



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

February 1, 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, February 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Our meeting dates have changed! AEC meetings are now held on the first Wednesday of every month.

AEC Receives Sierra Club Award

This past Saturday, The [Sierra Club of Anne Arundel County](#) presented AEC chairman Ted Weber with an award to the AEC "in recognition of unparalleled community service." David Prosten, chair of the Anne Arundel Chapter, said that they would not have known about the pending Forest Drive developments or their potential environmental impacts without the work and public outreach of the AEC. In turn, the AEC would like to thank the Sierra Club for all they do to protect the environment. Keep up the good work!

Update on the Crystal Spring Project

AEC continues to hold discussions with the developers for the Crystal Spring development. To date, the developer has not filed their application for Planning and Zoning review, but they are expected to do so in the near future. The AEC, City staff and Mayor are all committed to preserving the natural hydrology of the site and at least some of the non-tidal wetlands. The AEC is in the process of trying to convince the developers that it will be in everyone's interest to protect these important natural features. We are not quite in agreement on that issue currently but are continuing to discuss the best way to resolve this issue. The City has the discretion to enforce the law, to save as much forest and as many of the natural features on site as it would like, based on the broad discretion it is given by the Forest Conservation Act.

Update on the Reserve at Quiet Waters

The Building Board of Appeals dismissed all the claims by all the appellants from Hunt Meadows and Beech wood Hills. It was a technical issue but the upshot is that the public was never able to talk about the Forest issues and the developer and City had ample

opportunity to assert their view of the facts. However, DNEP, the city department in charge of enforcing the Forest Conservation Act, has yet to approve the developers' Forest Conservation Plan. That seems unlikely now that the Zoning Board of Appeals has rejected the application. Jared Littmann, who is the new alderman for Ward 5, is aware of the situation and will ask the Director of DNEP, Maria Broadbent, to notify the residents of Hunt Meadows and Beechwood Hills and the public at large, if DNEP decides to consider the developers' Forest Conservation Plan. Such notice is intended to allow public testimony prior to DNEP's deliberation.

Maryland Legislative Session

The Maryland General Assembly is now in session. There are several important pieces of environmental legislation that are being considered. The Maryland League of Conservation Voters has an [excellent website](#) that tracks key legislation. Some highlights are:

* Clean Water and Healthy Families Package - Two bills that help to restore Maryland's waterways by improving stormwater utility requirements, ensure that dedicated funding sources and pollution regulations are protected, and enact legislation to help keep trash out of our waterways.

* Fracking Moratorium in Maryland - This bill would impose a moratorium on hydraulic fracking until independent analyses are completed on the impacts of fracking. Once studies are complete, the moratorium would stay in place unless regulations are proposed by the Governor and passed by the General Assembly.

* Offshore Wind Power - This bill would setup a market-driven process to incentivize the construction of approximately 100 ocean-based wind turbines capable of producing electricity equivalent to 71 of the Eastern Shore's current power needs. There are enough co-sponsors in the Senate to ensure passage in that chamber.

* Pesticide Information Act - This bill would create a simple and cost-neutral, centralized online pesticide reporting database paid for by a modest fee increase for chemical manufacturers. It requires pesticide applicators and sellers of restricted-use pesticides to report information they are already required to maintain so environmental and public health experts can determine if pesticides are adversely affecting our health, our waterways, and safety.

* Recycle for Real - This bill provides an incentive to consumers to increase the number of containers returned and recycled by establishing a self-funded returnable deposit program for beverage containers. The consumer receives 100% of their deposit on return and the State, Counties, and Baltimore City benefit economically while unredeemed dollars go to program costs and environmental programs.

* Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget - We must protect the funding for Program

Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and Bay Restoration Fund, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Programs. The Senate raided these theoretically dedicated funds in prior years. We oppose cuts to funding for our Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, and Planning agencies.

