

Woods Committee Minutes
Monday, May 6, 2019 – 7:30 PM
McCathran Hall Council Room

Approved June 3, 2019

Attendees: Patrice Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Georgette Cole, Jay Everhart, Rob Gilmore, Tom Land, Virginia Quesada

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33.

Agenda Approval

The Agenda was approved as presented (Georgette 1st/Virginia 2nd).

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 1 meeting were approved as presented (Tom 1st /Georgette 2nd).

Public Appearances – None

Deer Population Management Plan

The WC decided to recommend to the Town Council the MD-DNR and MC Parks qualified archery team “Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (bhffmd.com)”. David Berk is the team leader

- Scheduling Town Informational Meeting on Deer Management

The Informational Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 24, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Dave Berk of BHFFMD is available to speak and accepted our invitation. We plan to invite Ryan Butler and/or Bill Hamilton (MC Parks Deer Management Program). We will be in contact with community organizer, Elisa Carbone, to ask if she will share her experiences with deer control in her community. We will ask John Griffin (Humane Society of the United States) to send information to distribute at the meeting, particularly as it pertains to deer deterrence on private property. We will request the Town Council to clarify the meaning of the term “session”. The WC interprets the work “session” to mean the MD-DNR annual hunting season from the Friday after Labor Day until January 31st. Marida Hines has offered to help us prepare a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet for distribution prior to the meeting. The HSUS deer management site will be included on our FAQ. The informational meeting will include a question and answer session following brief presentations from invited speakers. It was suggested that we capture resident input after the meeting as we did after our November 2018 meeting. We must strongly encourage the Mayor, the Town Council, and Town residents to attend this meeting.

- TC Approved Amendment to Town Hunting Ordinance

The Amendment to the Town Hunting Ordinance was approved at the April 8 Town Council Meeting. Still needed is a clearer definition of the term “session”.

Annual Town Meeting – WC Accomplishments and Plans Presentation

WC members viewed the proposed presentation for the Annual Town Meeting. There was discussion about selecting a new metric for wisteria re-sprouting. The WC decided to delete previous slides pertaining to the wisteria metric until we determine how best to evaluate ongoing wisteria treatment effects in the same area – e.g. minimal new growth? Additional comments are due to the Co-chairs by Wednesday evening.

Recap of Joint Spring West Woods Clean-Up Day – April 27th

Ten volunteers helped with the West Woods Clean-Up. There were also other volunteers cleaning the Lake area. Woods volunteers manually pulled garlic mustard and Japanese barberry. They cleared out the water channel at Whetstone Spring. They picked up trash along the trails, between Washington Grove Lane and the Lake, and along the border with Kelley Park. They removed broken glass and other trash inside the newly constructed dog park fence. Thank you to all for a full morning's work!

2019 Master Plan Updates

The Master Plan Committee delineated two parks along Grove Road which are within the East Woods. Zoe Wadsworth Park is northeast of the Center Street/Grove Road intersection and Margaret McGregor Park is southeast of the McCauley Street/Grove Road intersection. These two parks come under the jurisdiction of the Forestry and Beautification Committee. There was a recommendation to reforest the area of the East Woods between the two parks. There was also discussion of rezoning the East and West Woods as FR (Forest Reserve). Before the next Master Plan Meeting in July, the Woods Committee should prepare a stronger argument for rezoning, based on recommendations in the benchmark New York City Parks Study.

There was a discussion about the upcoming Storm Water Management Study. The Woods Committee should monitor the study as it pertains to the East and West Woods. Trails may need to be built up or rerouted to avoid standing water, especially in the East Woods. Trails also need to be better defined. In the June Bulletin, the WC will solicit Town volunteers to help with trail identification and maintenance.

Action Items for Next Meeting

- Submit recommendations for the Town Meeting Presentation to WC Co-chairs by Wednesday, May 8th/Finalize details for the Informational Meeting on 6/24
- Monitor progress on the Storm Water Management Study
- Prepare a plan to better define and maintain trails, especially in the East Woods
- Continue providing input for the 2019 Master Plan

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM (Georgette 1st/Rob 2nd)

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Joan Mahaffey and Patrice Klein, Woods Committee Co-chairs