

HARFORD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

FINAL APPROVED MEETING SUMMARY – January 21, 2020

Members Present: Lynn Davis, Sally LaBarre, Tami Imbierowicz, Jaelyn Koehn, Dennis Kirkwood, John Lloyd, Michael Charlton, Roland Beckman

Ex-officio Members Present: Jeff Schoenberger, John Resline, Brittany Long (standing in for Matt Kropp)

Review / Approval of December 17, 2019 Meeting Summary

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

Harford County's Recycling Program – Ms. Wendy Doring, Manager of Recycling Program

Ms. Doring introduced the Program with some background regarding the only County landfill located in Street, Maryland. This 341 acre landfill accommodates waste from over 97,000 households (over 275,000 County residents). No commercial waste is accepted here, but hazardous waste is accepted four times a year from County residents. Free recycling is also offered here, as well as mulch and compost. Trash drop off ranges from \$5-\$7 per load.

The Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) requires that 20% of household waste be recycled, including glass, metal, paper, and compostable items. As of 2018, Harford County was exceeding expectations, recycling 43% of all household waste. Recycling items must be left loose in a recycling bin or put into a recyclable paper bag for curbside pick-up. If the recycling items are in a plastic bag at curbside, they will be treated as trash.

A printable list of recyclable items is available for viewing online. Recyclable items such as clothing, furniture, electronics, and even unused paint can be brought to the Street facility where staff members will set them aside for non-profit pickup, such as the Salvation Army or Habitat for Humanity. Even the larger, bulky items that are not picked up curbside from your home will be accepted by these organizations when dropped off at the facility.

Oil, gas, and antifreeze are accepted for recycling at nine County locations. Up to five gallons per resident are accepted for free. Yard waste is also accepted for mulch or composting, but tree limbs must be under six inches in diameter for the wood chipper to function properly.

Plastic and paper items that aren't recyclable at the facility may be accepted by Trex and TerraCycle. You can find more information about their recyclable items online. Items such as light bulbs or batteries can be brought to your nearest home improvement store, and they will accept them for recycling. Grocery stores will accept clean grocery bags for recycling, even if they are not from that store. Non-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity will accept half-empty paint cans and buckets and use them for humanitarian projects. Dried latex paints in cans and buckets can be thrown away in the general trash; they do not need to be disposed of on

hazardous waste days. Medical equipment such as needles can be disposed of in a metal coffee can and taped shut for trash disposal.

Departmental Updates

Ms. Long updated the group regarding the Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project to begin in March. An official date has yet to be set. The Chesapeake Bay Critical Area section of County Ordinance is also being updated. No significant changes in Code will be introduced, just clarifying the existing Code.

Mr. Schoenberger informed the group that DPW is diligently working on the finalization of annual reports at this time.

Mr. Resline informed the group that January is National Radon Action Month. A flyer was provided that outlines pertinent radon facts, including how to test and fix a radon problem. He also added that polystyrene materials may be banned in the near future from use in restaurants.

New Business

None.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.