

# APEX ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:  
May 21, 2020  
6:00 p.m.



Remote Meeting  
Public Call-in number: 828-552-5717  
Conference ID: 153 201 353#

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

Hal Langenbach, Chair  
Katie Schaaf, Vice Chair  
Tim Carley  
Laura Duggan  
John Garrison

Michael Rusher  
Marilee Szczerbala  
Jessica Wilkerson  
Ted Williams

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The online Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was called to order by Chair Hal Langenbach at 6:01pm. Members present were Chair Langenbach, Board Members Tim Carley, Laura Duggan, John Garrison, Mike Rusher, Jessica Wilkerson, and Ted Williams. Vice Chair Katie Schaaf and Board Member Marilee Szczerbala were absent.

Council member Brett Gantt was in attendance and Town staff members present were Current Planning Manager Amanda Bunce and Environmental Engineering Manager and non-voting secretary to the EAB Jessica Bolin.

After going over the logistics of how the online meeting will be run, Chair Langenbach introduced and welcomed a new member to the EAB, Tim Carley. Board member Carley was appointed by the Mayor to serve as a representative of the development community. Tim spoke about his background as a commercial construction general manager locally in Apex.

A motion was made by Chair Langenbach to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2020 meeting and was seconded by Member Mike Rusher. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes will be electronically signed by Chair Langenbach.

Chair Langenbach opened a discussion for general announcements or comments. He said he ultimately wants the EAB to put together some stormwater recommendations for the Town's consideration. Board member Jessica Wilkerson asked about the potential for water quality monitoring in the smaller waterways in Town like the creek along the greenway in her neighborhood (Shepherd's Vineyard). She discussed educational opportunities and the potential for holding a water sampling event with citizen volunteers. Chair Langenbach questioned what any sampling results obtained would mean and Board member John Garrison agreed and asked what the next steps would be regardless if the sample was good or bad. Board member Garrison also questioned whether there would be any legal concerns with those results. No formal resolution was made on this matter.

Council member Gantt discussed citizen concerns he has received regarding PFAS and specifically GenX. He said it would be an interesting initiative for the EAB to educate citizens and confirm with them that there are no "scary" pollutants in our drinking water and stormwater. Staff member Bolin said a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is published by the Town annually containing sampling information for the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Plant. For reference she will email the latest version to board

members. She also told the group that there is a Town staff member dedicated to water quality and pretreatment who would know more on this subject and will gather more information from him on the Town's sampling efforts and will report back to the board.

Staff member Bunce opened the discussion on UDO Section 8.1 (Resource Conservation) and spoke about the concept of Resource Conservation Area (RCA) and how it protects natural and cultural resources in perpetuity. She discussed how RCA is required for development projects and how the UDO does allow for the RCA to be dedicated offsite. Council member Gantt said the subject of RCA has come up in recent Planning Committee discussions regarding the potential for increasing or decreasing the RCA amount required based on where in Town a potential project is located. Specifically, the Council is considering requiring more RCA outside of the 540 corridor in an effort to save trees and discourage sprawl while requiring less RCA within the Peakway loop as a way of encouraging infill development within the Town core. Board member Carley asked whether there would be any distinction between residential and commercial projects in these proposed changes and asked about the potential for lowering the RCA requirement for commercial development since the Council has said they would like to see more of this type of development. Staff indicated those details are still to be worked out.

A discussion of UDO Section 8.2 (Landscaping, Buffering, and Screening) followed. Staff member Bunce spoke about Apex's recent Bee City designation and the newly formed Bee City Committee being a resource for this board. Board member Wilkerson asked if the EAB could require pollinators and staff was going to consult with the Zoning Compliance Officers on their opinion. She also asked if any language regarding the use of pesticides could be added to the UDO but staff questioned the enforceability of such an addition noting that legal staff would review any proposed amendments to the UDO. Board member Wilkerson noted that public education is important with regard to pesticides, herbicides, and spraying for mosquito control.

Board member Rusher asked about Table 1 from UDO Section 8.2.6 dealing with screening and opacity. He said this table is packed with information and he wanted to dig into it during the June EAB meeting. He also spoke about the potential for developing a program where trees could be planted in the ROW near residential homes or a program to encourage tree planting in general. He has taken some photos of perimeter buffers in different neighborhoods around Town and will send to staff to send out to the board for reference.

Board member Carley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm and the motion was seconded by Board member Garrison and approved unanimously.

  
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Jessica Bolin, non-voting staff secretary

ATTEST:

  
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Hal Langenbach, Chair