



**Woods Committee Minutes**  
**Monday, November 2, 2020 - 7:30 PM**  
**ZOOM Meeting**

Approved: December 7, 2020

Attendance: Pat Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Dave Cosson, Tom Land, Joli McCathran, Deb Mehlferber, and Krista Zanetti. Excused were Virginia, Larry, and Meghan

The November 2020 Woods Committee meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The October 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously (Deb 1<sup>st</sup>/Krista 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

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

BHFFMD harvested two does in the West Woods in October and one buck in the East Woods on November 2. A total of four deer have been harvested so far. In addition, the scavenged carcasses of two fawns were each found in the East Woods and Conservation Meadow in the past month. The cause of their deaths is unknown and unrelated to the BHFFMD bow hunt program.

Woods Preserve Ordinance

The WC reviewed the latest draft Ordinance. This Ordinance would amend the Town Charter (Article 1) to allow the Council to adopt regulations for use of The Woods (to include the wooded portion of Morgan Park) by resolution and prohibit removal of archeological artifacts, fossils, trees, plants or minerals from The Woods or any Town Park or land. The Historic Preservation Commission provided substantial input and advice on the wording of the draft Ordinance. It was noted during the discussion that injury to trees is currently prohibited in Article 1 (Section 3) related to vandalism. The new Ordinance (Section 16) would complement, not duplicate Section 3. Section 16 adds protection for plants and minerals, allows the removal of non-native invasive plants, and adds additional protection for the Historic

Preservation District. It was suggested that Section 16 reference Section 3. The title also needs to be reconciled to include "and any Town park or land" as recommended by the Forestry and Beautification Committee. The first "Whereas" should include "other wooded portions of the Town." Dave will forward a clean copy of the Ordinance to the Mayor and Town Council on behalf of the WC.

### East/West Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects

#### *Signage*

Krista has been working with the Sign City company located on Route 355 to design and price trail markers with universal signage. Markers will conform to Montgomery County standards. Posts will be brown with the trail name and arrows at the top. Blocks with universal symbols will be attached vertically below to provide information about regulations of use. An example of this type of sign is at the northern edge of the Conservation Meadow at the entrance to Shady Grove Crossing. Krista has requested the price per trail marker. The WC noted that any bid over \$5000 would require a Request for Proposals.

Approximately 12 dead or dangerous trees posing public safety hazards along trails in the East Woods, mostly along the Challstrom Trail, have been marked with green flagging tape. We have requested Town Maintenance for an assessment to remove them over the winter months.

Falling leaves are obscuring many trails. However, we will have to wait until warmer weather arrives in the spring to paint more blazes to better define trails. In the meantime, with use, trails should become clearer by the end of November.

#### *Traversing wet trail areas*

Several wet trails in the East Woods were discussed. The WC will investigate the cost of spreading brown gravel for about 30 feet on the Maple Trail near Franklin. This would require approximately 100 square feet of gravel for a 2-inch-deep spread. Timber turnpikes would solve some wet areas along the Franklin Trail, the lower McCauley Trail, the McCauley Trail at Pine, and the Challstrom Trail. Corrugated plastic tubes set in soil and gravel could be placed under the timber turnpikes to facilitate water flow under the trails. Steve has some good soil which we could use. Krista will distribute information on timber turnpikes.

Other winter projects would be to reroute through the green briar part of the Challstrom Trail just north of Bradfield Crossing. This could avoid a wet portion of the existing trail. Wood debris needs to be cut and cleared from the south side of the upper portion of the McCauley Trail. This would improve drainage from Grove Road into the woods instead of along the trail. Tom has a chain saw and will assess this project.

Work on drainage problems in the West Woods was postponed. However, trees along the drainage channel near Maple Lake would damage the Lake fence and the storage shed if they fell. These trees should be continually monitored.

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

##### Action Items:

- Send a clean copy of the draft Woods Preservation Ordinance to the Mayor and TC.
- Pursue negotiations with Sign City company for trail markers.
- Follow up on removal of hazardous trees in the East Woods.
- Investigate the feasibility of spreading gravel along 30 feet of the Maple Trail near Franklin.
- Circulate photos of timber turnpikes.
- Begin clearing wood debris on the south side of the upper McCauley Trail.
- Monitor trees along the Lake fence for progressing instability.

##### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Next meeting: December 7, 2020.

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