

## Chapter 27 - CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

### Sec. 27-1. - Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to develop, promote, and coordinate voluntary efforts to improve the appearance of the commercial, industrial, public and residential areas of the Town, introduce and improve environment and sustainability initiatives by the town, local developments, businesses and residences, and educate citizens about environmental initiatives to benefit and enhance the Town. To that end, there is established a conservation and sustainability commission to act as the focal point for such efforts, and to advise the Town Council and appropriate Town departments on matters relating to environment, energy, sustainability, community appearance and beautification. It is intended that functions assigned to the commission be performed by members of the commission; particularly the interface with other Town organizations, and the selection of properties for recognition and the identification of problem situations. The initiative for commission activities, decisions and plans should emanate from the members; and it is anticipated that commission members actively participate in projects undertaken by the commission.

(Code 1969, § 27-1; Ord. of 7-6-1992; Ord. of 2-1999; Ord. of 2-2010)

### Sec. 27-2. - Membership, appointment, numbers, qualification, terms, removal.

The commission shall consist of ten members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Town Council. In addition, the director of parks and recreation shall serve as an ex-officio member of the commission. Except for the director of parks and recreation, all appointees shall be either residents of the Town or representatives of businesses or professions located in and licensed by the Town.

1. Two members shall be selected from among businesses and professional practitioners licensed by the Town.
2. Six members shall be selected from among members of the residents of the Town. It is preferred that one member be appointed from each Town quadrant; however, if there are vacancies from a specific Town quadrant that cannot be filled, the members may be appointed at-large.
3. In appointing the six citizen members, the Town Council members shall give consideration to nominations received from civic associations and to persons expressing a willingness to serve.
4. Two student members shall be selected from among members of the residents of Vienna.

The term of all members shall be for two years. The term of the student member shall commence on June 1 prior to their junior year. The student member will develop and coordinate student activities in association with the commission.

Vacancies occurring on the commission for reasons other than the expiration of terms shall be filled by the Town Council for the unexpired term. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

Members may be removed from the commission by a majority vote of the Town Council.

(Code 1969, § 27-2; Ord. of 7-6-1992; Ord. of 7-1994; Ord. of 2-1999; Ord. of 2-2010; Ord. of 12-17-2012, § 2)

### Sec. 27-3. - Organization, rules, meetings, records.

The commission shall, at a meeting to be held each year in the month of June, elect from their number a chairman and a vice chairman to serve for the ensuing year.

The commission shall adopt rules for the transaction of business, and shall keep records of its discussions, findings and recommendations, all of which shall be open to public inspection. Meetings of the commission shall be held monthly and as called by the chairman or at the request of a majority of the commission. A quorum shall consist of at least five members of the commission, and all decisions of the commissions shall be by majority vote. Meetings of the commission shall be open to the public.

(Code 1969, § 27-3; Ord. of 7-6-1992; Ord. of 2-1999; Ord. of 12-17-2012, § 2)

Sec. 27-4. - Same—Powers and duties.

The conservation and sustainability commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To recommend policies and programs to the mayor and council relating to community enhancement, recycling, environment and energy conservation. The core of this mission is promoting a transition to a sustainable community through planning, education, community initiatives and policy recommendations.
- B. To develop and recommend policy initiatives and changes to the mayor and council that promote sustainable community. These may include:
  - (1.) Recycling programs.
  - (2.) Environmental enhancement and Natural resource conservation
  - (3.) Energy consumption and conservation.
  - (4.) Sustainable development planning and practices
  - (5.) Promotion of green construction.
  - (6.) Tree protection and replacement programs.
  - (7.) Application for local, state, federal and private grants related to the CEC mission.
- C. To educate and encourage Town residents and businesses to be good stewards of the environment to include:
  - (1.) Publish regular articles in the Town newsletter and the Town website;
  - (2.) Encourage the development of green classes through the parks and recreation department;
  - (3.) Provide seminars on topics of interest to Town residents;
  - (4.) Speak with area schools and local organizations to promote school involvement in community initiatives.
- D. To plan and promote programs and events that further the mission of the committee to include:
  - (1.) Energy and Environment Plan: Created and revised on a 3-5 year schedule to set goals and targets for creating a more sustainable community
  - (2.) Beautification awards: Presented to residents and businesses who demonstrate an ongoing effort to enhance the appearance of their residence or business.
  - (3.) Sustainable landscape award: Presented to an individual and/or business whose landscape demonstrates elements and philosophy of a sustainable landscape.
  - (4.) Environmental excellence awards: Presented to an individual, business or organization by the mayor and council to recognize outstanding achievement or service to the environment in Vienna.
  - (5.) Town Cleanup Day and Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day: Organize the annual events to promote clean-up of our streams, stream valleys and parks.
  - (6.) Green-Expo: Promote the Green Expo to be held annually during Earth Week.
  - (7.) Celebrate Arbor Day: Plan the annual Arbor Day tree planting.
  - (8.) Promote recycling events within the Town to include an annual recycling road show.
  - (9.) Invasive management initiative: Work with local groups to promote the removal of invasive plants in Town parks.
  - (10.) Serve as the tree board and maintain Tree City USA status for the Town.

- E. Not later than June 15 of each year, the chair of the commission shall submit to the Town Council a report of activities accomplished the past fiscal year.
- F. Not later than September 15 of each year, the chair of the commission shall submit to the Town Council a specific plan of activities for the year.

(Code 1969, § 27-4; Ord. of 7-6-1992; Ord. of 2-1999; Ord. of 2-2010)

Sec. 27-5. - Tree board.

- (a) The conservation and sustainability commission, acting with the cooperation and advice of the ISA certified Town arborist, shall constitute the Town tree board.
- (b) The tree board shall have the following powers and duties:
  - 1. To promote and protect the public health, safety, and general community appearance by planning and recommending for the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees, shrubs, and other plants on public property within the Town;
  - 2. To ensure that the planting, maintenance, pruning, and removal of trees and shrubs are done in accordance with current accepted standards as established and set forth by the National Arborist Association and by the American Association of Nurserymen's American Standard for Nursery Stock.
  - 3. To study, investigate, counsel and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the Town Council and, upon their acceptance and approval, shall constitute the official public tree management plan for the Town.
  - 4. To recommend to the Town Council and to the appropriate municipal department directors the adoption of such rules, regulations, and policies as may be necessary to implement and enforce the public tree management plan and related ordinances.
  - 5. To undertake an ongoing program of public outreach and education in order to promote public understanding and support of the Town's public tree management plan and to increase public awareness of the value and benefits of a diversified, sustainable community forest.
- (c) Review by Town Council. The Town Council shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the Town tree board. Further, the tree board, when requested by the Town Council, shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and recommend upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.

(Code 1969, § 27-5; Ord. of 9-2000)