



**Woods Committee Minutes  
Monday, October 5, 2020 - 7:30 PM  
ZOOM Meeting**

Approved: November 2, 2020

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

The October, 2020 Woods Committee meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The October WC Agenda was approved unanimously (Krista 1<sup>st</sup>/Deb 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Approval of Minutes

The July 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously (Virginia 1<sup>st</sup>/Joli 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

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

BHFFMD reported that they harvested two does from the East Woods during September.

Decision on ???Trail Name in East Woods

The WC unanimously approved the name "Dogwood Trail" for the East Woods trail that runs from the eastern end of the McCauley Trail over the bridge and up to Ridge Road (Joli 1<sup>st</sup>/Meghan 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Woods Preserve Ordinance

The WC continued to discuss a Town Ordinance to establish rules to protect our Forest Preserves. The draft ordinance was circulated to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), which suggested several revisions. The WC discussed the HPC revision with a few additional edits. Dave will distribute the edited version. Please send him comments by Thursday, October 8th. The WC will forward the revised Ordinance to the Town Council for discussion at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

The WC also considered suggestions from members that it develop a comprehensive list of permissible and restricted activities in the East and West Woods. The WC will decide what specific rules need to be posted.

There was discussion of the non-resident use of and transiting through the West Woods compared to the mostly town resident use of the East Woods. A question was raised whether the East and West Woods should be restricted to town residents as 'private' lands to prevent destructive activity by non-residents. Members expressed concern that such restriction would serve to reinforce an adverse perception of town elitism by neighboring communities. Because of the long town cultural history of openness, this idea was not accepted by the Committee. Rules would be the same for the East and West Woods.

### West Woods Stormwater Management

The WC has been collaborating with the Stormwater Management Committee on drainage issues in the West Woods. The WC may have to take more responsibility on drainage issue from Towne Crest and communities north. Specifically, there is a need to involve the County in the problems created by runoff from Towne Crest, Washington Grove Lane and other surrounding areas. Members of the Storm Water Management Committee have photographs documenting erosion and degradation caused by the runoff which they have offered as support for negotiations. Virginia and Joli volunteered to help initiate conversation with Montgomery County about the responsibility for these stormwater issues.

### East/West Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects

#### Signage

We discussed the type of signs that could be posted at trail entrances. Simple signs with pictures or icons and few words might be more effective. An example might be the wooden 6" by 6" post with universal trail symbols that is at the north entrance from Shady Grove Crossing to the Washington Grove Meadows. Estimates of sign costs are being obtained, as well as examples of symbols used in federal, state, and county parks.

#### Traversing Wet Trail Areas

The WC discussed the need for an overall plan for trail maintenance. There are several areas that need work to make them more passable in wet weather, such as the entrance at the McCauley Trail. Further discussion on trail maintenance and trail signage will continue at the next meeting. Another concern is the number of dangerous trees which line the Challstrom Trail. Before the next meeting the Co-chairs will mark with green tape dangerous trees which may need to be removed. They also will contact Charlie to ask him to GPS map the locations of those trees.

### Final Updates, Comments, and Action Items for November Meeting

#### Action Items:

- Research sign images or symbols and get estimates for possible costs.

- Send comments on the Ordinance to Dave by Thursday October 8th and submit revised Ordinance to the Town Council for review.
- Begin planning with Montgomery County about West Woods drainage issues.
- Mark dangerous trees along the Challstrom Trail.
- Discuss specific plans for wet trail areas at the November meeting.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 (Virginia 1<sup>st</sup>/Joli 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Next meeting: November 2, 2020.

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