

**Environment and Energy Conservation Commission**  
Draft

Summary of May 22, 2017 Meeting  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: John Seymour, Christine Ng, Mike Hanna, Scott Dicke, Irwin Kim, Adanna Woodson, Sarah Meservey, Claire O'Dea, John Bloom, Mike Mesmer, Kimberley Fedinatz

Members Absent: Gabriel Thoumi,

Guests: Jessica Skerritt, Bernie Berne,

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES), Diane Probus (DPR), Jeanette Ankoma-Sey (DPR)

**1. Public comment**

Bernard Berne provided public comment to the Commission regarding a number of projects. He noted concern about paving in the RPA. He noted the Oakland Park project and concerns about pollinator space due to park mowing.

Mr. Berne also noted concerns about the Clarendon Commons (AKA Market Commons) development. He noted that the tree-lined inner space is slated to be clear cut for more retail kiosks.

**2. I-Tree Eco –Vincent Verweij**

Vincent presented to the Commission on i-Tree Eco. In 2016, Arlington's Urban Foresters performed a study on the value of our community's trees. Read the study [here](#) or review a community presentation [here](#).

Arlington used the U.S. Forest Service program i-Tree Eco to assess the value of our urban forest. This baseline data can be used for making effective resource management decisions, support effective policy and set planting and preservation priorities.

i-Tree data is from a random sampling of 201 plots throughout the County, on public and private land, to best reflect the composition of our natural environment. Urban Forestry staff and volunteers surveyed from May through October to capture information. The study requires data on tree location, size and health, as well as proximity to buildings, and other information.

**Summary of the results**

- Number of trees: **755,400 (45 trees/acre, a healthy natural forest has 40-60 trees/acre)**
  - Most common species of trees: **Flowering dogwood, White oak, Red maple**
  - Most tree canopy cover, by species: **Tuliptree, White oak, Red maple**
  - Percentage of trees less than 6" (15.2 cm) diameter: **56.4 %**
- Pollution removal: **235 tons/year (\$3.59 million/year)**
- Carbon storage: **204,000 tons (\$27.1 million)**
- Carbon sequestration: **9,630 tons/year (\$1.28 million/year)**
- Oxygen production: **20,687 tons/year**

- Avoided runoff: **10,730,168 cubic feet/year (\$717 thousand/year)**
- Building energy savings: **\$1,020,000/year**
- Avoided carbon emissions: **2,210 tons/year ( \$294,000/year)**
- Structural values: **\$1.38 billion**
- Annual value in environmental benefits: **\$6.89 Million/year**
- Total value of our urban forest currently: **\$1.41 Billion** (structural + carbon stored)

The Commission discussed English ivy sales at local grocers, fighting invasives at nurseries, tree trimming permitted by right, and invasive removal.

The Commission asked if staff could come speak at a future meeting regarding invasive removal and herbicide spray in the RPA.

**3. Benjamin Banneker Park Update** - Diane Probus

Diane and Jeanette provided an update on proposed changes and future planning for Benjamin Banneker Park (BBP).

BBP is an open, grassy 11-acre park features nearby access to Four Mile Run, W&OD and Custis Trails, picnic tables with charcoal grills, a combined school age and preschool playground, a [multi-use field](#), a stream, and a [dog park](#).

Project components include the following:

Project Component	Funding Source	Amount Funded
Replace/renovate existing park amenities	2015 Parks Maintenance Capital Program	\$2,452,000*
Redesign and construction of the Four Mile Run and W&OD multi-purpose trail within park boundary	FY2015 Trail Modernization Program	\$750,000*
Development of a park concept plan to identify future park uses and layout	Future funding source for design and construction	TBD

\*Includes planning, design, permitting, and construction costs

John Seymour noted concern about mixed use walk and bike trails. He asked if those concerns were shared by staff. They noted that the trail widths are constrained and that they were trying to meet the needs of all users.

Mike Hanna asked the plan was for surface parking material. Staff noted that it was still in design but likely permeable pavers would be part of the solution.

Claire asked why parking was being increased. Staff noted that there wasn't enough supply as presently used. The current plan increases parking by 10 spaces.

Scott asked about on-street parking. Staff noted that it might be an NC project in the future or something else. At present, it isn't part of the scope of this project.

