

## WG Conservation Meadow Committee Meeting July 17 2024

In attendance; Georgette Cole, Bruce Daggy, Kriss Grisham, Joan Mahaffey, David Stopak, Anne Vincent

The meeting was called to order at 7:32. The agenda was approved by consensus. Minutes from the June 2024 meeting were approved by consensus. There were no public appearances.

Tree Reduction Update: Parks (Ryan Colliton) has proposed to remove 38 trees in phase 1 and 34 in phase 2. We are awaiting an updated map showing the location of these trees. Based on the initial map and discussions with Parks, we expect that sufficient trees will remain on the periphery of the meadow to satisfy those concerned about changes to the views from the houses on Ridge and Brown. Bruce has requested the maps by 07/24 so that they can be included in the August bulletin and submitted to town council for discussion at their regular August meeting. Tree removal would be consistent with the Operation and Use Plan for the park as well as the Comprehensive Plan for the Town.

Grant Application: Ernie Kawasaki and Bruce drafted and submitted a grant application to Sustainable Maryland for \$10,000 to hire a contractor to remove the trees. A funding decision is expected by early September with an announcement event to follow in late September. If the grant is not funded, we expect that Parks will find internal resources for the tree removal, but that could cause delays.

Weed Warrior events: The WW event on July 13 was fully booked (15 slots) and 9 volunteers – about half from out-of-town -- plus WW Program Assistant Silvia Nuñez were able to participate. We removed bittersweet, wineberry, multiflora rose, honeysuckle vines and mile-a-minute – thanks to all who participated.

In addition, Donna, Anne, Bruce, and one out-of-town volunteer signed up for WW training. The online training will be down for a few weeks while it is being migrated to a new system. There are two online courses, each taking about an hour, followed by one in-person training session for basic certification to remove the six NNI species of greatest concern.

The next WW event will likely be scheduled in the fall. Bruce discussed with Silvia the process for a planting event. Parks schedules fewer of these, about five per year, as they require more advanced planning to acquire the plants from Pope Farm. We are tentatively planning a planting event in the spring of 2025. A new hackberry was noted in the meadow.

### Actions:

- 1) Tree reduction proposal to bulletin and town council (July 25)
- 2) Tree reduction proposal on Listserv and WG FB page (by Aug 2)
- 3) Tree reduction proposal discussion at town council meeting (Aug. 12)
- 4) Notification about grant proposal (early Sept)
- 5) Schedule next WW event (by mid-Sept)

Date of next meeting: 21 August 2024 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. A reminder will be circulated with the link.

Committee adjourned 7:55 pm.