

Sustain Abingdon / Events Sub-Committee – Earth Day 2016 Planning Meeting

Place: Wolf Creek Wastewater Reclamation Facility (Vances Mill Road)

Date: March 17, 2016 12:00pm

Members Present: Lydia Graves, Kevin Worley, Matt Johnson, Sarita Moore, Rick Statzer, Lisa Sykes, Barbara Williamson, Tom McMullen

Volunteers Present: Sherrie Leab, Tim Wade, April Grace

Guests: Tenille Montgomery

1. General Earth Day 2016 preparation discussion.
2. Members and volunteers processed and packaged various seeds to give away at Earth Day.
3. Follow-up discussion about a Sustain Abingdon Community Garden project, from the January 7, 2016 meeting:
 - Rick and Sarita have been researching the community garden project and looking at rules and guidelines for the garden. The Town Attorney is now reviewing the guidelines for approval.
 - Land would potentially be available at Fairview Cabin site on Hillman highway.
 - Glade Spring Tractor Club has offered to prepare the soil for planting.
 - There would be twenty (20) 20'x20' plots available for leasing at a cost of \$20 per growing season to Town of Abingdon residents.
 - Garden plot guidelines are being developed by Town of Abingdon administration.
 - To determine public interest, at Sustain Abingdon's request, Tenille Montgomery introduced into the social media, and general media stream, a survey.
 - Amy Looney, Fairview Site Superintendant would possibly be Garden Pot Coordinator.
 - Barbara suggested restricting it to organic gardening (no pesticides). She also has concerns that without fencing, theft would be a problem and it would be difficult to keep animals out. Rick mentioned that with fencing, it would be much more difficult to access the area with equipment to prepare the land.
 - Question about whether water would be available – Yes, but limited.
 - Question about tools being provided to tenants –No, only the land and site preparation would be provided.
 - Moving project forward will depend on results of community interest survey and recommendations from Sustain Abingdon committee.
4. Tenille Montgomery and Lisa Sykes presented general advise and ideas on ways to increase Sustain Abingdon's presence through social media outlets. Members were encouraged to send pictures, stories, etc. to Lisa for posting.
5. Next Earth Day meeting was scheduled for April 7th @ The Nature Conservancy.