## Next steps and Schedule:



#### 4. Stormwater Project Update –Aileen Winqvist

Aileen Winqvist provided an update on stormwater projects under construction or about to start. Some help reduce flood risk, but many help to meet the County's pollution reduction goals in the Stormwater permit

Project updates include:

- \* Four Mile Run Project - nearly complete
- \* West Little Pimmit Run Project – nearly complete
- \* 24<sup>th</sup> and Rockingham – 50% complete
- \* RPA Map Update – nearly complete
- \* Patrick Henry and 20<sup>th</sup> Green Street – nearly complete
- \* Williamsburg Green Streets – starting construction
- \* Tributary B and Windy Run – will start summer/fall
- \* Ballston Pond Project – spring 2018

Four Mile Run Project

- Naturalize the banks along the corridor and improve access to the stream through overlooks and terracing
- Replace rip-rap with vegetation and create Living Shorelines on Arlington side
- Establish historical tidal wetland condition in Four Mile Run Park in Alexandria

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West Little Pimmit Run Project

- 1,600 feet of storm sewer pipes is being upgraded to to address historical flooding issues on private property
- Drinking water lines have been installed on both sides of John Marshall Drive between Williamsburg Blvd and Little Falls Rd.
- Two [green streets](#) are being installed – one on [North Kensington Street](#) and a second on [John Marshall Drive](#).

24<sup>th</sup> and Rockingham

- Project to address localized flooding

- Sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water line upgrades
- Water and sanitary work are nearly done, with storm sewer about 25% complete
- 850 feet of upgraded storm sewer pipe

#### Patrick Henry and 20<sup>th</sup> Green Street

- PHD between 20<sup>th</sup> Street N and 21<sup>st</sup> Street N
- Project was in conjunction with Neighborhood Conservation project
- Treating 1.79 acres of impervious area (80% impervious)
- Planting will be installed end of May

#### Williamsburg Green Streets

- Starting construction in July
- Williamsburg Boulevard between 33rd Rd North to 35th Street North, and N. Harrison Street to N. Edison
- Project is in conjunction with neighborhood conservation project
- Will treat 2.2 acres of impervious area
- Construction time about 6 months

#### Windy Run

- 500 linear feet
- Construction start summer/fall 2017 and last 6 months
- Work includes:
  - Re-align sanitary line and repair a severely eroding outfall
  - Stabilizing the stream around the pump station
  - Installing a stream wall to protect the existing trail
  - Adding stone structures in the stream to direct flow away from the banks and towards the center of the stream
  - Controlling invasive plant species and replanting a diverse community of trees, shrubs and groundcovers

#### Donaldson Run – Tributary B

- Completed stream restoration on Tributary A in 2007; neighborhood applied for NC funding for work on Tributary B
- Approximately 1300 linear feet
- Construction likely to start in fall, 2017
- Construction time 6 months

#### RPA Map Update

- Completing the process to update the RPA map (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance)
- New data was collected with Natural Resources inventory and Stormwater Master Plan studies
- Map was last updated in 2003
- About 1500 properties have RPA in Arlington
- Update will remove RPA from 280 properties and add it to 196 properties
- RPA will be slightly modified on many properties
- Property owners were notified in June, 2016

- Public meetings in July, 2016 and May, 2017
- Updated map will go to Board in July, 2017
- New map will become effective January, 2018

Ballston Pond Project

- Final easement received spring, 2016
- Completing design work on water line (could not be finished until easements were finalized)
- Finalize plans and begin procurement process
- Stagger with other projects under construction
- Likely construction start spring, 2018

**5. NFATC Letter Review / Approval**

The Commission discussed, amended, and approved the letter unanimously.

**6. Residential Utility Tax Letter Review / Approval**

The Commission decided to delay this letter until further discussion and amendments could be made.

**7. Meeting Summary Review – March & April 2017**

Meeting minutes were amended and approved unanimously.

**8. Old/New Business**

Irwin reported that the 4MRV guiding principles with environmental focus were proposed. Irwin met with staff to determine what how E2C2's new Energy Committee will move forward.

John Seymour circulated his comments on the streetlight management plan. He included a few reports by Carnegie Mellon on LED streetlights. He looks forward to having staff from the wastewater treatment plant attend E2C2.

Mike M. noted that the Solid Waste Subcommittee is reviewing bylaws, how official business should be conducted, and other administrative process items. A charter is also being discussed.

John Bloom noted an upcoming solar meeting for nonresidential sector. He also raised the issue of herbicide use, especially as it relates to RPA application. The Commission noted an interest to have Sarah Archer come to a future meeting to discuss how the County decides where to apply, how much, volume of application across the entire county, etc.

Claire provided an update on the POPS process and expressed concern about the lack of focus on open space and unprogrammed space.

Christine noted that the Commission is still working to fill outstanding positions.