

**Hyattsville Environment Committee**  
**October 21, 2021**

Participants: Rich Canino, Jared Messinger, Edouard Haba, Dawn Taft, Ben Simasek, Thaddeus Watermann, James Ball.

Guest: Tracie Yorke, David Hiles

Notes taken by Rich Canino and Janet Nackoney

**Agenda Items:**

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [September meeting](#) minutes. **Approved.**
3. Introduction to new committee members: Thaddeus Watermann, James Ball. Welcome, and thank you for serving!
4. [Future HEC priorities](#) for the next year (Rich).
  - There was broad HEC member interest in ensuring that new developments are sustainably developed in Hyattsville. Preservation of trees specifically.
  - Developers sometimes present at Hyattsville Planning Committee. We could have representatives/liaisons that could join Planning Committee meetings or be able to provide non-binding recommendations to the Planning Committee. Hyattsville Planning Committee has grown a lot. Any interest in being a liaison?
  - Reminder about our [letter to the City of Hyattsville Mayor and City Council](#) about stormwater management around construction sites. The letter was approved by City Council on 10/4/21 and has now gone out to the following:
    - Anne Healey – District 22
    - Alonzo T. Washington – District 22
    - Nicole A. Williams – District 22
    - Diana M. Fennell – District 47A
    - R. Julian Ivey – District 47A
    - Angela D. Alsobrooks – County Executive
    - Calvin S. Hawkins, II – Councilmember at Large
    - Mel Franklin – Councilmember at Large
    - Thomas E. Dernoga – County Council, District 1
    - Deni L. Taveras – County Council, District 2
    - Danielle M. Glaros – County Council, District 3
    - Todd M. Turner – County Council – District 4
    - Jolene Ivey – County Council – District 5
    - Derrick Leon Davis – County Council, District 6

Rodney C. Streeter – County Council, District 7  
Monique Anderson Waler – County Council, District 8  
Sydney J. Harrison – County Council, District 9

- Harnessing Rt 1 Green Team network. Visit [Sustainable Maryland website](#): Click on "Volunteer!" or "Join our mailing list" to get updates
  - **ACTION**: Rich will reach out to Mike Hunninghake, see if he wants to come talk to HEC about the Sustainable Maryland initiative and Rt 1 Green Teams.
  - Janet interested biodegradable dog bags-- **ACTION**: see if Mike has input on this
- Interest in getting more updates/input from the City. **ACTION**: Can we have at least quarterly updates from Dawn?
  - [Healthy Trees Hyattsville](#) initiative recently presented by Dawn. **ACTION**: HEC to review and give input at the November meeting.
- 5. [Airplane Leaded Fuel Petition](#) from Route 1 Partner (Rich) - More information can be found doing a Google search.
- 6. Interest in developing a group calendar (Rich).
  - We could use it to keep abreast of local env events using City google calendar
- 7. Announcements
  - Updates from Dawn
    - [Leading 2 workshops this week](#) focused on 1) "forest bathing" and 2) a tree tour to showcase the ecological value of trees. Limited registration.
    - Check out the [Hyattsville "Sustainability and Protecting the Environment"](#) webpage
    - The City planted up to 300 trees this year using grant funding. About 1/3 planted on private residential property. Desiring more emphasis on planting on private residential property in the future
    - Stormwater management workshop and green management of water (car-washing, use of env-friendly chemicals, etc).
    - Phenology study: residents will study the phenology of 100 City trees to collect baseline data on our changing climate.
  - Updates from Ben
    - PG Chapter of Sierra Club hosted a workshop on solutions to reduce plastic: plastic bag bans, plastic bag taxes. **ACTION**: Will share materials with HEC.
    - Re-zoning of Clay Property update. City vote: at least 4 acres should be zoned for conservation out of 12.8 total in the re-zone.

- [Growing Green with Pride](#) Cleanups: Upcoming West Hyattsville and Heurich Park events with trash pickup and tree plantings.
  - Cleanup 1: Oct 30 9 AM - 11 AM, meeting at Heurich Park Pavilion next to Comic Heroes Playground
  - Cleanup 2: Oct 30 1 PM - 3 PM, meeting at Kirkwood Playground in West Hyattsville
- Gas-powered leaf blower ban: brought before City Council recently. Lots of discussion around timeline, budget, equity, etc. Will likely be back on City agenda soon. Montgomery County just instituted a ban.

8. Adjournment.