

Minutes of the 2/1/23 Meeting
Environmental Committee
Town of Walden

Catherine Colby called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming. The attendees of the meeting were Tony Wheeler, Hannah Lynch, Linda Collins, Barbara Womack, Diane Ryder, Cierra Paulson along with Ellen Young and Mariah Prescott.

The minutes of the January 4, 2023 meeting were approved.

Subcommittee reports:

Diane Ryder reported that the Bee City USA Resolutions had been sent to Bee City USA and she is awaiting a response from them. She also reported that Heidi Meis will be our liaison at Thrasher. Information about “No Mow May” was discussed and the committee unanimously voted to support the “No Mow May” program.

Hannah Lynch reported that the Hamilton County Salt Shed Storage at Bachman is still a problem. The Environmental Committee approved unanimously to send to Walden will a letter to the Town of Walden regarding the status of the salt shed with updated pictures.

Mariah Prescott from the Town of Walden stated that she wanted to provide \$5,000 in the Town’s budget for the Environmental Committee. She informed us that there will be a budget workshop in April. A discussion was conducted about what items would be in the budget - No Mow May flyers, “Rock the Ridge” - Celebrate of the Wild Around Us - Festival and Bee City.

Barbara Womack reported on the status the 9/16/23 Festival at the Walden Ridge Civic League. She has commitments from 5-6 vendors for Native Plants. There will be food, exhibition booths, children’s events, music and speakers at the festival. The next planning meeting is 2/15/23. The committee unanimously voted to support the “Rock the Ridge” Festival.

Cierra Paulson reported that the W Road litter cleanup will be on 2/26. Another litter cleanup will be held in May, the exact date will be reported at the next meeting.

Mariah Prescott commented further on the Salt Shed which is owned by Hamilton County. The town is waiting on a report from Hamilton County on the recommendations for remediations. Hannah Lynch informed us that she has prepared a cad file with information on the initial samples that were taken along with the second layer of samples. Hannah will prepare a pdf for the committee and the Town on the samples. Catherine will report on the Salt Shed status at the Town's monthly meetings.

Catherine said she wanted to present a report to the newly formed Walden Planning Commission. The Environmental Committee voted unanimously for Catherine and Tony to present to the WPC on stormwater and sewage issues in Walden.

Mariah Prescott discussed things the Town wants the Environmental Committee to do.

How many "No Dumping" signs need to be printed and where should they be placed? Mabbitt Springs would be one location.

Bee City - Diane is to provide materials and information regarding Bee City. A pollinator garden at the Town Hall was discussed.

Rain Barrels were discussed. Cierra will work on getting information about the rain barrels.

Mariah informed us that the Town is looking to place Solar Panels at the Town Hall in 2024.

The Town of Walden is contemplating a Tree Ordinance and would like input from the Environmental Committee. Similarly, members of the Environmental Committee will be looking at a Native Plant Ordinance.

Mariah informed us that she met with Republic about the recycle program in Walden. She stated the recycled materials go to West Rock.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Ryder
for Jane Harper