



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

March 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, March 6, 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 will be held March 16-17. This is a great event with great prices for rain barrels, compost bins, kitchen scap pails, and compost turners. Members of the AEC, the City's Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs, and other volunteers will be onsite with demonstrations, information and educational materials. See [here](#) for more information.

Alderman Proposes Building Moratorium

Ward 5 Alderman Jared Littmann has proposed a resolution that "essentially stops the city from issuing any final permits for developments over 40,000 sq. ft for up to six months." His proposal would allow time for the City Council to consider the recommendations of the Mayor's FCA (Forest Conservation Act) Working Group that was tasked with addressing the FCA issues as they relate to large developments. The AEC agrees with Ald. Littmann's proposal and recommends City residents contact their Alderman in support of this proposal.

Update on the Crystal Spring Project

The AEC does not endorse the current Crystal Spring plan, which you can see on the AEC's [website](#). The AEC will monitor the recent initiative put forward by City Alderman Jared Littmann to put in place a moratorium on development approval until after the City has formalized its policy for applying the MD Forest Conservation Act or adopting its own version of the Act. After the moratorium question has been dealt with, the AEC looks forward to working with the developer regarding resolution of environmental issues. As always, the AEC will continue to support the City according to its charter. For information on all Forest Conservation Act projects under review by the City's Department of

Neighborhood and Environmental Programs, please visit their website [here](#).

Update on the Reserve at Quiet Waters

The Board of Appeals has issued its official written opinion on their denial of the application for the Reserve at Quiet Waters. The decision states that the applicant failed to meet the necessary criteria in three areas: A.) Compatibility between the development and the character of the surrounding neighborhood and Comprehensive Plan, B.) Adequacy, safety and efficiency of the development to minimize impact on the surrounding area, and F.) Adequacy of the public facilities and the proposed infrastructure. Visit the [AEC's website to read the full opinion](#).

Forest Conservation Working Group - Almost Final Meeting

The FCA Working Group, which has been tasked with fixing the City's Forest Conservation ordinance, will meet on Tuesday, March 5th, at 6:00 p.m. at 145 Gorman Street, Planning and Zoning conference room. The public is welcome to attend.

Maryland Legislative Session

Breaking news on the Offshore Wind Bill! The Senate Finance Committee passed Governor O'Malley's offshore wind bill (SB 275) by a 7 to 4 vote. This is a major development since this is the same committee in which the bill died last year. A final vote by the full Senate could come any day now. The bill has already passed in the House of Delegates.

Fracking Poll: Broad and growing majority of Marylanders support pause for studies. Recent polling shows that an overwhelming majority of Maryland voters support the study of the risks of fracking before any drilling is permitted in the state. Advocates and policymakers pointed to the polling as strong evidence that the fracking moratorium bill (SB 601) before the General Assembly is a common-sense approach that reflects the will of the voters. More than three-fourths of registered voters, or 78 percent, support environmental and safety studies for fracking. Click [here](#) to read more.

Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget (SB 125/HB 100/102). Please contact [Speaker Busch](#) and Senate [President Miller](#) and ask them to protect funding for Program Open Space and the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and Bay Restoration Fund, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Programs, MD Department of Environment, and MD Dept. of Natural Resources. It is also important not to replace cash income from the dedicated real estate transfer tax with the sale of bonds, which must be repaid with interest.

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. The AEC will discuss environmental aspects of the City Dock Master Plan at our next meeting. Please attend if interested. More information on the City Dock revitalization can be found here -> www.citydock.org.

Restaurant Week is Here! - Support your 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

For more information on the Annapolis Environmental Stewardship Certification Program and Sustainable Annapolis, please visit www.SustainableAnnapolis.com

AEC Vacancy and New Member

Congratulations to Chris Patrick on becoming the AEC's newest Commissioner! Welcome aboard Chris! 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.

AEC Annual Report

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

Events Calendar

Huge Fracking Moratorium Rally - Wednesday, March 13th 10am to noon

Join many concerned Marylanders to support the fracking moratorium bill (SB 601/HB1274) currently introduced in the Maryland Legislature. 10 am at Lawyer's Mall across from the State House in Annapolis.

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.

Green Films at the Annapolis Film Festival - Saturday, March 23 9:30 a.m.

The AEC welcomes back the third annual Green Films event as part of the [Annapolis Film Festival](#). The headline movie will be Robert Redford's "[Watershed](#)," a documentary about water conservation. The event will be held at St. John's in the Key Auditorium on Saturday, March 23rd starting at 9:30 a.m.

Did you know that Sustainable Annapolis is on Facebook?

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

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March 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