



Growth Action Network

of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

P.O. Box 748 • Arnold, MD 21012

GAN encourages hybrid County Council meetings

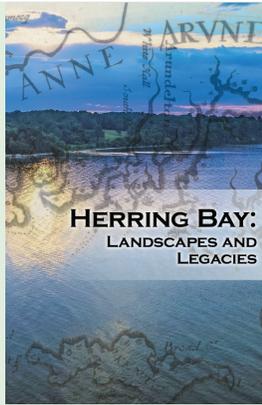


One of the unexpected fringe benefits of the Covid pandemic was the realization by many County residents that testifying at virtual County Council meetings was much easier than delivering testimony at an in-person meeting. Most residents who did not live in the immediate Annapolis area would need to budget 20-30 minutes of driving time in each direction and an hour or more of time waiting in the Council chamber for the bill of interest to be able to deliver 2 minutes of testimony on a particular bill. Much of this unproductive travel and waiting time could be eliminated when testifying remotely at a virtual meeting.

On July 6, the Council returned to an in-person format, retaining earlier opportunities for submission of written testimony, but eliminating the possibility of remote spoken testimony. Although this format is attractive to some attendees, the benefits of remote video testimony have clearly been demonstrated, and there is a need for a hybrid meeting format that includes the opportunity for virtual spoken testimony. GAN has expressed the need for a hybrid format to the Council Chair and the Council Administrative officer. We have been told that equipment is not currently available to support a hybrid format, but that implementation of a hybrid format may be possible later in 2021 or sometime in 2022.

Meet our Member - **Advocates for Herring Bay**

The Advocates for Herring Bay (AHB) work together to preserve and enhance the environmental health of Herring Bay, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. AHB was founded in 2005 by individuals from Fairhaven, a community in southern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. AHB is a nonpartisan organization and does not endorse candidates for political office.



In 2019, AHB launched a new initiative to promote a sustainable oyster population in the Herring Bay Oyster Sanctuary. By 2021, AHB had planted one million spat in the sanctuary, thanks to support from the community and partnerships with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP), and Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society. Numerous individuals are offering their time and resources to the project,

AHB also has partnered with GAN member Scenic Rivers Land Trust to produce a booklet detailing the rich history of Herring Bay. Beginning with habitation by the Piscataway tribe around 8000 BCE the area has been visited by explorers, included in old plantations, seen intensive agricultural development, has been a summer retreat for vacationers from Washington and Baltimore, and is now a tightly knit community that is having a positive impact on the ecology of Herring Bay watershed. Visit the AHB website at www.herringbay.org for more information about AHB and its activities.

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