* Community Clean Up and Greening Act - This bill establishes a five-cent fee for single-use plastic and paper carryout bags with the proceeds to be split among the retailers, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the counties.

Anne Arundel County Legislation

Our friends at the [Growth Action Network](#) (GAN) have provided a quick synopsis of a few of the bills being considered by the Anne Arundel County Council.

* The Critical Area Revision bill (#93-12) is coming for hearing on Monday Feb 4, 2013. The Bill was amended by the Council although they resisted the attempt to substantially gut the bill. The amendments may come in the area of broadening the rights of maritime users in the Critical Area and having a very lengthy grandfathering period for projects in the Critical Area that are "in the pipeline". These were troublesome amendments that Larry Tom (AA County Planning director asked the Council to hold for further work. The Council passed a troubling amendment to standing required by state law that appears to further restrict citizen standing. Other amendments, no doubt will be introduced at Monday night's meeting. Ann Figsten advises our readership to express their views to the members of the County Council (Annapolis/District #6 Councilman Chris Trumbauer can be reached through his legislative Assistant, Janice Hayes Williams at CCCHAYEEOO@aacounty.org), as this is the last hearing that will count. If more amendments are not introduced the Council could vote on the bill Feb 4.

* The stormwater bill (32-13) has 3 sponsors and appears to have support for passage, but no doubt will be amended. Both #93-12 and 2-13 may be found on the County Council website under "pending legislation". Hearing on this important bill is set for Feb 19.

City Dock Master Plan

The Mayor and the City Council have invited the AEC, along with all the City's boards and commissions, to review the [City Dock Master Plan](#) and submit feedback to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will review and compile all feedback received from the various boards and commissions and submit it to the City Council. The AEC is encouraged that the Plan recognizes the need for open space, shade, more pedestrian access, and comprehensive stormwater management. More information on the City Dock revitalization can be found here -> www.citydock.org. This will take place on February 7th, 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Certified Annapolis Environmental Stewards

Annapolis Restaurant Week is February 25-March 3rd. The AEC would like to congratulate the following participants whose businesses are Certified Annapolis Environmental Stewards.

- Azure Annapolis at the Westin - 100 Westgate Cir. - www.azureannapolis.com
- Galway Bay - 63 Maryland Ave. - www.galwaybaymd.com
- Lemongrass - 167 West St. - www.lemongrassannapolis.com
- Metropolitan Kitchen & Lounge - 169 West St. - www.metropolitanannapolis.com
- The Rockfish - 400 Sixth St. - www.rockfishmd.com
- The Wild Orchid Cafe - 200 Westgate Cir. - www.thewildorchidcafe.com

To see the [full list](#) of Annapolis Certified Environmental Stewards and for more information on the Annapolis Environmental Stewardship Certification Program and Sustainable Annapolis, please visit www.SustainableAnnapolis.com.

AEC Vacancy and New Member

Are you interested in becoming a Commissioner on the AEC? We currently have one vacancy and invite city residents with a sincere interest in the protection and improvement of the environment to apply. Please contact Hilary Raftovich at boards@annapolis.gov for more information. The AEC congratulates Chris Patrick on becoming our newest Commissioner. Welcome aboard Chris!

AEC Annual Report

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

Events Calendar

City Dock Master Plan Presentation - February 7th, 7:00 p.m.

The City's Planning Commission will host a [presentation](#) of the City Dock Master Plan for boards and commission members. This will also be open to the public at large. City Council Chambers

Forward on Climate Rally- February 17th - 12:00 p.m.

Join thousands of concerned citizens for this historic event on the National Mall in Washington. Click [here](#) for more details.

Healthy Bay, Healthy Fisheries Forum - March 16th - 7:00 p.m.

Join the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) for their annual forum. This year's topic is entitled "Healthy Bay, Healthy Fisheries." The forum will focus on the current state of the Bay fisheries and ecosystems, implications for current and future fisheries management practices, and much more. Click [here](#) For more information.

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

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

February 6, 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