

EQAC Public Hearing – January 12, 2022

Need for virtual meeting necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic.

Larry moved, Rich Weisman seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Officer nominations.

Rich – Stella/Larry Chair and Vice-Chair.

Clyde seconded.

Eric Goplerud

EQAC needs to focus on accountability.

Board needs to ask staff to set specific goals and track progress.

Energy dashboard is one example of lack of accountability; data is two years old.

EQAC advise Board to demand County administration report quarterly on CECAP, JET, other climate action plans and the progress to goals outlined.

Joan Lowy, Quiet Clean NoVa

Thank you to EQAC for recommendation supporting electric/battery powered leaf blowers.

County should start switching all of its gas-powered lawn/garden equipment to electric/battery-powered.

Outreach by county to large landowners to get them to switch to electric equipment.

All the recommendations on this issue overlap, would like to see more coordination.

Philip Latasa, Friends of Accotink Creek

Thank you to EQAC for Cinder Bed Road Bikeway advocacy.

Achieve goals of tree action plan by putting forest preservation at the center of all County policies.

Ken Sandler

Solar carports/canopies.

Retrofitting parking lots in the County to have these structures installed.

Public-private partnerships will be essential.

Avril Garland

BOS wrote a good document with CECAP, but no timelines associated with it.

No sense of urgency from Board on climate change.

Priority should be on reducing use of fossil fuels.

Ask BOS to make repair of bike trails a priority.

Encourage planting of trees on private property.

Elizabeth Martin

Cinder Bed Road Bike Trail planning process raises larger issues about County decision making process.

Why are environmental cost/benefits not part of the planning process?

Is the current process adhering to environmental laws?

Exemption of bicycle commuting infrastructure for RPAs is a problem.

Process/criteria for environmental impact for trail planning should be created.

Questions – Mike Zatz: was the 5% grade required to be ADA compliant present on all alternative paths?

Seems to be disconnect about the existence of alternative paths.

Cindy Speas

Effort to protect/expand natural resources has been underfunded for years.

Support increasing revenue to fully implement CECAP NR strategy.

Expand urban forest management division staffing/authority.

Expand invasive management area program.

Strengthen FCPA source of funding, 1 ecologist position for every 1000 acres of natural land.

Helping Land Heal program should be available to every park.

Private/public tree planting funding should be a priority.

Helene Shore

County must advocate for increased community solar limits at state level.

Solar on all County facilities, encourage community/private sector to do the same.

Eliminate single-stream recycling.

Need dramatic actions at a much faster pace.

Ann Bennett

Thank you for tribute to Debra Jacobsen in the ARE.

County staff must create database of all actions County can take to reduce GHG.

Approach to private sector cannot be solely market-based or voluntary.

Appoint a Climate Administrator within County staff.

Changes in approach to land use are critical to success, climate/energy goals must be integrated into land use development process.

Whitney Redding

Give FCPA more funding for preserving natural resources.

More ecologists/strategic planning needed.

Parking Reimagined must align with climate action plan.

Strike a better balance between environmental/economic benefits when it comes to land use decisions, all land use decisions should be evaluated in light of how they contribute to climate action goals.

Lydia Lawrence

Increase sustainable funding for FCPA.

FCPA's funding has shifted away from county funding towards fee-based services.

Investing more money for FCPA into neighborhood/community parks.

Scott Cameron

EQAC recommend to BOS to communicate to GA delegation to sponsor legislation to do the following:

- phase out sale of invasive plants in VA
- increase budget of VA Department of Wildlife Resources by 200K to combat invasive aquatic plants (specifically water chestnut)

EQAC should advise BOS to increase FCPA funding for IMA program.

Increase budget of Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

Rick Galliher

Countywide zero-waste plan should include residential and commercial areas.

County staff needs support in developing this plan further to include accountability, goals, budget.

Would like EQAC to recommend to BOS to endorse the bottle bill.