



August 18, 2021
Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes



The meeting was held via WebEx.

Per current practice, the meeting is also streamed live on Facebook at Frederick County Sustainability Commission and made available via phone (1-855-925-2801, Code 9813) for listening.

Present: Chair: John Ferri, Vice-Chair: Faith Klareich, Secretary: Mark Sankey, Elizabeth Law, Bill Steigelmann, Jennifer Bird, Tiffany Fossett

Frederick County Council Liaison: Not Represented

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher

Guests/Public: Ben Springer

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by John Ferri and he initiated a moment of silent reflection. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Sankey asked for any discussion on the minutes of the Commission meeting of July 21, 2021. The minutes were approved by the Commissioners unanimously without comment. Mark also asked whether any comments were necessary for the minutes of the closed session on July 21. The Closed Session Minutes were also approved unanimously.

Annual Report – 2020-2021 Executive Committee

Betty, Faith and Mark commented briefly on the report as drafted.

Bill pointed out that reference to CEMWG should use the word “Work” instead of “Working” as the official title.

Mark asked if such a report was made to address the desire for a quarterly meeting with the County Executive (CE).

John explained that a meeting is not always possible or necessary and that a report should be made each quarter and other comments provided to the CE as needed on specific issues.

We plan to finalize this annual report at the September meeting.

2021-2022 FCSC Plan – Discussion – All

- Discussion of the draft under Section 2 was initiated by John. Mark shared an Excel file for reference with initial comments.
- Extended discussion focused on inputs from John and Tiffany and resulted in clarifying thoughts to be expressed under Section 2A rather than B where more details will be added.
- Faith expressed interest to address issues such as heat islands, recycling and repurposing. Also access to health care was acknowledged as significant.
- John suggested combination of some items. Mark will revise the Excel spreadsheet based on the discussion and send to John for incorporation into the next round of the larger document for future discussion.

2022 Legislative Suggestions – Discussion - All

- A brief discussion led to a call for members to forward any suggestions to Mark for consolidation for review at the next meeting.
- Dawn clarified these should be for legislative consideration on the state level.

Sustainability Awards – Discussion & Vote - All

- Discussion included member perspectives of candidates considered deserving of award. It was repeated by several that all candidates had value. Candidates were identified by number only in the interest of confidentiality.
- A vote was taken based again on identifying numbers only.
- The categories and those selected for award are:
 - Student – Candidate #9 selected.
 - Non-profit – Candidate #10 selected.
 - Individual – Candidate # 8 selected.
 - Commercial – Candidate #2 selected.
- The Sustainability Award subcommittee will meet to discuss potential of notification to runners up.
- Dawn indicated the County's plan to make awards on October 14. Awards for 2020 and 2021 will be made at that time. Consideration of virtual or in person format is in progress.

Subcommittee Updates –All

- South Frederick Corridor – Faith
Work continues on the draft plan and report. Schedule for release is undefined.

- Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT) – Bill

The group has rescheduled a call for Friday. A call with First Energy representatives will also happen Friday to discuss the status of area energy audits and the capacity to execute additional ones.

- Sugarloaf Mt Corridor – Mark

The report has been released and review has begun. The Commission has planned to have Tim Goodfellow present the report at the September meeting. A public virtual presentation was held last night with a repeat set for tomorrow night, the 19th.

The Sugarloaf Plan Area includes Sugarloaf Mountain which is privately held and administered.

While information has been circulated concerning some controversy to a portion of the area under consideration, the Sugarloaf Planning Area, the Commission will review the plan as released. John Ferri confirmed this.

OSER Update – Shannon, Dawn

- Shannon provided updates.
 - CEMWG will present their report to the County Council on August 24 at 5:30 pm.
 - OSER has new staff member, Leann Nizzardi. She steps into Kim Campbell's responsibilities as she is now a project manager.
 - Anna Eyler is a new OSER intern with administrative responsibility. She has studied environmental work and public policy.
 - OSER was featured in a statewide publication, *Maryland Matters*, which covers state and local politics.
 - Ongoing projects and work include Point of Rocks retrofit work, funding for septic pump out rebate program, negotiation with the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding stormwater permits and state funding for restoration and addressing nutrient trace levels.
 - Financial plans and budgets are submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment for approval.
- Dawn's comments
 - Dawn reported she is meeting with community agencies that provide residential weatherization, housing rehabilitation, senior services, and affordable housing to discuss collaboration.
 - She also advised that the County has postponed opening of offices to the public until October. In conjunction with this policy, the County will not participate in outdoor public events so the OSER outreach at In the Streets is cancelled.

- Dawn queried the Commission members for preference for a meeting room for our monthly meetings when in-person meetings resume. She had previously emailed concerning recent improvements to ventilation controls. The 3rd floor room formerly used or a second floor meeting room are available to be set aside for our use. A discussion resulted in selecting the second floor room.
- John noted that we had previously voted not to return to in-person meetings until the new calendar year. No requirement is made regarding in-person meeting as a room is set aside for our potential use.
- John asked whether OSER is receiving any federal funds allocated to the County. Shannon indicated this is not yet clear but possible.

Potential Commission Appointment – Ben Springer – Discussion & Vote – All

A motion was made to consider Ben’s application and vote on his appointment. The motion was seconded and a vote made. Ben’s application was approved unanimously. The County Executive will be notified of our approval.

Commissioner Interest/Updates - All

- Bill reported the Jefferson Ruritan microgrid project is proceeding ahead of schedule. Draft of the design report outlining options is expected by the end of the month. MEA plans another round of grant applications which will include funds for construction.
- Bill asked whether any potential opportunities for microgrid grants for County facilities exist. Dawn reminded us of plans for a white paper covering business benefits, etc. of microgrids for the CE. This will be discussed by the Great subcommittee.
- Faith announced an upcoming MCEC speaker series which is open to all without fee. She will distribute details.
- Betty updated us regarding the planned road through Ft. Detrick property. On August 4, an Ft. Detrick RAB meeting was held and various Frederick City mayoral and alderman candidates attended. Discussions with MDE, EPA and the Army continue on related issues including vapor intrusion barriers and details for protection of residences.

Public Comment

John read the invitation for comment and Ben Springer connected by phone. He thanked the Commission acknowledging the approval of his application.

No further public comments were received.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.