

# APEX ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:  
August 20, 2020  
6:00 p.m.



Remote Meeting  
Details located on the Town website:  
<https://www.apexnc.org/calendar.aspx>

### **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 remote Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was called to order by Chair Hal Langenbach at 6:02pm. Members present were Chair Langenbach, Vice-Chair Katie Schaaf, and Board members Tim Carley, Laura Duggan, John Garrison, Mike Rusher, Marilee Szczerbala, Jessica Wilkerson, and Ted Williams. No members were absent.

Council member Brett Gantt was in attendance and Town staff members present were Current Planning Manager Amanda Bunce, Environmental Engineering Manager Jessica Bolin, Sustainability Analyst Valeria Mera, and non-voting staff secretary Sustainability Program Coordinator Megan Pendell. Members of the public were on listen-only mode and four were present.

After Chair Langenbach went over the logistics of how the remote meeting will be run, a motion was made by Board member Garrison to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2020 meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Langenbach opened a discussion about creating a checklist of zoning conditions to present to developers, reminding everyone to be specific so as to avoid flexible interpretation. Staff member Bunce pointed out that all the conditions set out by the Board must consider the context of specific properties. Chair Langenbach and Board member Wilkerson agreed that all ideas suggested would need to be reviewed by town staff. Board member Wilkerson elaborated by stating that the recommendations should be more general, providing categories of expectations for the developers.

Board members Carley, Garrison, Wilkerson, and Vice Chair Schaaf reached the consensus that having a general list from which a developer could determine what fits their property would be a good path to take, after which the Board reviews any changes implemented by the developer. Additionally, Board members Carley and Wilkerson stated the best course of action would be to get ideas from the Board today and narrow it down in the future to create a finalized checklist.

Board member Garrison suggested making use of the TreeCAP and BeeCity committees for the types of trees and native plants recommended by the Board. The committees could make direct recommendations to the Board or have a comprehensive list that developers could access directly.

Board member Carley suggested the creation of a living list, which staff member Pendell can manage. Board member Wilkerson liked the idea of running the list by town staff and Town Council prior to

finalization, and highlighted that the Board is tasked with requests and recommendations and thus can be wishful to start and whittle down the requests from there.

The Board shared ideas for the checklist, which touched on a variety of categories, including stormwater, planting and landscaping, sustainable buildings, waste reduction, and conservation.

Additionally, Board member Rusher asked how the Board might address affordable housing in balance with sustainability, as it is important to ensure people aren't priced out as a result of the Board's recommendations. Chair Langenbach commented that the Board could get Town Council input on that since it's not the expertise of the Board, but can certainly discuss it more.

Councilmember Gantt stated that when the Board is brainstorming recommendations and considering the cost, the Board should recommend prioritizing environmental benefits per dollar. The recommendations that get the biggest bang for their buck should be listed at the beginning of the checklist and certifications should have a separate checklist. Projects that are certified could be a catch-all and would make it easier on staff. Chair Langenbach and Board member Carley stated that if a development becomes LEED certified, it should count for a lot on the checklist because of the many sustainability requirements involved in the certification.

Staff member Bunce commented that Planning could provide an overall list to every individual. Developers would review it before meeting with the Board. Upon hearing the initial proposal for rezoning from the Developer, the Board could give further recommendations as needed. Planning staff would provide the Board's recommended conditions and those the developer ultimately offered in its staff report to the Planning Board and Town Council.

Chair Langenbach asked for any last comments on the checklist before moving on to the next agenda item. If there are any additional ideas going forward, email to staff member Pendell and those ideas will be added to the living list.

The next agenda item was reported by staff member Jessica Bolin regarding the possibility of adding recycling bins to downtown Salem Street. Staff member Bolin stated that recycling already exists downtown as combined receptacles. Staff member Bunce clarified that these are dual containers and that the Downtown Plan should be consulted for any additional planned receptacles. Additionally, the bus stops installed for Go Apex will have trash and recycling receptacles.

Board member Rusher asked if town buildings have the same receptacles at entrances. Staff member Bunce confirmed that all town buildings have recycling and trash receptacles inside, but unsure about around the exterior of buildings. Board member Rusher also suggested adding these receptacles to the new senior center as there will be more foot traffic there which makes it a good spot to target. Vice Chair Schaaf commented that because parallel parking spots are being used as outdoor dining in downtown, there is a higher need for more recycling and trash cans. Chair Langenbach stated that the Board could make a recommendation on specific spots, but to make sure recommendations aren't for areas with existing or planned receptacles.

Chair Langenbach proceeded to the next agenda item about the Board website. A consensus was reached that the website should include the following: Meeting agendas and minutes at the top of the page, Board member names and terms, and a public comment form at the bottom. Staff member Pendell stated that she will manage those edits and perform a test run. Councilmember Gantt suggested that all committee webpage formats should be uniform if possible.

Chair Langenbach moved on to the next agenda item, a citizen presentation on the Carbon Dividend Act. Apex citizens Nicole Powell and Sharon Bagatell presented on behalf of the Citizens Climate Lobby,

an organization of volunteers leading efforts on global climate initiatives. Citizen Powell presented to the Board on recruiting Apex to join over 100 municipalities in support for passing the Carbon Dividend Act. The Act would place a fee on fossil fuels at the source and the funds collected would be distributed to households. Citizen Powell expressed hope to gain support from the Board in passing the resolution in Apex.

Staff member Pendell reminded the Board not to make recommendations or official comments, but now would be time for questions or feedback. Chair Langenbach and Board members Garrison and Carley asked questions about the nature of the dividend, how it would affect the price of gasoline, and how the funds would be distributed, which were answered by Citizens Powell and Bagatell.

After opening the floor for last questions and comments, Chair Langenbach moved to open discussion. No further discussion occurred.

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

  
Megan Pendell, non-voting staff secretary

ATTEST:



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Hal Langenbach, Chair