



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Julian M. Willis, County Administrator
Mary Beth Cook, Director of Planning & Zoning *MBC*
Will Hager, Planner II *WH*

FROM: Ron Klauda, Chair, Calvert County Environmental Commission

DATE: February 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Annual Report from the Calvert County Environmental Commission

Background:

The Calvert County Environmental Commission was created and its mission defined by Resolution No. 11-75, adopted March 18, 1975; Resolution No. 20-77, adopted September 27, 1977; Resolution No. 19-78, adopted July 11, 1978; and Resolution No. 40-07, adopted September 25, 2007. These Resolutions were repealed and replaced with Resolution No. 16-18, adopted April 17, 2018.

The Environmental Commission was formed as an advisory commission to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners after thorough study and deliberation concerning matters of environmental importance but has since broadened its mission to include public education and outreach.

Discussion:

The Calvert County Environmental Commission had a productive year in 2019. They restarted the Pump-for-the-Bay contest, engaged in public outreach by participating in a number of local events, hosted 11 guest speakers, provided comments and recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan update and the draft Transportation Plan, and have prepared and made available on their website several FAQ's intending to educate the public on environmental topics important to Calvert County residents.

Fiscal Impact:

Budget: \$6,800.95

Expenditures: \$5,921.99 YTD

Conclusion/Recommendation:

Continue to support the Calvert County Environmental Commission

Attachment:

2019 Accomplishments, Ongoing Projects, and 2020 Projects

Attachment

2019 Annual Report from the Calvert Environmental Commission to the Board of County Commissioners

2019 Accomplishments:

- Studied environmental issues relevant to Calvert County by continuing a Guest Speaker program that featured 11 speakers on a range of topics
- Prepared lists of frequently-asked questions (FAQs) and answers on Air Quality, Radon, Waste Water, and Sustainability to help inform County residents
- Informed and educated the public at five outreach events, including the Green Living Festival & Market and Patuxent River Appreciation Day
- Provided comments and recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan Update, the draft Transportation Plan, proposed text amendments, and other documents
- Restarted an expanded Pump-for-the-Bay contest to encourage County residents to regularly pump-out their septic systems

Ongoing Projects:

- Prepare FAQs on Recycling and Injured Wildlife for posting on the Environmental Commission's website
- Schedule six Guest Speakers to Environmental Commission monthly meetings in 2020
- Increase County-resident participation in the Pump-for-the-Bay contest
- Work with the BOCC on the subject of indoor radon testing in Calvert County
- Update, expand, and improve educational materials used at public outreach events

2020 Projects:

- Sponsor cash prize awards to the two best student projects in the environmental realm at the Calvert County Science Fair
- Calculate an average per capita carbon footprint for County residents that can be tracked to evaluate the effectiveness of sustainability-related actions and programs
- Review and comment on draft Zoning Ordinance rewrites and Town Center Master Plan updates
- Respond to requests for advice and recommendations from the BOCC, Planning Commission, and Planning & Zoning Department staff
- Explore ways to increase the number of electric vehicle-charging stations in the County
- Prepare a legislative proposal aimed at developing a radon testing ordinance linked to residential home sales in Calvert County and submit the proposal package to the BOCC
- Participate in at least five public outreach events