



**Woods Committee Minutes
Monday, April 5, 2021 - 7:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting**

Approved: May 3, 2021

Attendance: Pat Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Dave Cosson, Larry French, Joli McCathran, Deb Mehlferber, Krista Zanetti – Tom Land and Virginia Quesada were excused.

The April 2021 Woods Committee meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The April WC Agenda was unanimously approved (Joan 1st/Deb 2nd).

Approval of Minutes

The March 1, 2021 WC Minutes were unanimously approved with one correction (Joli 1st/Larry 2nd). Change the title to Ordinance 2021 XX under Article 1 Section 15 Code of Ordinances.

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Woods Preserve and Other Town Land Permit Application Update

The Committee reviewed a draft Ordinance establishing the fees applicable for permits required Ordinance 2022 xx for archeological or fossil exploration and requested that expiration periods be set at six months to begin work and one year to complete. The proposed Ordinance date was changed to 04/05/21.

East/West Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects Updates

Signage

Price quotes for construction and installation of entrance and trail signs were reviewed. There would be substantial savings if installation of the signposts can be done by Town maintenance staff. The Committee will inquire if the Maintenance work schedule could accommodate the installation. Krista and Larry volunteered to assemble the icons on the signs. Post would be 4"x4"x8' pressure treated posts for entrance signs and 4"/4"x^' posts for interior signs. Entrance signs would be done first, while identification of the precise location for trail signs is worked out.

Timber Turnpikes for Wet Trail Areas

The East Woods is a wetland, so it is not possible to solve all problems with wet trails. Both the gravel and soil/chip turnpikes appeared to work well during recent heavy rain. Committee members reported substantial water in some places on the outside of the rails, but the drainage systems installed appeared to reduce the water within 24 hours. Further evaluation of drainage and potential locations for more turnpikes was discussed. Maple Avenue Extended is ripe for a turnpike. At present we should mark the wettest areas and areas where water drains across the trail to the creek. Actual work should wait until drier times in the fall. We will request Town maintenance to reserve available soil for future turnpike construction.

West Woods Spring Clean-Up Tasks and Kelley Park Drainage

The April Town Bulletin included the request that residents to assist with a Spring trash clean-up in the West Woods on an individual basis consistent with pandemic precautions of social distancing and wearing masks. The Committee co-chair will provide direction and assistance to resident volunteers.

No new information is available regarding drainage in Kelley Park. Robert Krebbs, Saybrooke HOA President, is our contact for Kelley Park drainage. Preparation has begun for the new elementary school on the opposite side of the park. This may affect drainage in the area.

No new information was available with respect to any work by Gaithersburg to improve drainage in Kelly Park. It was noted that preliminary work for construction of a school has begun on the opposite side of the park. This could further affect drainage in the area.

Border Committee Identity Fencing Proposal

The Border Committee is moving ahead with three welcome signs along Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane. One sign will be placed in the corner of the West Woods at Daylily Lane and Washington Grove Lane. No date has been set for a walk with members of the Border Committee, the Woods Committee, and the Historic Preservation Committee to select sites for identity fencing along the West Woods boundary.

Final Updates, Comments, and Action Items for May 3, 2021 Meeting

- Present the Ordinance to the Town Council at the April 12 meeting.
- Consult with Steve about possible help with installation of East Woods signage.
- Consult with Steve about reserving soil for future turnpikes in the East Woods.
- Continue informal West Woods Cleanup Project as volunteers are available.
- Continue working with the Boarder Committee on Welcome signage and identity fencing along the West Woods boundary.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM (Patty 1st/Krista 2nd).

Next meeting will be Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

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

