



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

April 02, 2013

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. AEC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Rain Barrel / Compost Bin Sale

The annual rain barrel and compost bin sale hosted by K&B True Value was a huge success! Thank you to all who participated. If you purchased a rain barrel, you may be eligible for a reduction in your city stormwater fee. Click [here](#) for more information on the city's Stormwater Fee Credit Program.

Update on the Crystal Spring Project

The AEC does not endorse the current Crystal Spring concept. AEC looks forward to working with the developer regarding resolution of environmental issues. The developer has yet to formally submit an application to the city. When submitted, the application will undergo site design review, forest conservation plan review, and presentation to the Planning Commission in a public hearing. The Forest Stand Delineation, which has been submitted and [approved by DNEP](#), is a natural resources inventory that necessarily precedes the submission of a development plan for review. For more information on the Crystal Spring proposed development and for the AEC's written response to the latest Forest Stand Delineation, please see our [website](#). As always, the AEC will continue to support the City according to its charter. You can view the Crystal Spring FSD and the FSDs of other proposed developments on DNEP's [website](#).

Update On The Reserve at Quiet Waters

The attorney for QW Properties, LLC, Jerome Feldman, filed an appeal of the Board of Appeals decision on the proposed Reserve at Quiet Waters development at the Circuit Court of Anne

Arundel County on Feb. 22, 2013. The AEC opposes the submitted development plan and testified on the matter. In rejecting the proposed development plan, The Board of Appeals found that the developer failed to satisfy three criteria:

- * Compatibility between the planned development and the character of the surrounding neighborhood and the Comprehensive Plan and the purposes of planned developments.
- * Adequacy, safety and efficiency of the proposed locations of buildings, structures, open spaces, landscape elements, and pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems and assurance that they are designed to minimize any adverse impact upon the surrounding area.
- * Adequacy of public facilities and the proposed infrastructure, utilities and all other proposed facilities to serve the planned development and adequately interconnect with existing public facilities.

The AEC believes the project should also have been rejected on the following grounds:

- * The development will result in adverse impacts to the surrounding area (BOA Criterion C) - specifically, Quiet Waters Park and neighboring residents.

The AEC notes that the Board of Appeals reached its decision without hearing or considering testimony or submissions regarding the applicability and enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act. This information should be heard by the Circuit Court.

At least one Board of Appeals member seemed to understand the problem of our current City Code, which gives broad environmental powers to both Planning and Zoning under Chapter 21, and DNEP under the City Tree Ordinance which adopts by reference, the Forest Conservation Act. Our view is that trying to separate issues of forest from the rest of the environmental or natural characteristics of the site, is untenable. After all, a forest is a natural feature and having two different City Departments with overlapping jurisdiction of the forest and wetland issue causes confusion not only to those who would like to protect the environment, but to developers as well. This makes our City less friendly to developers who need certainty when trying to determine where and how they will need to build, and makes it impossible for us to make sound environmental decisions. Unfortunately, these issues were not dealt with by the Forest Conservation Act Working Group commissioned by the Mayor because there was "no political will" to do go down that path. So, for at least the near future, the problem will continue to exist until the City decides to address the problem through legislation.

City Dock Master Plan

At the request of the Office of Planning and Zoning, the AEC was asked to submit comments to the Annapolis Planning Commission on the proposed City Dock Plan. We congratulate the authors of the Plan for a job well done and offer suggestions for increased green space, large and healthy trees, stormwater management, and transportation. You can read our comments [here](#).

A Public Hearing on the City Dock Plan was convened by the Office of Planning and Zoning March 21, in City Council Chambers. It is scheduled to be continued April 4. For a copy of the Plan, call Planning and Zoning ([410-263-7961](tel:410-263-7961)) or follow this [link](#). For your edification, we suggest that in addition to AEC's comments, you take a few moments to [read comments submitted to the Planning Commission](#), by the City's Transportation Board, the Maritime Advisory Commission, and others..

Did you know?

