



## June 2021 Issue

**\*\* Our next meeting dates and details will be decided later in the year. Stay tuned via the SOECA listserv for updates. \*\***

### 2021 SOECA Membership Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held remotely via Zoom, until further notice. **Please sign up if you haven't already – instructions are below.**



**Use the video option or just call in and listen.** A link and dial-in information will be sent out via email listserv in the days preceding the meeting.

**FINAL 2020-2021 meeting: Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 7-9pm**

#### SOECA Officers

Chris Reynolds President  
Tom Armstrong, Vice President  
David Hartmann, Treasurer  
Claire Zietz, Secretary

#### Highlights for the June Meeting

1. Guest speaker TBD
  2. Vote on letter against Sligo Creek illegal speed racing
  3. SOECA Board elections
- \*If you have suggestion please contact us at [soeca.board@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.board@gmail.com)*

#### In This Newsletter

1. 2021 Meeting Date
2. Announcement
3. Shared Streets
4. May Special Meeting Minutes
5. Purple Line Update
6. New in DTSS
7. Our Environment
8. Butterfly Garden
9. Membership Signup
10. Safety Update Vote
11. Compost Crew

#### SOECA Boundaries

Colesville Rd on the West; Cedar and Fenton Sts on the South; Bonifant St and Wayne Ave on the East; Franklin and Caroline Aves on the North.



#### Check Us Out Online!



[www.soeca.org](http://www.soeca.org)  
[facebook.com/SOECASilverSpring](https://www.facebook.com/SOECASilverSpring)  
[twitter.com/soecatweet](https://twitter.com/soecatweet)

#### LISTSERV SIGNUP INSTRUCTIONS

Go to <https://groups.io/g/SOECA/join> and fill in your email address; OR Email [SOECA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:SOECA+subscribe@groups.io) and include your name address in the email.



#### ANNOUNCEMENT: Board Position Openings

As we close the 2020-2021 year, we have a two SOECA Board positions open. We are actively looking for volunteers for the positions of VP (1 of 2) and Secretary. There is work to be done and it is extremely rewarding. Would you like to serve your community? Contact [soeca.board@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.board@gmail.com)

**Shared Streets are still in play:** so the kids can play!



Neighbors can apply for a permit from the county to close a street to through traffic for a period of time, and to allow recreational use in the street. The county provides signage and equipment needed to block the street.

To find out more, including the Shared Streets permit application, go to <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/sharedstreets/>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ISSUE REPRESENTATIVES

Bus Rapid Transit CAT – Brian Feit  
 Downtown Plan Committee – Chris Reynolds  
 Environment – Anne Vorce  
 Land Use – Chris Johansson  
 Membership Committee – David Hartmann  
 Montgomery County Civic Federation– Jean Cavanaugh  
 Neighbor’s Help – Michael Gurwitz  
 Purple Line CAT and Wayne Ave Group – Erin Johansson  
 Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes  
 Silver Spring Library Redevelopment – **OPEN**  
 Social Committee– **OPEN**  
 Technology Committee – Jonathan Bernstein  
 Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh

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## SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM MAY 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MEETING



*Note: In an effort to save space in this newsletter, a summary only will be provided here. Full meeting minutes are sent out after every meeting to the neighborhood listserv and also posted to the website:*

[soeca.org/category/membership-meetings/](https://soeca.org/category/membership-meetings/)

TOPIC: PROPOSED SOECA BYLAWS UPDATE, 501(C)4 FILING, BYLAWS COMMITTEE

- President Chris Reynolds
  - Mr. Reynolds began with a brief history on how we are not compliant with modern tax code. PayPal alerted us to the fact this past winter.
  - He listed the different options we have to be in compliance.
  - This vote would not be the final word – we will be forming a SOECA Bylaws Committee to look into a more long-term focus.
- There was a question about the term “classes” under Article II: Membership 2.1 and it was suggested to strike that language and wait for the Bylaws Committee for approval.
  - Chris stated that we incorporated the bylaws suggestions from the lawyer the board hired and worked to incorporate his suggestions while honoring the current feel of the SOECA organization. The term “class” is a legal term. While the aim was to vote on the proposed bylaws as-is, he suggested we can take a separate vote for that language as a second vote.

- Chris then proposed a motion to adopt the proposed bylaws
  - Members present voted via chat
    - Vote: 18 yes, 1 no
  - Motion passed
- A motion was made to strike the section which incorporates the word “class” in Article II: Membership 2.1 Members
  - Vote: 5 yes, 12 no, 2 abstain
  - Motion did not pass
  - Chris explained that the newly formed Bylaws Committee can look at this later and propose amendments.
- Chris proposed a motion to vote for the second aim of the meeting: does the membership approve of the board pursuing incorporation of SOECA as a 501(C)4 entity
  - Passed unanimously with 21 voting yes
- A final motion was proposed to create a Bylaws Committee
  - Vote, by voice – passed unanimously
- Chris announced that anyone who would like to serve on this committee to please contact him: [urbaneconomist@gmail.com](mailto:urbaneconomist@gmail.com).

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## PURPLE LINE UPDATE

Updates on the Purple Line project as of May 25<sup>th</sup>:



The procurement process is underway for a new design-build team. It will be selected this summer with Board of Public Works approval this fall. The state is continuing to oversee the re-location of utilities until the design-build team takes over next year. We should expect that utility lines will be moved from the old poles to the new ones by the end of the year, while underground utility relocations will continue. Graffiti removal and surface treatment will occur in coming months. The new urban tree program is under development and the state department of environment will be reaching out to stakeholders soon.

