

Environmental Sustainability Committee

February 12, 2026

Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Priya Jayaram called meeting to order.

Approval of January Minutes – Dan Fogel motioned for approval, seconded by Vice Chair Jayaram. Approved unanimously.

No Agenda Changes

Public Comment – none but question was asked about minutes on the website. It was noted there a few sets that need to be added.

Bobby Williams reminded the committee that 3 terms are coming up at the end of March and one member resigning . Dan Fogel let everyone know this would be his last meeting.

Goal Updates

Priya reviewed member goal sheets and the calendar of activities. Tim has the next Sustainability Spotlight due February 20th, the county's park and rec planning meeting (Meck Playbook) is March 5th, and March 20th's sustainability spotlight is for Heiner.

Dan shared that Treasure Trees and Tim will be this month

Dana shared that he'd report back once dates are confirmed, looking at 3rd or 4th week.

Anne Marie shared that they are starting to see nominations for Treasure Trees.

Growers market events will be added to the calendar. For Follow Up, staff will share back the monthly themes with the ESC once confirmed by Parks and Rec for future planning purposes. This will come back as a future agenda item.

Dana shared that the Adopt a Park goal has been scratched. May look at option of bird box plaques vs adopting a park. Potential location would be North Meck Park. If this is taken on, will need to get an idea of what potential costs would look like. A potential location is by the edge of the soccer fields near CVS and senior apartments.

Downtown Pollinator Garden – first option for this is the previous Patch on Main where the town is working with Huntersville Presbyterian Church. It was noted this could serve as first example of such a garden to identify what species will work, volunteer needs, etc. The NC Extension's website was identified as a resource to help design the right array of plants.

Budget Discussion – suggestion was made to submit ideas that might require some level of funding by the end of the month. Williams shared that just because something is requested or identified, it doesn't necessarily mean it will get funded. Additionally, some may tie in to existing departmental budget requests.

Priya is going to add a budget tab to the committee's spreadsheet for any cost-related items with a goal of any requests by the end of February.

Community Engagement – similar list as before. Tim mentioned meeting with Town Communications and their new staff person would be helping with logo and colors for ESC branding. He will touch base with Ethan to keep this moving.

Tim also shared that he is working to schedule a meeting with Amy Strong, North Meck High School's IB Coordinator, to further research that as a resource for volunteer hours and committee volunteer needs.

Priya's goal of Waste Education and Engagement will explore where/how residents dispose of items, opportunities to promote the North Meck Recycling Center and their expansion into food waste disposal. Additionally, is researching opportunity with Crown Town Compost for pilot project in town.

Dana's goal of quarterly cleanups will focus on Huntington Green, Pottstown, parks, etc. and hopes to have dates at next meeting.

Trisha is coordinating with Jesse and working on data and maps related to wildlife preservation. Looking into grants, resources and success stories and barriers from others. Looking to do a pilot culvert to get in a reasonable place that would serve local animals, protecting them and local drivers from each other.

Anne Marie shared that the Treasure Tree program info has been added to the website and is working on connecting with the principal at Grand Oak, but will need CMS involved. Met with Ethan regarding materials, logo, etc. Goal is to announce first Treasure Tree for Arbor Day.

Heiner will focus on Tree Canopy and has reached out to Charlotte about their efforts, and will loop Anne Marie and Diane. Trisha expressed interest in helping too. Future conversations with focus on what others are doing. Priya also expressed interest in being part of those conversations and learning what others are doing related to tree planting, opportunities for planting, etc.

Dan shared closing remarks and a song for his final remarks to the ESC, sharing appreciation for everyone and his time on the committee. He says he will be back in the future.

Adjournment – Trisha Knight motioned to adjourn, seconded by Heiner Dornburg. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.