

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – January 19, 2021

Members Present: Sally LaBarre, Jackie Koehn, Paul Gartelmann, Roland Beckman, Dennis Kirkwood, Tami Imbierowicz, Lynn Davis, Michael Charlton

Ex-officio Members Present: Paul Magness, Jeff Schoenberger, John Resline, Matt Kropp

Guests Present: Brittany Long

Review / Approval of November 17, 2020 Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the November 17th meeting summary was made. The motion was seconded; the Board unanimously approved the meeting summary.

Beekeeping and the Local Importance of Honeybees – Charlie Thomas, President of the Susquehanna Beekeepers Association (SBA) and Harry Dutcher

Mr. Dutcher and Mr. Thomas gave a comprehensive presentation on honeybees and their life cycle, beekeeping, equipment, and local honeybee information.

After the presentation, Ms. Davis asked about receiving a list of native plants for the bees and Mr. Dutcher said that he would post a list on the SBA website. Mr. Kirkwood inquired about that fate of the drone bees in winter, to which Mr. Thomas replied that most of them are exiled from the hive and do not survive the winter. Ms. LaBarre was curious about the lifespan of the queen bee. Mr. Thomas explained that within the queen's two-year lifespan, she will mate with 15 to 20 drones and produce 1,200 to 1,500 newborn bees every day.

Mr. Gartelmann asked for the top three reasons for honeybee decline. It was answered that varroa mites were the number one reason for decline, closely followed by the use of pesticides and herbicides, and a shortage of pollinator plants for foraging. Ms. Long followed the question by asking the chances of honeybee survival without beekeeping practices, to which Mr. Thomas replied that bees need people to manage their hives in effort to keep the varroa mites from overtaking the colony. Without people to manage their hives, 90% of honeybees would die within the first year.

Departmental Updates

Mr. Magness of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) announced that construction of the second segment of the Ma & Pa trail is to begin in March. The third segment of the Ma & Pa trail is currently being designed. DPR is also in the beginning phase of updating its Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan that is due in 2022.

Mr. Resline of the Health Department stated that vaccination clinics will be open beginning in February to vaccinate for COVID-19. Clinics will be open twice a day, every day.

Mr. Schoenberger of the Department of Public Works (DPW) stated that contracts had been awarded for the Stillmeadow Stream Restoration project. He also announced that a Hazardous Waste Collection Day was scheduled for February 2, 2021.

Mr. Kropp of the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) announced that the Department has a new Director, Jenny Jarkowski, who moved up from the Deputy Director position, and Dave Culver also moved up within the Department to fill the Deputy Director position.

New Business

None.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm