



**Woods Committee Minutes
Monday, May 3, 2021 - 7:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting**

Approved: June 7, 2021

Attendance: Pat Klein, Joan Mahaffey, Dave Cosson, Larry French, Deb Mehlferber, Virginia Quesada and Krista Zanetti.

The April 2021 Woods Committee meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The May WC Agenda was unanimously approved (Virginia 1st/Deb 2nd).

Approval of Minutes

The April 5, 2021 WC Minutes were unanimously approved (Larry 1st/Deb 2nd).

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Woods Preserve and the Town Land Permit Application Ordinance Update – TC Approved

This Ordinance moves forward to a public hearing in June.

East/West Woods Trail Maintenance Priority Projects Update

Signage

Interior trail signs in the East Woods would be 4"x4" squares with trail names and arrows. A workgroup comprised of Patty, Joan, Larry and Virginia volunteered to go on site and map each interior trail sign location and put the information on a spreadsheet. A commercial company will make the 4"x4" squares following a spreadsheet provided by the Woods Committee. Once we have this inventory of signage, the final costs will be clearer. The squares will be attached to 4"x4"x6' pressure-treated posts. The Woods Committee will purchase the posts through Steve. Volunteers will mount the metal squares onto the posts. Steve has agreed to install the posts. There are ten interior trail intersections which need to be marked. Rules for trail etiquette will only go on the exterior signs at trail entrances. Vertical posts for entrance trail signage will be 4"x4"x8'.

The workgroup will meet on Saturday morning, May 8, at 9:00 at the Town garage to begin mapping trail markers. Krista volunteered to double check the work of the first team of volunteers.

Timber Turnpikes for Wet Trail Areas

It was agreed that Maple Avenue extended will be the next priority for maintenance of wet trails. After a heavy rain, we should mark large wet and muddy areas and also mark areas where water drains across the trail. Patty will talk to the contractor we used last winter about installing culverts and timber turnpikes on Maple Avenue extended during the upcoming fall and winter.

Bradfield Crossing Restoration

Patty, Joan and Larry, in consultation with Steve, have identified a new location for the Bradfield Crossing about 30 feet east of the present treacherous crossing. Steve will install a pipe at the location. Later he can haul dirt closer to the site so that volunteers can cover the pipe to make it safe for foot traffic. A path will have to be cut through about 40 feet of green briar to join again to the Challstrom Trail. This new crossing will be safer and more scenic than the previous crossing. It will also eliminate a very muddy and slippery section of the trail on the far side of the creek.

West Woods Spring Clean-Up Tasks

Volunteers pulled pachysandra and garlic mustard. They hauled out heavy bags of cans and broken glass and pottery from a party site along the creek which crosses the Yellow Trail heading to Kelley Park. Thank you to Virginia for her Herculean effort. There was not time to clean up near Towne Crest. This project will have to wait. Volunteers should be especially aware of dangers from ticks and snakes. It is predicted to be a heavy year for ticks. The cicadas will provide food for many animals, including snakes, both venomous and non-venomous. Some predict that Copperheads may be more plentiful.

WC FY 2021 Accomplishments Report for Annual Town Meeting – May 8, 2021

Pat will compose a short slide presentation including the Woods Committee's Fy21 budget, pictures of trail improvements and information about our trail signage project.

Final Updates, Announcements, Comments and Action Items for June 7, 2021, Meeting

- Summer in the Parks has requested a list of possible volunteer items which children over 16 could do for SSL hours. These items were suggested: help assemble trail signs, spread chips, haul dirt to new Bradfield crossing, cut greenbrier for new trail section, water trees, identify trees for later labelling with signage.
- Joan attended a Montgomery County Tree Advisory Committee Meeting. Committee members expressed an interest in having a fieldtrip to Washington Grove in the fall to observe our forest restoration progress.
- Larry will talk to Steve about moving a pipe to the new Bradfield Crossing site.
- Begin reconnaissance on signs needed at each trail intersection and trail entrance in the East Woods.
- Prepare Woods Committee slide presentation for the Annual Town Meeting.
- Mark wet areas and cross-trail drainage spots along Maple Avenue extended.

- Contact landscape contractor, Bill Orsini, about possible turnpike and trail improvements along Maple Avenue extended during the fall and winter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM (Krista 1st/Virginia 2nd).

Next meeting will be Monday, June 7, 2021, at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Klein and Joan Mahaffey, Co-chairs