



Town of Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2023

The Town of Leesburg's Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) met on May 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall at 25 West Market St., Leesburg, Virginia.

Call to Order: Chair Sheaffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vote 6-0-1

Roll Call:

Present: Paul Sheaffer, Julie Bolthouse, Leigh Anne Faugust, Ami Mason, Patricia Hatfield, and Deanna Glick.

Absent : Kohler Brafford

Petitioners:

Observers: Jen Chu

Staff Representative: Richard Klusek, Deb Moran

Paul Sheaffer stated: "It is the practice of the Town of Leesburg to record meetings of the Town's standing boards and commissions. All Town Council, Board, and Commission meetings are recorded and can be found on the Town's Web Site at www.LeesburgVA.gov.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved 6-0-1

Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 were approved 5-0-1-1

Chairperson's Statement: Happy to have Pat and Deb aboard!

Petitioners: None

Introductions due to new members and staff

Kohler's absence means he that if he misses one more meeting he will no longer be on the commission due to 4 absences in calendar year.

Old Business:

- a. Flower and Garden Festival debrief:** EAC presence went well, good engagement in topic of recycling and interest in see giveaway. Paul sent document via email to add suggestions for next year.
- b. Keep Leesburg Beautiful:** Good attendance at sponsored pickup event April 22 and a few groups did their own pickups during month. Not much trash this year. Discussion around improving next year's event:
Rich-offered background that years ago started as a kickoff event to create awareness and details/materials that are provided by Public Works to meet requirement for storm water quality. Suggested looking at calendar early and plan what works best for next year's timing and events. Can't task public works staff to create new resources
Legal concerns about title.
Deanna-Communications can be improved and perhaps an appointed person could assess the trash around town, locations in need of clean up.
Pat suggested appointing lead to plan.
Amie suggested Farmers Market table to promote
Need to have everything finished/plans done by February for staff to approve
Logistics of pickup discussed
- c. Recycling Discussion:**
Paul, town rethinking glass recycling and residents would need to put in trash or take to a facility themselves, in Hamilton and other areas. Glass currently used as landfill cover.
Deb commented that it's not appropriate landfill cover.
Town owned "purple bin" might be possible, retrieved from Loudoun County.
Need to find site, possibly county owned building, according to Paul.
Past efforts have involved contamination.
Costs of travel to recycle worth it? Deb
Rich, review town council meeting January 23, history/challenges/concerns for town having separate glass recycling.
Conversation to continue, with decision about EAC decision or involvement by July, according to Deb.
- d. Tree Planting Initiative:** No Discussion
- e. Rain Barrel Workshops:** Klusek reported that Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District has a short supply of rain barrels currently available and are struggling with storage issues. They are willing to collaborate on other efforts though. Everyone to look at their website before next meeting and determine other options. Space to store barrels is main issue. Discussed other options for storage or direct order. Loudoun Soil and Water ran entire program. Increased cost for barrels a barrier also. Point of contact with county, Director Suzanne Brown. Pat going to contact to ask questions. Possible information program instead. Rich and Pat to talk about background.
- f. EV Charging Station Permitting:** Julie spoke with person in charge in Loudoun County Advisory Commission with person installing EV charging stations at

schools for fleets and ran into issue with Town of Leesburg needing to approve site plans for ADA standards. New site plans cost \$50K. Lots of “he said she said.”

Rich-Town requiring site plan amendment because the stations need to meet ADA requirements. Some cases power lines cross easements. Learned of a cost that sounded exaggerated but were unable to identify source. The Town does not want to be associated with preventing EV charging stations.

Julie-are other schools doing this?

Deb-requires site plan amendment because you are essentially removing a parking space.

Not clear what permits needed for solar panels for example, Deb looking into that.

Generators at Data Centers: Memo to Planning Commission drafted by Julie with suggestions to mitigate issues, such as strain on grid causing blackouts and generators used more frequently and subsequent air quality issues.

Rich doesn't have updates from Planning Commission regarding ordinance. But he did learn that there is a decent degree of environmental considerations regarding the issue. Can pass along questions/comments.

Paul voiced concerns about locations. Rich offered updates regarding past Town activities and decisions regarding placement of data centers.

Julie's memo addresses suggestions for locations/handling rezoning requests.

Paul will amend draft with clarified language and submit to Rich, Planning Commission, and Council.

g. Review of Strategic Plan Tasks: No Discussion

New Business:

Mid-June deadline for Town budget spends; specific ideas needed

Review holiday schedule/July meeting moved from 5th to 20th

Staff Items: none

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm approved 6-0-1