

Cecil Land Use Alliance
General Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2010
Elkton Public Library

Attendance: Julia Belknap, Nancy Valentine, Charles Herzog, George Kaplan, Ken Wiggins, John Bollinger, Steve French, Ron Hamlen
Meeting began at 7:04 led by Nancy Valentine

Nancy shared with members about CLUA's recent participation in the "Rural Appreciation Day" held at Kilby Cream. CLUA's table had a map of where to buy local foods and our newly updated brochure. Our table worked out nicely and we hope that it will become an annual event that we can participate in.

Upcoming meetings for the rest of the year will be held at the Rising Sun Library beginning at 6:00 pm. The dates are: October 7th, October 21st, November 4th, November 18th, and December 9th. Of particular note, Richard Klein will come to our general meeting on October 21st to talk to CLUA about Environmental Site Design as it relates to the new storm water regulations in Cecil County. Jenn Hicks will come to our December 9th Board meeting to present her Sustainable Delmarva initiative and discuss with us whether or not CLUA should get involved.

The purpose of this meeting was to focus on the Charter Referendum that will be voted on in the coming election and decide courses of action for CLUA members to engage in.

- It was moved and seconded that CLUA support the Referendum. The vote was cast and the decision was a unanimous YES.
- Various members noted that there is opposition to this referendum and so Nancy asked what CLUA could do to help.
- One member suggested creating several letters to editors of local newspapers debunking five myths about the referendum. Each letter would address one myth:
 1. big government
 2. increased costs
 3. work recall
 4. strategic plan
 5. structure and accountability
- Another suggestion was to collect a list of blogging websites that blog about the referendum and respond to comments on these sites with the above responses to the myths.
- The Charter Committee has signs that need to be put up around the county. Several members volunteered to put up signs.
- The Charter Committee also has an ad ready to go and is looking for financial help. It was moved and seconded that CLUA give \$300 to the Charter Committee to help support their advertising. The vote was cast and the decision was a unanimous YES.

A discussion ensued about various aspects of the Charter.

- Cost to taxpayers won't change because no matter what type of government we have, it needs to collect taxes. With a charter government, there will be some increases in some areas and savings in other areas, which is why the county expenses will remain roughly the same.
- The responsibilities of various positions/jobs within the government will shift into a more logical manner for running a county government. However, the number of people running the county government will remain the same.
- The charter government will represent the people better because it will have to write a mission statement and five year plan – with citizen input – that will give us a means to audit how they are conducting themselves. Namely, we'll know where the buck stops.

Meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

Next Board meeting will be at the Rising Sun Library on October 7th beginning at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Julia Belknap, President