

Woods Committee Minutes  
Monday, August 6, 2018 – 7:30 PM  
McCathran Hall Council Room

Approved 09/04/2018

Attendees: Patrice Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Georgette Cole, Jay Everhart, Tom Land, Joli McCathran, Deb Mehlferber, and Virginia Quesada. Guest: Kathy Lehman

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Additional Agenda Items/Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented. (Georgette 1<sup>st</sup>/Joli 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 2, 2018

The minutes were approved as written. (Jay 1<sup>st</sup>/Tom 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Public Appearances

None

East and West Woods Updates

Invasive Plant Control (IPC) has completed their contracted work for this year. Information will be available to us about their day-to-day documentation on their website as soon as the work is invoiced. There was a suggestion that next year IPC advance their work schedule to complete the next phase of their work a week earlier, before the mile-a-minute goes to seed.

Significant patches of Japanese wisteria and wavy leaf basket grass (WBG) have been spotted in the West Woods by the Woods Committee (WC) co-chairs and IPC. WBG is a serious non-native invasive (NNI) plant species threat and Montgomery County and MDDNR are taking efforts to control it. IPC is willing to do a two-day treatment of WBG using 2% Rodeo for an approximate cost of \$2,900. The WC has \$5,000 in the current FY19 budget to control NNI plants in the West Woods. A motion was passed (Virginia 1<sup>st</sup>/Georgette 2<sup>nd</sup>) to use up to \$5,000 budgeted funds to have IPC conduct emergency treatment of WBG to prevent further deterioration to the West Woods, especially the fern beds. Pat will contact Mayor Compton about getting Town Council (TC) approval at the August 13 meeting. The WC will provide to the TC our written recommendation for emergency WBG treatment with identifying photos.

There was a discussion of trail names in both the East and West Woods. In the East Woods trails extending from the avenues will continue the avenue name: Pine Trail, Maple Trail, Cherry Trail. Dorsey Trail and Franklin Trail intersect the avenue trails. Challstrom Trail follows the northern border and crosses Bradfield Crossing. The trail from Ridge Road to MacCauley needs a name. In the West Woods, the trail that skirts the Lake to Kelley Park is the Lake Trail. The Yellow Trail/Chestnut Trail was renamed the Poplar Trail. The trail from the Lake parking lot to Kelley Park will be called the Whetstone Trail. There were suggestions for publicizing the trails: Trails could be blazed with paint; Trail signs could be

posted at entrances to the Woods; Maps could be posted on the website, published in the Bulletin, and inserted in the Directory. Tom volunteered to create a black and white map of the East and West Woods with trails marked.

### Deer Management

Eight Woods Committee members met with Bill Hamilton and Ryan Butler at their Montgomery County (MC) Deer Management Program office to discuss options for deer population management. MC works with MDDNR to assist townships on developing deer management plans. The DNR has a cooperator list of State-certified hunters for hire. However, MC has a list of County-certified recreational archers (bow hunters) who do not charge for their services. Most also have arrangements for meat donation to charities. There is an advantage to using recreational hunters in lieu of paid hunters which negates the Town's liability risk. Bill Hamilton stated that the Town's first job is to develop community support and stability on the part of Town government. We must be clear on our objectives. For example, do we want complete removal of deer in our woods? Will we first conduct deer harvesting and subsequently erect enclosures? It is illegal to harvest deer within enclosures. We do not need deer counts. We would determine with the MC cooperators how many days the harvesting would take and close the Woods for those days. Archers usually work a few hours in the early morning on weekdays of weekends. Before a deer plan is developed, the existing Town Ordinance on hunting must be amended to allow for MC-authorized managed hunts. Charlie will prepare a draft amendment for WC review. The WC would submit this amendment request with an information packet to the TC and Planning Commission. This amendment would be a litmus test to gauge town sentiment on a managed hunt. The Work Group comprising Tom, Pat, and Larry will begin work on a tactical Plan. Bill Hamilton will send us a list of County-certified archers to contact for additional information on their process. The town will need to apply for a Deer Management Permit from MDDNR for permission to conduct deer harvesting year-round.

### Master Plan Updates

The Woods Committee reviewed suggestions for Master Plan changes submitted by the Master Plan Work Group. Changes will be incorporated and presented at the September meeting.

### Recap and Action Items for Next Meeting

- September meeting rescheduled for Tuesday, September 4, due to the Labor Day holiday.
- Prepare photographs of WBG to include in our recommendation to the Town Council at their August 13 meeting for emergency treatment of WBG in the West Woods.
- Prepare a black and white map of the East and West Woods indicating hiking trails.
- Begin preparing an informational packet for the Town Council to request amending the Town Ordinance on hunting to allow for MC-authorized managed hunts.
- Finalize WC recommended updates on the 2009 Master Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM (Virginia 1<sup>st</sup>/Georgette 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Next meeting – Tuesday, September 4, 2018, 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Mahaffey and Pat Klein (Woods Committee co-chairs)