

**Woods Committee Minutes**  
**Monday, March 4, 2019 – 7:30 PM**  
**McCathran Hall Council Room**

Approved April 1, 2019

Attendees: Patrice Klein, Charlie Challstrom, Jay Everhart, Deb Mehlferber, Greg, Silber, Meghan O’Connell

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. This will be a work session because a quorum (8) of committee members was not present.

Agenda Approval

The Agenda was approved as presented (Greg 1<sup>st</sup>/Charlie 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented (Deb 1<sup>st</sup> /Charlie 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Public Appearances - None

Update on FY2019 Budget and Proposed FY2020 Budget

Approximately \$19,000 has been spent to date in the FY19 budget leaving about \$21,000. Of this remainder, \$15,000 was identified for deer management which may not be spent this fiscal year. By June 30<sup>th</sup>, additional invasive plant control, tree safety pruning, and community outreach expenses will use some of the remaining \$6000. The FY20 proposed budget listed below was submitted to the Town Treasurer by the Feb 28th due date. There was brief discussion about the process to request use of “Town Reserves” if the WC needed funds in excess of the approved Committee fiscal year budget.

Invasive Plant Control	\$15,000
West Woods Invasive Control	5,000
Tree Safety	5,000
Tree Planting	5,000
Community Outreach	1,000
Whetstone Spring Restoration	1,000
Deer Management	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total	\$47,000

Deer Population Management Plan

A summary was provided of the separate meetings held with the leaders of 2 volunteer archery teams [Mark Eakin, Animal Connection Deer Management Team (ACDMT) and David Berk, Bow Hunting Firefighters of Maryland (BHFFMD)] that are each qualified by both State DNR and Montgomery County Parks Deer Program. Meeting discussions included the town’s concerns for deer population control, state/county hunting regulations, each team’s archery qualifications and experiences, written town permission to hunt on town property, our timeline to initiate town-authorized deer hunting including the need to amend our current Town Ordinance prohibiting hunting, and our interest to ensure deer

meat is donated to food banks. The ACDMT team has members ranging in experience and some individuals are not yet qualified to hunt in MC Parks. The BHFFMD team exceeds state/county qualifications by requiring their members to be in the MC Parks archery program, have at least 15 years archery experience, and be a professional firefighter. They also provided the names of several references to contact regarding their services and other town's experiences in using archery for deer population control.

The draft amendment to the current Town Ordinance was submitted to the Mayor who sent it to our town attorney for review. One key concern is to identify any town liabilities when granting permission to volunteer archers to harvest deer on town property during the state scheduled hunting season. It will be important to receive any revisions in time to introduce this amended Ordinance at the March TC meeting to allow the process to move forward to approval/adoption. This will include scheduling a public hearing at the April TC meeting in anticipation of approval before the Annual Town meeting in May 2019.

Several committee members have been working to develop criteria for site selection of an enclosure in the East Woods. The enclosure is proposed to be 4-6 acres in size. Criteria categories include accessibility for construction, terrain/site characteristics, enclosure shape, accessibility for monitoring (damage, deer inside, etc), and resident acceptance. Three sites have been suggested in the East Woods in reference to the East Woods transect map: (A) Nicho's Trees/Cherry Ave trail/Circle trail – areas 17, 21, and parts of 18,19; (B) Dorsey Ave trail to McCauley and Maple Ave trails – areas 11, parts of 9, 10, and 12; (C) McCauley trail, Northern boundary "Challstrom" trail to Cherry Ave trail. The WC must articulate justification for erecting an enclosure – why are we doing this, what problem are we solving? How are we promoting the recovery of the understory in tandem with a decrease in the deer population? Is it reasonable to start with a 4-6 acre size which represents 10% of East Woods total acreage? Next step is to consider size and location of the 3 suggested sites. No enclosures would be constructed until after the first controlled deer hunt season has concluded to avoid potential logistical complications for the volunteer archery team.

All deer management actions will need to have metrics to document outcomes and successes.

#### Plans for Spring West Woods Clean Up Day

The proposed date is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We will contact the Lake Committee to inquire if they would like to use this date for a joint clean-up activity as we have done in previous years.

#### Action Items for Next Meeting

- Contact references for archery teams and other town's experiences
- Updates on status of Ordinance amendment process
- Updates on East Woods enclosure site criteria and ranking

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM (Jay 1<sup>st</sup>/Deb 2<sup>nd</sup>)

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Patrice Klein, Woods Committee Co-chair