



**Woods Committee Minutes
Monday, January 4, 2021 - 7:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting**

Approved: February 1, 2021

Attendance: Pat Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Dave Cosson, Larry French, Tom Land, Joli McCathran, Deb Mehlferber, Meghan O'Connell, Virginia Quesada, and Krista Zanetti.

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

Approval of Agenda

The December WC Agenda was unanimously approved with the addition a discussion of the 2022 Proposed Woods Committee Budget (Virginia 1st/Krista 2nd).

Approval of Minutes

The November 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written (Virginia 1st/Larry 2nd)

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Bow Hunter Fire Fighters or Maryland (BHFFMD) Deer Bow Hunt Monthly Update

BHFFMD harvested one doe during December. Archers have noticed little deer activity on their trail camera. Committee members reported frequent deer sightings close to residences in the East Woods, in the Conservation Meadow, and in residential parts of Town. A coyote was spotted recently in the afternoon or early evening. Patty will notify families known to walk in the woods in the evening and post on the WG listserv advising residents to keep small pets indoors.

Woods Preserve and Other Town Land Ordinance (2020-13) Update

The proposed ordinance (2020-13) regarding woods regulations, archeology and fossil hunting along with a draft Resolution (attached) to implement the permit process were discussed. The Ordinance will go to a hearing before the Town Council Meeting on January 11. Committee

members expressed concern that the rules should be kept to a minimum and that ordinary trash clean up should be allowed. The Wood's Committee's main concern is digging or destruction of the natural environment.

East/West Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects

Signage

Two types of signage were discussed: Trail Identification Signage and Trail Entrance Signage. Trail identification signage would include wooden post with the name of the trail with arrows and icons for Walking or Hiking, Dogs on Leash, No Bikes, Stay on Trail. For Trail Entrances, the WC is considering small kiosks (Approximately 22" x 12") to post trail maps and a brief list of rules for environmentally sensitive use of the trails. These kiosks would be placed at McCauley, Maple, and Ridge Road Entrances in the East Woods and at two entrances in the West Woods. Updated cost estimates are expected soon. The WC Committee would receive feedback on these proposals during future presentation of the idea to the Town Council.

Timber Turnpikes for Wet Trail Areas

The co-chairs met with a local landscaper to discuss "timber turnpike" construction in three wet trail sections of the East Woods using existing downed wood and available fill soil at the Maintenance Building. Areas under consideration include: the Franklin Trail between Cherry Ave and Ridge Road, the Dogwood Trail just across the bridge near Cherry, and the low area of the McCauley Trail. The wet section of Maple Avenue extended between Center Street and the Franklin trail will be reinforced with brown gravel mixed into the soil.

The need for a foot bridge at the Bradford Crossing was discussed as it is currently difficult to cross the stream at that point. A more favorable location for the bridge might require minor rerouting of the trail.

The Committee thanked Tom Land for reinforcing blazes along some of the trails in the East Woods.

Woods Committee Proposed Budget for 2022

The Committee began discussion of its FY22 proposed budget and suggestions for allocating funds for current and new activities. There was a suggestion that some money allocated to Deer Management this year be transferred to Trail Maintenance in the coming year. Money in this year's budget will cover IPC wisteria control in the West Woods. Changes in allocations from 2021 to 2022 might include:

Deer Management from \$15,000 to \$8,000

NNI Plant Control from \$15,000 East Woods/\$5,000 West Woods to \$10,000 East Woods/\$10,000 West Woods

Tree Removal from \$5,000 to \$10,000

Tree Planting from \$10,000 to \$5,000

Trail Maintenance from \$3,000 to \$5,000

Community Outreach \$1,000

Whetstone Spring Renovation \$1,000

A final draft for submission will be prepared by the next WC meeting.

Final Updates, Comments, and Action Items for January Meeting

Action Items:

- Present Woods and Other Town Lands Ordinance (2020-13) for hearing on January 11.
- Continue to investigate signage and costs for trail entrances and interior trails.
- Follow up with contractor on repair of wet areas along trails in the East Woods.
- Prepare a final draft of proposed WC Budget 2022.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM (Virginia 1st/Larry 2nd).

Next meeting: February 1, 2021.