

**Kings Contrivance Environmental Committee
Public Hearing on the Patuxent Branch Trail
January 14, 2016 7:30 P.M – 8:30 P.M.
Amherst House**

Attendees:

Environmental Committee

Alan Pflugrad

Gail Holm

Richard Briggs

Nicky Worth

Hillary Bierce

Beverley Meyers

County and CA Representatives

Christopher Eatough-Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator

David Cookson-Office of Transportation

Mark DeLuca-DPW

John McCoy-CA Watershed

Jen Terrasa-County Council Member

Community members present for public input

Material/Handouts

- Agenda--distributed online
- Bike Howard Green T Master Plan

Agenda:

1. Introduction--Hillary Bierce and representatives from the county and CA
2. Patuxent Trail Surface Upgrade--Christopher Eatough
 - Money has already been allocated to upgrade the 1.3 miles of trail between Old Guilford Road and Vollmerhausen
 - Public input is being taken now as part of the larger Bike Howard Master plan
 - Funds will cover an Environmental Impact Study
 - Proposed trail upgrade plan will follow ASHTD standards--10 ft wide path with 2 ft buffer
 - County has determined that the current trail surface is impervious
 - CA does NOT advocate use of pervious surfaces for pathways--has completed its own study suggesting pervious surfaces are not suitable for Columbia paths as silt, dirt, etc. filled the porous pervious surface to eventually become impervious
 - Water runoff issues currently noted on the trail could be addressed during path reconstruction and upgrade thus improving the water quality of the river; plans for corrected runoff and erosion would be part of the preconstruction study

- Life expectancy of the upgraded trail is approximately 15-30 years
- There is no plan to address root growth and trail repair in regards to damage done when roots lift up the trail; there is no plan to address encroachment of “nature” (brambles, etc.) on the trail once constructed
- Design work begins July 2016
- Public input will be taken during the 2 year design timeframe
- Other concerns voiced by attendees
 - Bicycle etiquette--concern that it is currently poor on trails. County officials suggested posting signs to educated riders of proper passing etiquette, etc.
 - Disruption of trail use during construction
 - Vague timeframe for construction--noted that sewer construction took years and not just a couple of months as planned

3. Adjourn

- Due to the length of the county presentation the balance of proposed agenda items was deferred
- Next Committee Meeting on March 10, 2016 at 730p at Amherst House