

**Kings Contrivance Environmental Committee
Minutes
November 12, 2015 7:30 P.M – 8:30 P.M.
Amherst House**

Attendees:

Alan Pflugrad
Gail Holm
Richard Briggs
Nicky Worth
Hillary Bierce
Beverley Meyers

Material/Handouts

- Agenda
- HoCo Watershed Assessment Study Areas 2015
- KC Neighborhood Stream Assessment Report (KC 0958-01 HOA_Report Milestone 11_06__2015)

Agenda:

1. Introduction (10)
 - Review last meeting and agenda for this meeting

Reviewed action items from last meeting as below:

- Beverly emailed the HHS principal soliciting HHS help with the KC Cleanup.
- Al notified his neighborhood distribution list about the KC Cleanup.
- No report on the Facebook setup as Garrett was unable to attend.
- No one had reviewed the River Hill Watershed Committee Facebook page or Web page.

Note action items are in “red” in these meeting minutes.

Additional Agenda Item:

County Plan to Pave Patuxent Branch Trail

Nicky suggested that we discuss the current county plan to pave a portion of the Patuxent Branch Trail. She thought that paving was unneeded and its impervious surface would increase unwanted runoff.

Richard agreed and had already exchanged notes with the county (Chris Etough 313-0567) on this topic.

Our committee generally agreed that “paving” seemed unnecessary and costly.

Richard will request the county attend our next meeting (January 14, 2016) to discuss rational and hear our concerns. Al will send Richard a reminder with our committee information to aid his action.

2. Discuss recent Village Cleanup and action suggestions (i.e. provision of trash receptacles between HHS and VC) – Hillary (10)

Hillary summarized the recent successful cleanup with 33 participants and approximately 20 bags of trash. Also that Stonebrook townhouse community participated.

One resident suggested that trash receptacles be placed between the VC and HHS. Our committee thought that was a good idea. Beverly will request that CA install and maintain (empty) trash receptacles there. Beverly will also request thru the HHS principal to see if the HCPSS can likewise install and maintain a trash receptacle on their property corner.

3. Howard County and Columbia Watershed Management Plan Summary – Al* (15)

- As John McCoy must be at a CA board meeting, Al will quickly summarize the major Howard County and Columbia Watershed Management Plans

Al summarize very briefly the existence of Howard County and CA watershed management plans each based on assessments that indicate our streams and lakes are considered impaired due in part to neighborhood stormwater carrying too many nutrients and sediments of the impervious surfaces.

4. KC Neighborhood Stream Survey Results to Date– Al (15)

- See Agenda Handout (KC 0958-01 HOA_Report Milestone 10_28_2015)

Al discussed the very poor biological health of the KC stream between VC and HHS as measured by a MD DNR and HoCo Watershed Steward Academy macro invertebrate survey conducted in March 2015. Various root causes and potential countermeasure were discussed as presented in the handout

5. Group discussion of actions and priorities based on our last meeting brainstorm (20)

We quickly reviewed our previous suggestions for actions and priorities. We noted that our list matched county and CA recommendations in general. Both Richard and Gail successfully utilized the CA rain garden cost share program!! We discussed potential outreach and education strategies to get best practice information to our residents. We agreed that we should sponsor a “CA Walk with Ned Tillman” in KC in the spring and perhaps combine that with an outreach and education event for which the Howard County Watershed Steward Academy might also contribute some resources in support.

Al will request a “CA Walk” contacting Sean Harbaugh and Ned Tillman.

6. Committee Member “Share” (an opportunity for each attendee to share (optional) any environmental activities, events or activity) (10).

Al shared the in-work HHS student research sponsored by the Howard County Conservancy on “school yard to stream” indicating that he will support and share information with the committee.

Al will implement a Google Mail List and Workspace for the committee.

Richard shared his plan to coordinate and a Huntington leave cleanup!

Meeting ended at 8:30.

Results of 9/24/2015 Attendee Brainstorm (“what topics would you like the committee to address” and “what do you think could be done to maintain and improve the KC Environment”)

1. Promote erosion prevention
2. Promote proper use of fertilizer
3. Advocate best practices to beautify your lawn
4. Help finding environmentally friendly lawn maintenance providers – how to interview – good questions to ask, etc.
5. Study lawn grass alternatives
6. New forms of community notifications
 - a. Is there an app for that?
 - b. Patch
 - c. “did you know” in community newsletters
 - d. Engage block captains
7. CA Walk with Ned
8. Invasive species “weed warrior” program (10/10 and 10/17 HCC)
9. Deer