

**Stony Brook University Senate**  
**University Environment Committee**  
Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2024, 1-2:30pm  
Version 2: 6/12/2024

Attendees: Tiffany Freidman, Anthony Gentile, Gary Kaczmarczyk, Clifford Knee, Maggie Li, Sian Piret, Mona Ramonetti, Christopher Sellers (co-chair), Peg Spitzer, John True, and Tom Wilson (co-chair),

**Agenda and Discussion:**

**1. Opening Remarks:**

- The meeting was called to order by Tom Wilson
- Tom welcomed everyone and noted this was the last meeting of the semester.
- Tom announced his retirement effective May 22 but will remain co-chair through the summer because new officers start in September.
- Tom sent out a poll to get another meeting on the calendar to elect a new chair before the fall.
- Chris Sellers volunteered to stand for election as a co-chair of the committee and Mona stepped up to also stand for election as a co-chair.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- Minutes from the April 10, 2024, meeting were approved.
- Motion to accept the minutes was made by Tiffany and seconded by multiple attendees.

**3. Special Presentation: Composting Program by Tony Gentil:**

- Tony provided an overview of the composting program at Stony Brook University.
- Key points:
  - The program started in 2009 with an in-vessel aerobic composter located at Roth Cafeteria.
  - The composter processes pre-consumer waste and browns (carbon), sourced from a local cabinet shop.
  - The compost is used in campus gardens and community garden projects.
  - The composting program faces challenges such as educating staff and students on proper waste separation.
  - Future plans include expanding compost collection to more dormitories and improving the nitrogen to carbon ratio in the compost mix.
  - We discussed the benefits of composting and keeping food waste out of landfills but highlighted the challenges of the mechanics of the composter, what can and cannot be composted and the scale of the project.

#### **4. Updates on Committee Projects:**

- **Energy Working Group:**
  - Chris Sellers noted no significant updates but suggested increasing transparency regarding university investments in oil and gas.
  - Discussion on pushing for socially responsible investment options through TIAA-CREF.
- **Bike Paths:**
  - Fred was not present for updates, so this item was tabled for a future meeting.

#### **5. Discussion on Ashley Schiff Preserve:**

- Tom Wilson provided an update on the status of the Ashley Schiff Preserve.
  - The preserve is to be transferred to the Parks Department, but only 20 acres have been confirmed.
  - Concerns were raised about the transparency of the survey and the preservation of the full 27-28 acres.
  - Tom emphasized the need for continued advocacy to protect the entire preserve.

#### **6. Other Business:**

- No additional business was discussed.

#### **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

#### **Next Meeting:**

- A summer meeting will be scheduled to elect new co-chairs and approve the final report on Ashley Schiff Preserve.

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#### **Action Items:**

- Tom Wilson to continue advocating for the full preservation of entire Ashley Schiff Preserve.
- Tom Wilson to organize and share the shared drive for the University Environment Committee.
- Chris Sellers to explore options for socially responsible investments and increased transparency.
- Tom Wilson will be retiring but will remain involved at SBU as an affiliate and continue to support committee activities.

Minutes prepared by Tiffany Friedman.