

Minutes
Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
January 27, 2016, 7:00 PM
Dept. of Environmental Protection & Sustainability, Room 319: County Office Building,
111 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD 21204

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are always available online here:
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html

Attendance: Glenn Elseroad, James Deriu, Bill Breakey, Andy Miller, Brian Fath, Valerie Andoutsopoulos, Linda Davis, Rex Wright, Russell Donnelly, German Mora, Steve Morsberger, Mary Gruver-Byers (by phone)

Baltimore County Staff: Brian Lindley, Amelia Atkins, Kui Zhao

Absent: Carol Newill, Lois Jacobs

Welcome and Introductions

- New EPS CEQ Liaison – Brian Lindley (Supervisor of Environmental Enforcement)
- EPS Alternate Liaison – Amelia Atkins (Natural Resource Specialist, Watershed Management)

I. Old Business

- Minutes of last meeting approved unanimously.
- Other matters of interest:
 - a. New law passed by the council: expedites implementation of development at Sparrows Point, fast-tracks multiple-use and waives most regulatory requirements for zoning and development permits to bring in light industry to a former heavy-industry location. Bill 86-15 introduced by Todd Crandall on November 2 and passed December 7, 2015. The Commission noted some grey areas with regard to development permissions within newly designated sector – Chesapeake Enterprise Zone as designated by County Executive. The issue of whether this sets a precedent for other fast-track development decisions may be a bigger concern than the actual site-specific issue of redevelopment.
 - b. Other redevelopment initiatives in Towson that were discussed last time and after the last meeting – Radebaugh’s former nursery site and Patriot Plaza. For the Patriot Plaza the County Executive had proposed a contest of landscape architects with a winning proposal to be selected.
 - c. Councilman David Marks introduced a bill about residential and commercial setbacks in the Towson Town Center area – to change the existing code and decrease the existing setbacks but also to have tiered setbacks above three stories.
 - d. Councilwoman Vicki Almond introduced a special events recycling amendment to require recycling of materials for public events with more than a certain number of people in attendance.
 - e. There was to have been a hearing this past week at Sparrows Point High School about DNR/MDE plans to dredge Man O War Shoals on the argument that shell could be extracted and distributed elsewhere for oyster restoration. This is the last remaining living oyster bar of its kind in the region. The hearing will now be held on February 2, next Tuesday.

II. Group Discussion

There was a general discussion of the focus and purpose of CEQ and the agenda for the coming year. Few matters have been brought to us recently by the County Council; more commonly we are trying to bring an issue to them. The group seems to work best when it has a particular issue to work on. Specific issues of concern that might be a focus for Commission study include: renewable energy, deer overpopulation/management, green buildings, tree canopy cover, street trees, sustainability, forest mitigation banks, open space; comprehensive zoning recommendations. There is continuing concern about road salt and groundwater chloride contamination. The County is anticipating a TMDL for chloride from MDE possibly sometime this year.

Members agreed to reread the salt report; maybe have someone from planning come to talk about what they see as hindrances to innovative development design; look into open space issue.

It was agreed to invite EPS Director Vince Gardina to meet with us at an upcoming meeting.

III. Adjourn

Next Meetings: 7:00 p.m., regular meetings

- February 24, 2016
- March 23, 2016
- April 27, 2016
- May 25, 2016