and Washington Counties. Sam also provided a brief overview of the Nutrient Management Plan process and requirements. Members expressed support for the County to provide a budget item to hire consultants as-needed as an alternative to establishing a permanent plan writing position. Gary will attend and present a statement on behalf of the Commission to urge County support for NMP assistance at the County March 20, 2024, budget session.

The next item under Unfinished Business agenda was a presentation by Jack Lynch, a previous member of the former Monocacy Scenic River Board, regarding the stream naming contest held by the River Board (**#4b**). Jack stated that the River Board held the contest with the intent of raising awareness of the river and its tributaries. He described the outreach efforts undertaken in 2015 to promote the contest, the contest process, and working with the USGS Board of Geographic Names to officially name the streams. Members of the Commission expressed interest in another such contest and noted that social media and the use of technology like QR codes for aggregating entries and sharing information would be an important aspect of any new contest.

The next item on the agenda was a status report on the legislation to expand the Commission by two seats (**#4c**). County Council President Young indicated that the legislation is advancing. The next step is the public hearing on March 19. Gary will attend the public hearing as chair and speak in support.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion and confirmation of the 2024 meeting dates for the Commission (**#4d**). The schedule was confirmed, except that the Commission will not meet in December.

The final item discussed under Unfinished Business was a future tire clean-up event at the Clustered Spires Golf Course (**#4e**). Gary indicated that he had not yet seen the conditions and he would reach out to interested members to arrange a site assessment. Members and attendees discussed various options to retrieve and dispose of the tires once collected.

VI. Member / Public Comment

The Commission then moved on to the Member and Public Comment (#6). Gary provided tentative river clean-up dates from Kayce Heister of Wild Earth Rescue including April 20, June 1, and July 27.

Gary also inquired about potential topics that members may wish to include on future agendas. The following potential topics were identified:

- Mission and activities of the new Office of Agriculture
- Efforts to increase septic system incentives/programs at the local or state level
- Frederick County Water Resources Element

Lastly, Gary asked that each member review the 2019 Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan and select one recommendation that they would like to see carried forward by the Sustainable Monocacy Commission in 2024 for discussion at the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

With no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by Matt Moran and seconded by Lonnie Ropp. With unanimous approval, the February 2024 meeting of the Sustainable Monocacy Commission concluded at 7:51 p.m.