

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

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:00pm at the Havre de Grace Police Department

**Attending:** Barbara Allen, Carole George Andrews, Ennise Bloom, Casi Boyer, Dona Bushong, John Canoles, Daniel Cook, Holiday Cook, Carol Cullison, Valerie Elliott, Shelby Fillinger, Bonnie Gease, Lisa Ham, Dagne Hudson, Jean Johnson, Diane Jones, Patty McAllister-Shakeshaft, Michelle Redmond, TammyLynn Schneegas, Elaine Scribner-Wagner, Liz Stewart, Tricia Tatum-McQuate, Mike Titus, Danielle Wolfe, Carol Zimmerman

**Absent (board):** Joan Michel, Joan Black, Nayeli Mowbray

Welcome and Introduction of Attendees

**President's report:** Carol Zimmerman

- Thanks to our board, project leaders, and volunteers for their efforts
- Background on the organization:
  - Volunteer driven
  - Started in 2011 and has grown annually
- Highlights from the past year:
  - Funding and other support:
    - BGE Green Grant supporting film and book series
    - DNR grant supporting signage at the Todd Park Food Forest
    - National Park Service grant supporting creation of an audio walking tour of the living shoreline
    - City funding support
    - Donations from private citizens
    - Vulcan has provided and installed a chain link fence at the Old Reservoir garden

**Treasurer's report:** Full report was distributed by Joan to board members in advance of the meeting and is included as an attachment with these minutes.

### **Project Highlights**

**Zero Waste (Danielle Wolfe):**

- Collection weights:
  - 2022: 40, 250 pounds (Goal for the year was 24,000 pounds)
  - 2023 January/February: 7,740 pounds (Goal for this year will be 42,000 pounds)
  - Lifetime Total to Date (June 2020- February 2023): 106, 302 pounds
- Recently added a fifth food waste bin for pizza boxes. Users are asked to rip up boxes before depositing to help conserve space.
- A short Earth Day video promoting the program was made
  - Thanks go to: Councilmember Boyer, Council President Ringsaker, Sargeant Petz, Jimmyo Burrill, Jeff from Get Fit, and Nayeli Mowbray for their efforts.
  - Video was posted to Green Team social media, and will be added to the city's website
- May 6<sup>th</sup> farmer's market participation was successful:

- Sale of 50 bags, 4 quarts each of compost to benefit food waste program. Profit made of 108.00 which includes an 8.00 donation
- Carole George Andrews gave away free trees courtesy of the Harford County Forestry Board
- Ennise Bloom handed out marigold seeds with a suggested donation to benefit the Heirloom Victory Garden. Profit made: 96.00
- Thanks to Carole George Andrews, Mike Titus, Ennise Bloom, Tricia and Pat Tam, Casi Boyer, and Carol Zimmerman for their efforts
- Some challenges we handled at the food waste enclosure this year included:
  - Uncrushed pizza boxes- education continues
  - Plastic bags in bins- education continues
  - Vandalism and attempted theft of signs- city hall and DPW had wires installed to deter further problems
- Professor Squirm character has been created to help spread food waste and composting awareness via our Facebook page
- Farmer's market participation on May 20<sup>th</sup> will focus on pollinators
- MOU Renewal for food waste project is in progress

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

- Background of project:
  - Located at 710 Market Street
  - Moore Family Homestead was bequeathed to the city in 2018 and Green Team was approached to put a project on the land
  - Ennise was part of the planning, however when leadership was lost, she became boots on the ground
  - Everything grown in the garden supports the three local food pantries
  - The amount grown and donated has increased annually. Started at 1,200 pounds and has grown to where this year's goal is 2,000 pounds
- Current developments:
  - Winter sowing crops are being planted out
  - Hardened off Russian red kale plants are in the ground
  - Eagle Scout project has been approved by Scout board and the city- funds are being raised for a botanical back saver garden bed
  - New partnership with Harford Center every Thursday
  - Outdoor tote board has been created for this year
  - Garden is Baywise certified
- Ennise is stepping out of leadership at the end of this season. New leadership is needed.

