



LEESBURG ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday
February 6, 2024
6:30 P.M.

Town Hall
Lower Level Conference Room 2
25 West Market Street

COMMISSIONERS

Julie Bolthouse (24)
Leigh Anne Faugust (24)
Ami Mason (24)
Paul Sheaffer (26)
Katherine Murphy (24)

If you require any type of reasonable accommodation, as a result of a physical, sensory or mental disability, to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact Deb Moran at 571-560-1114. Three days advance notice is requested.

LEESBURG ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mission: To promote and protect the environmental interests of the Town.

MEETING AGENDA

February 6, 2024

6:30 P.M. Lower Level Conference Room 2, Town Hall

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting Recording Disclosure
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. January 9, 2024*
4. Chairperson's Statement
5. Petitioners
6. Staff Items
 - a. Q&A with Public Works
 - b. Tolbert Award Advertisements
7. Old Business
 - a. Budget
 - b. Proposed Code Amendments for EV Charging
 - c. Dark Sky Proclamation*
 - d. Flower and Garden Festival
8. New Business
 - a. 2024 Project Review
9. Next Meeting Date
 - a. March 5th, 2024
10. Adjournment

(*) Material attached

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Town of Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024

The Town of Leesburg's Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) met on January 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall at 25 West Market St., Leesburg, Virginia.

Call to Order: Chair Sheaffer called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Paul Sheaffer, Julie Bolthouse, Leigh Anne Faugust, Katherine Murphy,

Absent: Ami Mason

Petitioners:

Observers:

Staff Representatives: Deb Moran

Chair 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 modified to replace item Recycling Updates with Flower and Garden Festival and to add a discussion of Dark Sky. The modified agenda was approved 4-0-1 (motion by Faugust, second by Murphy).

Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes of December 5, 2023, were approved 4-0-1 (motion by Sheaffer, second by Bolthouse).

Approval of 2024 Meeting Calendar: The 2024 meeting calendar was approved 4-0-1 (motion by Bolthouse, second by Faugust).

Election of Chair: After confirming his interest in continuing as Chair, Ms. Bolthouse nominated Chair Sheaffer to serve as Chair again in 2024, which was seconded by Murphy, and was approved 4-0-1.

Chairperson's Statement: Happy New Year. There are two vacancies that currently need to be filled on the EAC so reach out to anyone who may be interested in the position to apply. Come to the next meeting with something you're passionate about completing in 2024. Ms. Bolthouse asked Ms. Moran about the timing of the zoning re-write. Ms. Moran responded

that there is a two year revision process with a planned website that, when open, will provide the opportunities to comment per line of any revisions.

Old Business:

- a. Budget – Reminder that there is \$3,500 to spend, and that Town Council approval is needed for anything out of the ordinary. EAC members will come to the February meeting with ideas for spending. Discussion of possible expenditures included a focus on composting in 2024, to include infographics and giveaways for the Flower and Garden festival. The composting program is due to begin on April 1, 2024.

Staff Items:

- a. Stipend availability – EAC members are eligible for a stipend, see the web portal for additional information.
- b. Upcoming changes to virtual meeting rules – New rules were passed allowing 100% virtual meetings twice a year that do not count against the optional two virtual attendance for individual members. Timing on the changes is forthcoming.
- c. Ms. Moran was appointed to the Town’s legislative team to tour the capital and discuss solar regulation. Ms. Moran will circulate the legislative priorities for 2024 to the EAC.

New Business:

- a. Proposed Code Amendments for electric vehicle (EV) Charging – The Town needs to establish fees for EV charging and is seeking feedback from the EAC on the proposed fees, and also on associated parking regulations.
- b. Flower and Garden Festival – Ms. Moran submitted the vendor application as a non-profit and planning will be added to the February 2024 EAC agenda. The EAC discussed a food waste and composting focus for the 2024 Flower and Garden Festival booth.
- c. Dark Skies Proclamation – Ms. Bolthouse presented to the EAC on the international dark skies week, including the benefits of reducing light pollution. Zoning ordinances for downward facing, etc. temperature colors better for wildlife. The EAC will submit a request through the Town manager for the proclamation, which would be brought by the mayor for a vote. EAC members to identify five actions to support Dark Skies. Ms. Bolthouse will take the lead on the proclamation and actions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm approved 4-0-1 (motion by Sheaffer, second by Murphy).

PROCLAMATION

Declaring April 2-8, 2024 International Dark Sky Week in the Town of Leesburg

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, the greatest number of Dark Sky Parks east of the Mississippi are located in Virginia, and Virginia's national, state, and local parks — including Sky Meadows State Park located just 40 minutes southwest of Leesburg — offer nighttime viewing opportunities, astronomy programs, and are home to dozens of species who rely on undisturbed night environments to thrive; and,

WHEREAS, 80-percent of the world's population, including many people in Northern Virginia, live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and must travel to rural areas to experience the visual wonder of the dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution, which is often avoidable by implementing best practices, can have economic, public health, and environmental consequences on communities; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, the Dark Sky International is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution, and has created International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting with the help of Virginia residents coordinating Dark Virginia Sky;

THEREFORE, PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia do hereby declare April 2-8, 2024 as International Dark Sky Week in the Leesburg and ask each resident to join me, not only in observing and pondering upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark skies resources.

PROCLAIMED this X day of X 2024.

Kelly Burk, Mayor

Neil Steinberg, Vice Mayor

Ara H. Bagdasarian

Todd Cimino-Johnson

Zach Cummings

Kari Nancy

Patrick Wilt