

# Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**HEC members:** Thaddeus Waterman (chair), Dawn Taft (staff), Janet Nackoney (notes), James Ball, James Wigley, Melissa Schweisguth, Joseph Demarco, Edouard Haba (Council)

**Guests:** Ian Fay, Malgorzata (Gosia) Bereziewicz

### Notes:

### Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
  - a. Welcome to Danny Schaible, Ward 2 Council member, who will be our Council Rep in addition to E Haba.
2. Approval of [August meeting minutes](#): **Approved**
3. Public Comment Period
  - a. No comments
4. [Prince George's County Green Summit](#) Updates
  - a. DW: will be following up about any volunteer needs (setup, table chairing, taking some notes and reporting back). Will have more to report back in the Oct HEC meeting.
  - b. Orgs have until Sept 22 to sign up for a table.
5. Invasive Ivy Update
  - a. There will be ten community trainings– there have been 5 so far. See the training dates and sign up [here](#). Last weekend was the first training in Spanish. There will be another training in Spanish in the future. Focusing the trainings on areas where there is a lot of ivy. ~20 indiv per training class.
  - b. [City webpage for the invasive ivy removal project](#)
  - c. Community Stewards have been signing up to continue leading volunteer efforts– they receive some tools for ivy removal and can contribute to a spreadsheet to log progress.
  - d. Goats returning on Oct 26, there will also be two educational classes to teach about them.
  - e. Is there opportunity for Council members to help lead trainings by Ward? Community Stewards could help lead the training? DW will follow up with CCAN to ask. DS will also run this by Laura Reams and copy DW.

6. Setting a carbon neutrality goal

- a. One of HEC's priorities has been to help the City set a carbon neutrality goal. PG County has a goal of 50% emissions reduction by 2030, but this is less ambitious compared to Montgomery County, which has a goal of reducing emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035.
- b. City of Hyattsville does not currently have a target or plan. City Sustainability Plan will be coming out in near future, but it's unclear if it will include an emissions reduction target or plan. DS: The City has moved toward more electrification of City vehicles in recent years, including the police car fleet. Has requested an update on City policy and goals for electrification. JB: Having a target as a city-level commitment is worthwhile to move toward. Is there potential for HEC to set up a sub-committee or working group to help with this? JB has volunteered to lead. **VOTE:** Approval of a new HEC sub-committee to help the City of Hyattsville advance on a carbon neutrality plan, led by JB. **Approved. JB will send HEC an email soliciting volunteers.**

7. Announcements

- a. TW: Maryland Climate Action Plan report public comment period still open. Sooner is better; adjustments are already being made. Reach out to [Serena Coleman McIlwain](#), MD Dept of Environment Secretary of the Environment
- b. DW: Funding to support trees planted on private property is a 3 year program. It's a popular program (~250 residences on the list); the City is already planted out for this fall but will soon be scheduling new consultations for next spring and next fall

8. Adjournment.