

February 15, 2019

County Executive Ball, Councilmember Walsh Meet with Conservancy Students Studying Ellicott City

ELLICOTT CITY – Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and Councilmember Liz Walsh this week heard recommendations from a student task force participating in a Watershed Report Card Project sponsored by the Howard County Conservancy. The students set out to create a unique and realistic plan for the renovation of Main Street and the surrounding area to preserve the lives of residents and visitor, bolster the economy, and protect and promote the town's rich history.

"I am so impressed that these students took on this issue and even more impressed by the thought and thoroughness of their review," said Ball. "Their work is another indicator that our residents want us to do all we can to preserve Ellicott City's rich heritage while ensuring the safety of those who live, work and visit there."

"It's not just the world that's watching how old Ellicott City solves its flooding problem, it's our own kids, right here at home," said Walsh. "This amazing team of studious seniors from six different local high schools showed us what this community is made of, what matters most to its future, and what we all can accomplish together."

The task force report, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2N6Goby>, makes eight recommendations to preserve the lives of residents and visitors. Among the suggestions are identifying and preparing evacuation and shelter locations, installing flood warning signs, developing a robust warning system, and encouraging businesses to move their operations to the second floor.

To bolster Ellicott City's economy, the student task force recommendations include creation of a community park, incorporation of play parks for children, and tax credits to incentivize businesses to move to Ellicott City.

The report suggests the County employ a variety of attractive flood prevention measures, including dry ponds, rain barrels, flood barriers, and the replacement of impervious surfaces with pervious materials. The students also suggested that if buildings do need to be removed, every effort is made to relocate them or reuse any historic materials.

Pictures from the event can be found at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskNENMZP>.

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