



## CALVERT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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*Board of Commissioners*  
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### Calvert County Environmental Commission September 18, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Dave Campbell (Chair), Kevin Britt, Jim Levin, Jo Anna Lutmerding, Mike Rooney, Abby Ybarra  
Staff: Amalia Pleake-Tamm Public: None

- I. Call to Order at 6:05pm**
- II. Agenda for September 18, 2023:** Mr. Levin moved to approve, Mr. Ybarra seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- III. Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2023:** Mr. Britt moved to approve, Mr. Levin seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Bird-safety update:** Ms. Lutmerding shared recommendations for building code requirements in Calvert for lighting to reduce skyglow. Building glass requirements would be restricted to government-owned and leased buildings. The language was adopted from the American Bird Conservancy and was shared with Mark Southerland, who stressed the importance of addressing glass.

Commissioners discussed the strength of verbs (i.e., “must,” “shall” etc.) and the positive aesthetics from bird-safe lighting both in urban areas and to protect the dark night sky. The Commission will continue working on the suggested language and may consider attending public meetings on Calvert County’s Zoning Ordinance rewrites. Commissioners were also concerned that minimum lumens be met for safety reasons on sports fields. This might be addressed with timers and ensuring quality, evenly distributed lighting is used to provide contrast and thus safety. Language might be pulled in from the Design Light Consortium to ensure minimum technical specifications are met.

The new language will be voted on at the Oct. 30 meeting.

- V. Strategic Initiatives Update**
  - a. Water Quality Initiative: Mr. Britt identified Caroline DiGiovanni (UMD Extension Agent Associate) and will speak with her about leading a workshop for making rain barrels in Calvert County.
  - b. Radon: Ms. Pleake-Tamm mentioned a workshop coming up for commercial real estate agents. There is no requirement in Calvert County for homes to be tested for radon.
  - c. Pump for the Bay: Ms. Pleake-Tamm estimated around 14 entries received so far this year.
- VI. Subcommittee Reports**
  - a. FAQs: Mr. Levin sent an updated “sick and injured wildlife” FAQ; it is a significant update. He will send the “green buildings” and “sustainability” FAQs to Ms. Pleake-Tamm to be uploaded to the website. Ms. Pleake-Tamm needs to review the “reuse” and “recycle” FAQs. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will put an “we’re updating” disclaimer on the FAQ website and send Mr. Rooney a query from the public regarding the Magothy aquifer.
  - b. Public Education/Outreach
    - i. Calvert County Fair Youth Day (Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>)

Maryland Relay for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1-800-735-2258

1. The date, time, and location of any Environmental Commission meeting may be revised by announcement of an emergency, such as inclement weather, without further publication and may be confirmed on the County website or calling 410-535-1600 ext. 2727 on the date of the meeting.
2. Public comments during Environmental Commission Work Sessions are at the discretion of the Chairperson.
3. There may be a five-minute break at 7:00 p.m. at the discretion of the Chairperson.
4. A decision will be made at 8:00 p.m. whether to continue the meeting or reschedule.
5. Accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made with reasonable notice.
6. The Environmental Commission operates under *Robert’s Rules*.

7:30–9:30 (cars out by 8:30): Amalia and Dave C.  
9:30–11:30: Amalia and Jim  
11:30–1:30: Abby and Jo Anna  
1:30–3:30: Andy and Caitlyn  
3:30–4:30: Amalia and \_\_?\_\_

Ms. Pleake-Tamm will bring the raffle wheel, questions & answers, SWAG, the flower seeds, the rain barrel, the water quality test kit, QR poster, watershed model, radon testkits,

Dr. Campbell will look for a piece of downspout for the rain barrel.

- ii. Patuxent River Appreciation Day (Saturday, October 7 from 10–5 at the Marine Museum)
    - 9:00–11:00: Dr. Campbell and Amalia will set up
    - 11:00–1:00: Jim
    - 1:00–3:00:
    - 3:00–5:30:
  - iii. Southern Maryland Invasives Festival (Sunday, October 1, 11 am –3pm at Jefferson Patterson)
- c. 2023 Guest Speakers: Mr. Levin will invite Stephanie Compton to speak on solid waste incineration. Ms. Pleake-Tamm will contact Sheila Stevens to speak on what environmental programs are offered in Calvert County schools; this will be proposed for January.

**VII. Sustainability Awards Program and Environmental Calendar:** Tabled for now.

**VIII. Recycling facility fieldtrip:** Ms. Pleake-Tamm and Mrs. Liubarskaia are waiting to hear back from the eWaste recycling vendor on visiting their site out in Fairfax, sometime in October.

**IX. Zoning Ordinance Update:** The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and Calvert County Planning Commission plan to hold a [Joint Public Hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023](#) at 7:00 p.m. in the Harriet E. Brown Community Center, 901 Dares Beach Rd, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

**X. General Announcements:**

- a. Dr. Campbell reports that buyers are not required to disclose radon issues to the buyers. However, most buyers require the radon be tested during home inspections.
- b. Mr. Levin moved to move the Env. Comm'n meetings to the HEB, Mr. Ybarra seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Ms. Pleake-Tamm reported some studies are showing increased phosphorus levels in stormwater runoff in areas with increase urban trees and street trees.
- d. Ms. Pleake-Tamm also reminded the Commission that leaves should not be left on the ground in firebreaks.
- e. Mr. Ybarra will be sharing an EPA's annual septic smart week.

**XI. Mr. Ybarra moved to adjourn,** Mr. Britt seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

*Meeting Minutes were prepared by Amalia Pleake-Tamm (EC Secretary).*