



**Woods Committee Minutes  
Monday, June 7, 2021 - 7:30 PM  
ZOOM Meeting**

Approved: July 6 ,2021

**Attendance:** Pat Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Dave Cosson, Larry French, Joli McCathran, Virginia Quesada, Krista Zanetti, and guest Robert Johnson.

The June 2021 Woods Committee meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:** The June WC Agenda was unanimously approved (Joli 1<sup>st</sup>/Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Approval of Minutes:** The May 3, 2021, WC Minutes were unanimously approved (Virginia 1<sup>st</sup>/Krista 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Public Appearances:** There were no public appearances.

**Woods Preserve and Other Town Land Permit Application Ordinance:** This Ordinance has been enacted by the Town Council.

**East Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects Updates – Trail Signage**

Thank you to Virginia for providing an annotated trail map and a spread sheet for signage placement. Several edits were made to the spreadsheet. Entrance # 7 was moved closer to Center Street. An additional sign will be posted as “M” along Franklin where Cherry Avenue jogs to avoid wetlands. A new creek crossing will be added to replace the old treacherous Bradfield Crossing. This necessitates constructing a new loop trail to connect the new crossing to the old trail. This new loop also facilitates access to the newly designated Champion Black Jack Oak tree. To reduce the cost of signage squares and the space required, arrows may be placed on the same 4”x4” metal square with the trail names. Krista will review the spreadsheet and work up the final inventory of signs. There was a suggestion to place a compass rose and a scale indicator on the East Woods Trail map. The WC will cover the costs for Town Maintenance to purchase the signposts. The WC will first install the outer trail entrance signs and later follow up with the interior trail signs. The Committee expects to recruit town volunteers to help attach information icons to posts to be installed by Town maintenance. A timeline for ordering and

installation will be prepared, with the expectation that work would begin in the Fall when tick season has abated.

### **West Woods Stormwater Management**

Several Woods Committee members have been in communication with Jim Soltesz and conducted a site visit with Phil Isaja from the Soltesz company, (Engineering, Environmental Services, Surveying, and Planning) to discuss if the West Woods could be included in the Montgomery County Clean Water RFP project. Although Mr. Isaja agreed there are definite drainage issues in the West Woods, Montgomery County excluded the West Woods from consideration in the RFP. The WC reviewed the RFP and asked the Mayor to request clarification from the County. County official James Stiles responded that the West Woods “was determined to not be eligible for this restoration project to improve *water quality* because water flowing through the West Woods enters Lake Whetstone which is ‘treated’ Mr. Stiles reiterated the current project is focused on water quality, not quantity.

The WC reluctantly concluded we could not pursue the County RFP and to further explore alternatives for addressing the severe erosion problems in the West Woods. We also could engage with Montgomery County’s Watershed Management to discuss the County’s responsibility for stormwater damage in the West Woods caused by the culvert pipe they installed at the Town Crest parking lot and seek expert advice at a reasonable cost. The problem may not be just the quantity of water, but the intermittent high velocity. We need an infrastructure map to see where the water is coming from. Our approach should be how can we work together to resolve this problem. Virginia and Robert had previously begun a slide presentation to document stormwater erosion damage in the West Woods. They have agreed to share the slideshow. Dave offered information on a half day seminar sponsored by the MD Stormwater Management Association.

### **Rescheduling July 2021 WC Meeting**

The July 2021 meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, July 6 to accommodate the July 4<sup>th</sup> federal holiday.

### **Final Updates, Announcement, Comments, and Action Items**

- Krista will prepare a final inventory spreadsheet for signage in the East Woods.
- Robert will provide the WC with drainage information he has about Montgomery County.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM (Virginia 1<sup>st</sup>/Krista 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, July 6, at 7:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted: Pat Klein and Joan Mahaffey, Co-chairs