#### **Apiary (Dona Bushong)**

- Located at Todd Park along Seneca Avenue in an enclosure behind community garden
- New hives have been installed which will make tending easier for both bees and beekeepers
- Dona has been selling off no longer needed equipment
- Nucleus hives are kept as a part of sustainable beekeeping and we sold ours this year as we had 100 percent survival over winter

- Honey production may be less this year than last year due to unusual weather pattern
- Educational component including presentation to Scouts BSA last week and an upcoming presentation to Girl Scouts
- Remaining honey from last year will be donated to local food pantries at this time

#### **Education (Jean Johnson):**

- A presentation was given by Carol and Jean at HdG Middle school yesterday to introduce sixth grade students to the activities of the Green Team
- Film and Book series:
  - Began in 2017 at the Maritime Museum
  - Has grown and with support of a BGE Grant film screenings have moved recently to the Opera House
  - Series alternates with film one month, book discussion at Coakley's Pub the next
  - Committee is always seeking recommendations for upcoming films and books
- Fourth of July Parade participation will be organized by Tricia Tatum McQuate and focus on Pollinators

#### **Todd Park Food Forest (Carol Zimmerman):**

- Project Background:
  - Started in 2016 on Seneca Avenue
  - In its 8<sup>th</sup> year with over 30 trees and 3 beds
  - Plantings are varied and are all native species
  - Anyone in the community can harvest
  - Adds to the tree canopy and wildlife habitat
- Current developments:
  - Fig tree damage has been reported- possibly due to lanternflies
  - 20 adopters currently care for plantings through organized workdays twice per year
  - 3 trees and a pollinator bed need adopters (later corrected to 3 trees only)
  - A grant from DNR is supporting the addition of informational signage for more plantings

#### **Bee City/Pollinators (Mike Titus)**

- Mike is new to this project having started in February. He is the co-leader with John Canoles.
- Two new pollinator gardens have been discussed with the city. The first to be implemented will be adjacent to the parking lot at the water plant
  - Work to be done includes removal of invasive species and fencing off of area
  - Seeking native pollinator plantings if anyone has some they would like to donate
  - Volunteer help also needed
- Garden tour next week will include some homes with native plantings
- A new vendor with native plants will be at Garden Mart at the Maritime Museum on May 20
- Green Team booth at the farmer's market on May 20<sup>th</sup> will focus on pollinators

#### **Think Green Eat Green (Patty McAllister-Shakeshaft)**

- Newsletter covers addressing how we can all eat more sustainably and how the way we eat impacts the planet
- Goal is encouraging readers to have discussions with others and make small changes to how they eat
- Topic suggestions are welcome
- Newsletter is currently produced quarterly with previous issues available on Green Team website
- Next topic is gas versus electric cooking
- Occasional partnership with Vandiver Inn on plant-based dinners
- Audience input included Civic Works grants for households to move to induction cooking and recent vegan additions on Coakley's menu

#### **Community Gardens (Carol Zimmerman/Liz Stewart):**

- All plots are currently filled with two individuals on waiting lists for four garden sites in town
- HS/MS volunteer club students recently spread mulch at some sites
- Vulcan installed new fence and removed debris at Old Reservoir; have also offered old conveyor belts for use as future weed barriers

#### **Great Outdoors (Carole George Andrews)**

- Project does not currently have a leader
- Recent forest bathing experience provided by Nature Worx
  - 20 maximum participants per session
  - Experience focuses on using senses in a wooded environment to connect with nature and reflect on the feelings that the environment provokes as a meditative practice
- 80 trees given away at the farmer's market courtesy of the Harford County Forestry Board
- Individuals are invited to lead individual events for this initiative with a focus of outdoor recreation that is non-motorized

#### **City Council Liaison's Report (Casi Boyer):**

- Budget planning and food waste MOU renewal are in process
- City tree planting and conservation:
  - 200 trees planted over past five years
  - Recently planted 15 trees to fill in spaces along Washington street
  - Congress and Revolution streets will be visited next in planting plan
  - Some areas appear bare but cannot have plantings due to aging water and sewer system
  - City is seeking individuals to assist with a PSA about ivy and its impact on trees
- The city would like to educate citizens on the impact and successes of the shoreline restoration projects
- DPW's recent work for the Green Team includes:
  - Water fountain lock is ordered for Todd Park
  - Woodchip deliveries for garden sites
  - Trimming and weed care throughout project areas

- Everything that the Green Team does helps the city of Havre de Grace, including by helping the city to get grant money for projects. Everyone should be Proud!
- Harford Land Trust is having a kayak ride called Matilda's Ride to show the living shoreline on June 24th. This departs from Jean Roberts Park and is followed by a lunch at the American Legion. Proceeds benefit the American Legion. Register at American Legion or Harford Land Trust sites.

**Election Results (Carol Zimmerman):**

- 49 votes were cast and all current members running for their seats have been re-elected
- Vice President position is open, if interested please contact Carol Zimmerman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Wolfe