



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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Councilman Michael Leszcz, Co-Chairman
Christopher Perry, Vice Chairman

We, the Patuxent River Commission, envision a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s. We therefore commit to be stewards and advocates for the Patuxent River and to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance, and restore living resources and the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values of the Patuxent River and its watershed.

☀ Please call Daniel Rosen at MDP 410-767-4577 if you have any questions or comments.

MEETING SUMMARY

November 18, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

Annapolis, MD

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Members: Michael Leszcz, Chair; Chris Perry, Vice-Chair; Al Tucker, Alison Santoro, Andrew Der, Brandy Glenn, Byron Petrauskas, Erik Michelsen, Guy Curley, Jason VanKirk, Jennifer Greiner, Jim Caldwell, John Denniston, John Hartline, Steve Darcey, John McCoy, Kim Finch, Fred Tutman, Luis Dieguez, Mark Symborski, Martin Chandler, Mary Dolan, Matthew Rowe, Pamela Proctor, Scott Knoche, Steve Shofar, Bill Hubbard, Joanna Smith, Tom Miller, Jason Dubow

Attendees: Ann Strozyk, Ron Marney

Staff: Dan Rosen, Debbie Herr Cornwell, Jason Dubow

Introductions and Approval of September Minutes

The September 9, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with one revision to reflect that the meeting was held virtually.

Howard County Watershed Report Card

A presentation on The Watershed Report program hosted by The Howard County Conservancy was presented by Ann Strozyk. The environmental program involves all 9th grade students from Howard County High Schools. During the year long program, the student scientists investigate how stormwater is handled in their schoolyards and study the condition of local streams. Their work is produced in a year end report card that they present to county leaders at the Watershed Report Card Summit at the Conservancy. A virtual summit was held in 2020.

Purchase of 5-Acre Development Site by Howard County for Use as a Park

Fred Tutman provided the background on the property. He noted the park purchase is a good outcome for the river. He also suggested the Commission should send a letter to the county, commending the county for purchasing the property and addressing the public concerns and to include a statement that

the Commission looks forward to working together in the future. Barbara Sollner-Webb and Fred Tutman will draft a letter for the Commission's review.

Update on Recreational Use of the Patuxent during the Pandemic

Fred Tutman noted that planning for 2021 during the pandemic is complicated. In 2020, controlling water access was an issue as well as providing kayak rentals. Risks to the public and staff had to be considered. Self-serve transactions were primarily used. Demand from the public for access to the river has remained high throughout the pandemic.

Maglev Project

The draft EIS is scheduled to be released in January 2021. To facilitate the review of the document and to track the project progress, a small group comprised of Commission members Chris Perry, Fred Tutman, John Hartline and Jason Dubow and non-Commission members Sam Droege and Richard Dolesh will meet to facilitate the review of the document and track the project progress. MDP staff will be available to provide information and support.

Open Floor

Jason Dubow noted that the waterman position on the Commission is currently vacant.