Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 4/2/2025

A Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting was held at 125 N Division St, GOB 306, Salisbury, Maryland at 5:30pm on April 2, 2025.

**Members in attendance:** Charly Sager, Noah Bressman, Elise Trelegan, Catherine Skeeter, Mike Angelot, Matthias Pieplak, Dave Burt,

**Members of the public in attendance:** Christine Maine, Dylan Maine,Taylor Swanson, Karen Cooper, Kayle Krieg

**Staff in attendance:** Zack White

**City Council in attendance:** None

**I. Introductions, recap.**

Charly had the group introduce themselves. There was no recap from the previous meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Elise motioned to approve the March minutes, Noah seconded.

**III. General Discussion**

Charly had the group start with a discussion about goals for the rest of the year.

Matthias discussed his outreach goals. He spoke about wanting to coordinate with outside organizations to create social media posts.

Taylor discussed his goals for the Meadows Subcommittee, with a focus on an upcoming project, which will be the first of the year. He discussed plans to do a final site visit and implement a growing plan for the project. Taylor also addressed the subcommittee's branding, suggesting a name change to move beyond the term "meadows," as it may be too limiting. He wants the subcommittee to more broadly represent things such as tree plantings, pollinator gardens, and more.

Additionally, Taylor talked about creating signage for the subcommittee to display at the various garden projects. He expressed interest in collaborating with other organizations, such as Wicomico Environmental Trust and the Lower Shore Land Trust, on initiatives like meadows and similar environmental projects.

Christine discussed the schedule for this year’s litter cleanups. She mentioned a conversation with a man named Dave about the "Adopt-a-Street" program, and his effort to initiate this with the City of Salisbury. She provided an overview of the program stating that organizations would adopt a street within City limits, and commit to cleaning that street for a specified term.

Zack also shared details about a meeting he had with Dave. He mentioned that the Salisbury City Council president is interested in moving forward with the program, though no official confirmation has been made yet. Zack spoke about other municipalities in Maryland that have similar programs.

Elise discussed sustainable transportation initiatives and her collaboration with the City’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). They are planning to administer a survey aimed at gathering 100 responses to identify effective transportation strategies. Elise mentioned wanting to revitalize the city's bike-friendly merchant program, which has been underutilized, and connect it to the green business certification. She talked plans to create social media content for Bike to Work Week and continuing communication with BPAC for further efforts.

Dave shared his waste management goals, including getting the Green Team involved in the discussions about the county’s ten-year waste management plan. He noted that he made Green Team business cards, with the intent to consult with city staff in a more professional manner. Dave also talked about his interest in meeting with the Wastewater plant team to discuss potential overflow issues and explore possible solutions. Additionally, he plans to meet with the City Field Operations department to address concerns about leaking trucks and the city’s response to this issue. Lastly, Dave proposed having a meeting with the City’s storm water manager.

Noah discussed moving forward with PFAS testing in Peggy Branch, and Johnson Pond. Between Noah and Taylor there was a discussion about the pricing of samples and options for which organizations to use for the testing. The conversation then shifted to who would be responsible for the cleanup if elevated PFAS levels are found. Zack inquired about the city’s potential role in the process, to which Noah expressed confidence that Perdue would cover the costs, as they had previously taken responsibility for a PFAS incident upstream. Zack raised concerns about the city potentially being responsible for addressing the issue, and asked for details about the cleanup process. Noah stated that the cleanup was beyond the scope of the Green Team and he wasn’t able to give a detailed response about all that goes into it. The group then debated whether to use Green Team funds to proceed with the testing and decided to vote on it during the next meeting.

The group discussed what should be featured at the Green Team table for Third Friday. Elise suggested having the BPAC survey available for people to fill out. Dave proposed educating the public about recycling, possibly with a recycling game. Elise also mentioned there would be a YEAS (Youth Environmental Action Summit) table at Third Friday, and will likely feature items related to their meadow-focused project.

**City Updates:**

Zack told the group that tentative dates are in the works for the Comprehensive Plan focus group meetings, as members of the Green Team were interested in whether or not they were still happening. He noted dates are subject to change, but the focus group were indeed planned to happen.

At 6:33 Noah motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matthias seconded.