

## **Havre de Grace Green Team- Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:00pm via ZOOM**

**Attending:** Carole Andrews, Joan Black, Ennise Bloom, Casi Boyer, Mary Beth Cochran, Peter Green, Joan Michel, Mark Samara, Tammy Lynn Schneegas, Patty McAllister Shakeshaft, Kathy Tollar, Danielle Wolfe, Carol Zimmerman, John Zimmerman

**Call to order 7:10pm by Carol Zimmerman**

### **Treasurer's report (Joan Black):**

- Please see charts which are included as an addendum with these minutes for full information
- 2020 Income and Expenses:
  - \$11,424 dollars in income with \$13,977 dollars in expenses
  - Approximately \$2,500.00 spent above income which was part of a planned spend down effort
  - Major spending areas included the relocation of the Market Street 1 Community Garden site to Strawberry Lane, and the Zero Waste initiative launch of the Food Waste Disposal Drop-Off program
- 2021 Year To Date income and expenses:
  - Through May 24<sup>th</sup> we have had \$6,978.00 in income and \$5,109.00 in expenses
  - Of note, unusual spending in the General Fund was allocated in two areas:
    - Purchase of Cicada netting used at the Todd Park Food Forest and Heirloom Victory Garden
    - A one- time fee for registration with the Combined Federal Campaign which is the workplace charity program for federal employees. Our participation in this program will provide opportunities for federal employees to donate to the Green Team.

### **City Liaison Report (Council Member Casi Boyer):**

- Shared thanks from Mayor and City Council, who are always happy to see the fruits of the Green Team's labor and look forward to everyone being together at city events again soon
- The city has a proposed increase in funding for the Green Team from \$5,000 to \$8,000 for the coming year
- Electric Trolley is expected to be delivered this summer, hopefully by July 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Part time driver openings will be posted soon; no special license required
  - Discussion on possibility of adding bicycle racks for the future to the Trolleys which is not currently planned
- Planting of trees throughout city is underway with increase to budget for maintenance, removal and replacement for next year
  - Many of the trees along Union and Congress Avenues are fully mature and have created issues with limbs
  - Goal of project is proactive management of our tree canopy

- Waiting for final permit to redevelop the Water Street parks with a living shoreline, parking and boat and kayak launches. This project will be among the largest of its kind and is funded by Maryland and Harford County.

**Zero Waste (Danielle Wolfe):**

- Food Waste Disposal Drop-Off program is wrapping up its first year pilot
- We had estimated success as 14,000 pounds of food collected for the year as a benchmark; we have actually surpassed 30,000 pounds collected as of mid-April
- Early investigation of a future second location for the communities on the hill is underway

**Heirloom Victory Garden (Ennise Bloom):**

- The garden is thriving this season thanks to a core group of volunteers and the assistance of the Harford County Master Gardeners

Through a partnership with Harford Community College, two students created Public Service Announcements for our projects. One is for Zero Waste, and the other is for Heirloom Victory Garden. The Heirloom Victory Garden PSA was screened for meeting participants, providing a thorough and thoughtful overview of the project.

**Apiary (Carol Zimmerman for Kim and Dan Rusin):**

- The apiary is currently running smoothly
- Hoping for a honey harvest sometime prior to autumn

**Education (Carol Zimmerman and Patty McAllister-Shakeshaft):**

- Work is in progress on July 4<sup>th</sup> parade float with theme of pollinators. Parties interested in creating pollinators from paper or cardboard for the float should reach out via email.
- The next two films will be streamed, however we look forward to resuming in person showings at the Maritime Museum soon:
  - June 18-21: "No Time To Waste"- The urgent mission of Betty Reid Soskin, a 99 year old ranger at Rosie the Riveter Park in California
  - July 16-18: "A Concerned Citizen"- The story of Riki Ott, a marine toxicologist who developed a curriculum to inspire children toward becoming effective activists

**Todd Park Food Forest (Carol for Zack Poitras):**

- Carol has taken over the tree adopter program from Ennise Bloom with 25 current adopters accounting for all plantings
- Total of 37 trees and bushes with recent additions including:
  - 6 blueberry bushes
  - 2 hybrid chestnut trees
  - 3 permaculture beds
- An educational workshop will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> focusing on maintenance at the food forest. All adopters and community will be invited.
- A landscape gardener is currently developing a master plan which will assist with application for future funding

