

APEX ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:
March 16, 2023
6:00p.m.



In-Person Meeting
Apex Town Hall Council Chambers

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Mason, Chair
John Garrison, Vice Chair
Patrick Adams
Sean Crowell
Adam Efird

Bill Jensen
Jason Maynard
Greg Reger
Katie Schaaf

Call to Order & Roll Call

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was called to order by Chair Suzanne Mason at 6:00 p.m. Members present included Chair Mason, Vice Chair John Garrison, and Board members Patrick Adams, Sean Crowell, Adam Efird, Bill Jensen, and Jason Maynard. Members Greg Reger and Katie Schaaf were absent.

Councilmember Brett Gantt was in attendance and joined the meeting at 6:02p.m. Town staff members present were Planner II Shelly Mayo, Stormwater Engineering Manager Jessica Bolin, Water Resources Senior Program Support Specialist Lindley Paynter, and non-voting staff secretary Sustainability Coordinator Megan Pendell. The meeting was open to members of the public to attend in person as well as to watch via the Town livestream.

Approval of Minutes

The February meeting minutes were sent to the Board with late notice and expected to be voted upon for approval at the April EAB meeting to give members time to review.

Announcements

The Staff Secretary announced she had accepted an offer with Durham County Sustainability and this would be her final EAB meeting, last day at Apex being March 29th. She expressed gratitude to the Board for their impactful work and appreciation for the opportunity to provide them support over the last few years. She also reminded the Board to sign up for event shifts for upcoming participation at Apex EarthFest and PeakFest.

Pre-Application Meeting: Salem Church Road Parcels

The project representative for Salem Church Road Parcels was Peter Cnossen, representative of Jones & Cnossen Engineering. A presentation was shared by Planner II and the representative shared details about the project. The representative and Board members discussed buffer considerations, with feedback from Staff. The resulting recommendation was a Type B buffer, if one was required. Additional recommendations were made and added to the final EAB Suggested Rezoning Conditions list. Board member Jensen made a motion to approve the list of recommendations, seconded by Board member Efird, and the motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Goal 6. Preserve tree canopy and prioritize medium to large, healthy, desirable species.
 - Option 6.1: Preserve existing trees (percentage-based). Numbers shown may be changed based on project.
The project shall preserve a minimum of 40% of the existing tree canopy. Where the project abuts adjacent developments, special effort shall be taken to locate the preserved trees adjacent to areas of

preserved open space, including but not limited to, RCA, perimeter landscape buffers, riparian buffers, and/or HOA maintained open spaces.

- Goal 9. Implement xeriscaping in design, which will use landscaping that requires less irrigation and chemical use.
 - a. The project commits to planting only drought tolerant plants, of which 100% of the plants selected shall be native. Landscaping shall be coordinated with and approved by the Planning Department at site or subdivision review.
 - b. To reduce irrigation requirements, the project shall select and plant only warm season grasses.
- Goal 17. Include solar conduit in building design.
 - All homes shall be pre-configured with conduit for a solar energy system.
- If there is a back roof that faces along the arc from East to South to West, then there shall be a minimum four-kilowatt (kW) solar PV system installed on one rooftop.
- If a buffer is required or considered, then the buffer shall be a "B" buffer along Salem Church Road.

Final Budget for Event Giveaway Orders

The Staff Secretary shared a presentation with final product order options. Board members shared preferences on certain options and confirmed final orders.

Open Discussion

Board member Jensen offered the idea of suet feeders for additional event giveaways and the Board agreed it was a good idea for a potential educational focus for future events. He mentioned he would inquire about feeder donations for this year.

Chair Mason brought up Vice Chair Garrison's email request for an update on the Board's lighting UDO amendment recommendation and Planner II shared that staff will potentially be ready to give an update at the April meeting.

Chair Mason also inquired about an update on the Wake County Tree Canopy Study. Planner II shared plans of upcoming updates and agreed to keep the Board updated, as well. Councilmember Gantt asked if this was a topic the Board should review and support staff with, to which Planner II expressed that staff was open to support and will know more after the upcoming updates.

Board member Crowell inquired to whether the Board has ever discussed drinking water contaminant concerns and wondered if there was a water quality educational component the Board could explore in the future. The Stormwater Engineering Manager shared that staff defers drinking water treatment inquiries to the Town of Cary, being that they manage the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Plant. She later shared that Apex follows [Cary's guidance](#) on contaminants like polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs).

Chair Mason inquired about the Arbor Day Celebration to be held on Town Campus the next day, March 17th and staff shared event details.

Lastly, Board member Maynard shared updates from the Special Committee workgroup between EAB, Tree Citizens Advisory Panel, and Bee City Committee, including that their first initiative would be to work collaboratively on the topic of native and invasive plants for the upcoming EarthFest and PeakFest events.

Adjourn

Board member Maynard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board member Garrison. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:46p.m.

Minutes were approved on April 20, 2023.