Did you know that the MD Department of Natural Resources has a Clean Marina Initiative? This initiative recognizes and promotes marinas, boatyards and yacht clubs of any size that meet legal requirements and voluntarily adopt pollution prevention practices. DNR has certified nearly 25 percent of Maryland's estimated 600 marinas as Clean Marinas or Clean Marina Partners. The AEC would like to thank and recognize our local businesses that are participating in this initiative. This includes Annapolis City Dock, Annapolis City Marina, Annapolis Sailing School, Annapolis Yacht Club, Bert Jabin's Yacht Yard, Chesapeake Harbor Marina, Eastport Yacht Club, Hinckley Yacht Services, Mears Marina, and the Yacht Basin Company. For more information, visit the DNR's [website](#).

Environmental Stewardship Workshop

The Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs (DNEP) is hosting a workshop for City businesses interesting in becoming Certified Environmental Stewards. This free workshop will educate business owners, managers, and their staff about how to make their businesses more environmentally friendly. Special emphasis will be placed on programs for restaurants seeking to incorporate locally sourced food into their menus and commercial composting. The workshop is occurring on Tuesday, April 2nd. There are two time slots available. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Check [DNEP's site](#) for more information.

AEC Vacancy

Are you interested in becoming a Commissioner on the AEC? We currently have one vacancy and invite any city residents with a sincere interest in the protection and improvement of the environment to apply. Applications and other information are available at <http://www.annapolis.gov/Government/Boards/GenInfo/VolunteerOpportunities.aspx>. Please contact Hilary Raftovich at hrraftovich@annapolis.gov for more information.

AEC Annual Report

The AEC's annual report is now available. You can view it [here](#).

Events Calendar

Greenscape - Saturday, April 20th 9 a.m.

Mark your calendars for GreenScape! Join us as we work together to beautify the neighborhood! We will need lots of volunteers on that day to assist with weeding, planting and general clean-up at the following Eastport parks:

- Horn Point Park - Chesapeake Avenue and Horn Point Drive
- Turner Park - 3rd Street and Chester Avenue
- Veterans Park - 6th Street and Severn Avenue
- Jeremy's Way Park - end of Jeremy's Way off 1st Street
- Post Office Entrance Area
- Post Office Park - Chesapeake Avenue and Americana Drive

Please bring any gloves or preferred gardening tools with you (if you don't have any, don't worry! We can share!). We encourage you to use this time to pick up any trash along your street block. Click [here](#) for more information.

Environmental Movie Night - "Bag It"- Wednesday, April 24th 7 p.m.

Bag It has been garnering awards at film festivals across the nation. What started as a documentary about plastic bags evolved into a wholesale investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways, oceans, and even our bodies. Join the Bag It movement and decide for yourself how plastic your life will be. Quiet Water Park. Click [here](#) for more information.

Earth Day Race & Walk 5K - Saturday, April 27th 7:30 a.m.

Join the Sierra Club for their annual 5K race walk at Quiet Waters Park. Check the Sierra Club's [website](#) for more information.

Earth, Water and Faith Festival - April 28th, 2 p.m.

In honor of Earth Day, The Chesapeake Interfaith Environmental Group has created the Earth Water and Faith Festival to celebrate environmental awareness! Join us for a fun-filled day full of community groups, interactive kid activities and exhibits, as well as entertainment from Trade Mark, All Children's Choir of Annapolis and Harmonic Fifth. Activities Include: Henna Hand Painting, Oyster Demonstration, T-Shirt Painting, Seed Mosaics, Snails and Tails. Annapolis Town Center at Parole. Click [here](#) for more information.

15th Annual Treasure The Chesapeake Celebration - Friday, May 10th - 7 p.m.

15th Annual Treasure the Chesapeake Celebration is an extraordinary party to raise funds to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Attendees will enjoy food, an open bar, music, casino

games, and a silent auction as they overlook the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. Proceeds benefit the Chesapeake Bay Trust. At the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront, Annapolis. 7–10 p.m. \$100.
Cbtrust.org.

Did you know that Sustainable Annapolis is on Facebook?

Follow [this link](#).

New! The AEC is on [Facebook](#)!

Suggestions or Comments? Email us at annapolisenvcom@gmail.com

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

April 3, 2013 7:00 p.m.

145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room

The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.

The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.

www.annapolis.gov/environment

Email: environment@annapolis.gov