- An informational sign about the purpose of the food forest is in production and will be installed soon

#### **Bee City and Pollinator Garden (Mary Beth Cochran):**

- The first installation of the pollinator garden at the food forest has taken place:
  - Approximately 16 plants in an 8 by 16 foot space
  - Select number of native species that are pollinator friendly
  - Additional plantings will be added
- Mary Beth will review the paperwork to ensure that we are reporting all necessary requirements to the Xerces society during the summer. We have multiple projects that help us to meet the designation including the apiary, Todd Park Food Forest, and Heirloom Victory Garden.
- There is a possibility of a sign showing our bee city designation at the Todd Park Food Forest
- Mary Beth will reach out to Stephanie Noye to gather information on the integrated pest management component of our Bee City designation.
- Future direction for this project could include:
  - Literature and education at First Friday events
  - The addition of another pollinator garden
  - Efforts to bring attention to the role and importance of native bees
- Joan Black recently attended a webinar on a Sustainable Maryland program addressing pesticides and has reached out to Stephanie Noye about the city's plans to reduce pesticide use:
  - The city is following Maryland Department of Agriculture which lacks concrete pesticide regulations
  - Would like to form a working group of 4 or 5 people to address this issue. Mary Beth Cochran and Joan Black will participate, and additional interested parties can reach out via email.
- Ennise will connect with Mary Beth about the possibility of donating native plants for the pollinator garden
- The Green Team should consider distributing information from University of Maryland and Xerces society via our website, social media, and literature at events to help guide gardeners' decisions related to native and invasive plantings
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#### **Think Green Eat Green (Patty McAllister-Shakeshaft)**

- Quarterly newsletter distributed via email since 2019 with all back issues also available on our website:
  - Discusses how what we eat affects the environment and our health
  - Has covered food waste, meatless eating, sustainable seafood, genetically modified organisms
  - Goal is that readers will get interested and complete additional research on their own to expand their knowledge on a covered topic
  - Carole Andrews shared idea about edible native plants as a future topic
  - Additional ideas can be emailed
- Promotion of quarterly plant-based meals offered at the Vandiver Inn
  - Carole Andrews shared the idea of seeking plant-based food night at River City Pub

- Later discussion indicated that this might be an opportunity to tie in with Green Drinks

#### **The Great Outdoors (Joan Black):**

- 2020 focus was on expanding hiking, biking, and paddling information on website including promotion of activities and the launch of our Great Outdoors Triple Crown hiking, biking, and paddling challenge
- 2021 focus to date has included promotion of a January walking challenge and a successful group cleanup of the North Park Trail with over 20 participants
- Future focus areas include:
  - Promotion of National Trails Day on June 5<sup>th</sup>
  - A working bicycle group as an adjunct to Bike Harford
  - Addition of an adopt a trail program to supplement larger cleanup programs by offering periodic maintenance opportunities
- A new trail is currently being created connecting Havre de Grace to Swan Harbor
- The National Transportation Act currently in congress has seen the addition of walking and biking as additional focus areas with the goal of connecting existing trails and paths

#### **Community Gardens (Carol Zimmerman):**

- This project is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, making it the oldest Green Team project and also the oldest community garden project in Harford County
- 56 gardeners have rented all 70 available plots for this season. There is one unrented plot which was not in suitable condition for planting this season.
- Waiting list for 2022 plots is currently open
- The Market Street 1 garden, the first of our locations, has been moved to Strawberry Lane beginning this season

#### **Election Information (Carol Zimmerman):**

- The election for this year was again completed by email with online voting due to COVID-19
- 31 people voted with every candidate receiving either 29 or 30 affirmative votes and 1 negative vote
- All candidates were unopposed and re-elected including:
  - President: Carol Zimmerman
  - Vice President: Joan Michel
  - Secretary: Danielle Wolfe
  - Treasurer: Joan Black
  - Education Director: Jean Johnson

#### **Additional Information:**

- We will participate in First Friday events for June, September and October. Compostable bags and countertop compost pails donated by APGFCU will be raffled at each of the events.
- Carol Zimmerman and Anne Slater are working toward resuming Green Drinks events this summer with potential outdoor seating. Information is forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Wolfe