For questions on the PL construction, contract [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com) or 443-451-3706. You can sign up for traffic closure notices via texts and emails at [Purplelinemd.com](https://Purplelinemd.com).

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**DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING DOES BBQ!**



Opening in June : a new BBQ in Downtown Silver Spring. It is in a parking lot right next to AllSet Restaurant on Fenton Street. This new BBQ area, with smokers and picnic tables – and, the word is, the original Money Muscle BBQ Food Truck - is an offshoot of the Money Muscle BBQ that helped save AllSet during the pandemic. The brand new smokers will get chugging very soon! [moneymusclebbq.com/](http://moneymusclebbq.com/)

**OUR ENVIRONMENT: Cicadas!**



Think you know everything about cicadas - or everything you want to know ? Did you know that there are seven species of 17 year cicadas, three of which emerged this cycle ? Have you spotted all three? Their songs are different, too. Learn how to identify them visually and aurally in the latest Friends of Sligo Creek Newsletter. The article includes photos of the different species, plus links to different sound recordings and to a handy ID chart by naturalist Laura Mol, who did the amazing kiosk displays around Sligo Creek. [Sligo-Newsletter-May-2021-1.pdf](http://Sligo-Newsletter-May-2021-1.pdf) ([friendsofsligocreek.org](http://friendsofsligocreek.org))



Do you have ideas for our next newsletter? Want to send a Shout-out to someone special?

**ELLSWORTH PARK BUTTERFLY GARDEN REVIVAL**

A neighbor from Woodside Park, Suzanna Dennis, is leading an effort to revive the native plants butterfly garden in the raised beds at Ellsworth Park, near the old Silver Spring library. Thank you to the SOECA volunteers who created this garden several years ago. The new volunteer opportunity is to help with all or part of the following jobs:



- Join for a day of deep weeding later this month. This will also include learning to distinguish weeds from native plants that support butterflies
- Once the beds are clear of weeds, work with the Montgomery Parks to re-plant with natives from Pope Farm.
- Periodically weed and water the garden throughout the summer.

Given COVID, the Volunteer Services office of Montgomery Parks is requiring all volunteers to complete an application with a waiver. Please contact [suzanna.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.dennis@gmail.com) for the link to the volunteer form.

We'd love to hear from you! Send an email to [soeca.board@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.board@gmail.com)



JOIN SOECA!



**SOECA Membership: Pay by Check or Paypal or Zelle**  
**Annual dues of \$20 per household or \$10 for seniors and single members**

- **Online:** from the “About” drop-down menu at [www.soeca.org](http://www.soeca.org), select “Join SOECA” and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page for Paypal. Or, pay with Zelle.
- **Check:** make it payable to SOECA and send it with this form to: David Hartmann, SOECA Treasurer, 407 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910 - or just drop it off in his mailbox!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Resident email addresses and home addresses are not shared.*

## TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY – PLEASE VOTE

Within SOECA’s boundaries and in surrounding neighborhoods, people have noticed a marked increase in illegal, and often extremely dangerous, vehicle activity: speeding, vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems, vehicles passing in no-passing zones, and vehicles gathering for the purpose of street racing.

This behavior has been seen on Sligo Creek Parkway, Wayne Avenue, Flower Avenue, and even smaller roads like Eton Road. Last fall, the County Police conducted a special program to try to combat street racing and excessively loud exhaust systems, with some success. But that program hasn’t been sustained.

Some close-by civic groups have written to our District 5 Councilmember Tom Hucker asking him to help provide relief from these problems. His help is needed because their requests to police have not had any noticeable effect.

At the upcoming June membership meeting, SOECA will be asked to write a letter to Councilmember Hucker calling for his help in having the police enforce current laws and in finding solutions to the speeding/loud exhaust system problems. The focus should be on both education and deterrence.



**Please come to vote on this initiative.**



## JOIN THE SOECA COMPOST CREW

SOECA is home to many beautiful gardens, households who are conscious of their environmental footprints, and residents who were interested in composting but hadn’t found a service that fit their needs and budgets. Xin Yuen on Mayfair was part of the latter two groups and dreamt of a nice garden, so she worked with local small business **Compost Crew** to create a community composting program for SOECA and part of East Silver Spring.

**Over 40 households signed up in less than 1.5 weeks**, which dropped the price from \$32/month to \$16, made composting more accessible to many neighbors, and drastically scaled up our positive environmental impact!

If you’re interested in joining our compost community, you can easily sign up any time using the link <https://tinyurl.com/yfqdw4j7> and discount code **10OFF**, which will make your first month free.

**Why are we doing this?** By diverting the compostable portion of our solid waste away from the landfill and returning nutrients to our soil and food system, we conserve valuable nutrients and improve the health of our local soil while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**How will it work?** Compost Crew will supply each participating household with an airtight bin and compostable bags. Each household will separate out its organic waste, just as we already do with our plastics and paper. Once a week, you leave the compost bin at the curb for pick-up. The waste gets processed at a composting facility in Maryland. As an additional benefit, each household will periodically have the option to receive finished compost.

**What can be composted?** As a rule of thumb, anything that grows or is made from the Earth can go in your bin. This includes meat, coffee grounds/filters, tea/tea bags, eggshells, napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, dryer lint, etc. Compost Crew provides a comprehensive list.

More information about Compost Crew is available at [compostcrew.com](https://compostcrew.com), including a statement on their commitment to racial equity and actions they are taking to further that goal: <https://compostcrew.com/dont-just-talk>