



# MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.


10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

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October 4, 2018

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on the Environment

FROM: Scott Gole, Assistant Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture 

SUBJECT: Meeting Notice

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The next meeting of the Committee on the Environment will be held Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the North Creek Community Center. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact me at 301-948-0110, ext. 2336 or by e-mail to [sgole@mvf.org](mailto:sgole@mvf.org).

SG/tg



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## **COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

**North Creek Community Center**

**20125 Arrowhead Road**

### **AGENDA**

1. Residents' Time
2. Call Meeting to Order
3. Chairman's Remarks
4. Review Minutes of Meeting July 11, 2018 – (Enclosure 4)
5. Board Liaison Report
6. Old Business
  - a. Update on Lake Marion Shoreline Repair Project
  - b. Update on North Creek Stream Valley Shoreline Stabilization Project
  - c. Update on Potential Tree Planting Project Around North Creek Lake
7. Environmental News Updates
8. Next meeting date – January 9, 2019

**Montgomery Village Foundation**  
**Committee on the Environment**  
**July 11, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Montgomery Village Foundation Committee on the Environment was held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at the North Creek Community Center, Montgomery Village, MD.

**Members Present**

Claudette Lease, Chairman  
Nancy Farrar  
Ed Ohanian  
Tom Vetter  
Orlow Zumwalt

**Members Absent**

Scott Dyer, Board Liaison  
Tim Goodfellow  
Chris Mead  
Jeannie Pizzonia  
Mario Salazar

**Others Present**

Scott Gole, MVF Assistant Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture  
2 representatives, Ecotone, Inc.  
Sarah Albert, Recording Secretary  
7 residents

**Presentation by Ecotone: Lake Marion Shoreline Repair and North Creek Stream Valley**

Kurt Hall and Johnathan Stewart of Ecotone, Inc. addressed the Committee and residents about upcoming shoreline repair work at Lake Marion and stream restoration work at the North Creek Stream Valley in Montgomery Village. Mr. Hall explained that Ecotone, Inc. has been in business 20 years and works throughout the Mid-Atlantic area. The company specializes in stream and wetland restoration and has built more than 20 miles of stream. Mr. Hall stated that a company goal was to think long term, using sustainability and onsite resources. Mr. Hall showed project examples of erosion work and explained that representatives from the company would meet with the community throughout the project.

Johnathan Stewart, a designer with Ecotone, Inc., described the project at North Creek Stream Valley. He explained that the project would begin by Montgomery Village Avenue and continue to Wightman Road and would focus on erosion along the stream. The proposed

conditions include creating a natural channel stream design, creating a floodplain connection, working around existing infrastructure, and creating long-term channel stability. The structure would include Toe Wood, which would incorporate logs into the design. The Toe Wood would serve as a protection for the banks and the trees would introduce carbon back into the stream. Woody Riffle, a combination of wood and rocks, would replace the existing gabion baskets. Another common structure that could be used is a Log Vane, which provides stream control and good fish habitats. Mr. Stewart explained that the original width of the stream would be incorporated into the design.

Mr. Stewart also described the Lake Marion Shoreline Stabilization Project. Here, the banks are actively eroding in five areas. The purpose of the project would be to create a gradual slope along the shoreline and to expand the shoreline back out into the lake. Rocks would be utilized to stabilize the shoreline. One design option would include planting trees, five to six feet in height. Another design option would be installing grasses.

Mr. Hall explained that the purpose of both projects would be to look at the long term conditions of the shorelines in both areas. He added that Ecotone, Inc. was in the early design phases for both projects and was seeking feedback from the community. One resident (no name given) asked whether there would be a net loss of trees for the North Creek Stream Restoration Project. Mr. Hall responded that tree removal would be involved in the North Creek Stream Restoration Project, but he could not state how many trees would be removed. He explained that trees and warm season grasses would be planted when construction is finished. Mr. Hall added that the designers would consider beaver activity.

Mr. Gole explained that state of Maryland awarded Ecotone, Inc. the proposal for the North Creek Stream Valley improvement project.

### **Residents' Time**

Mr. Wilder addressed the Committee regarding the lake clean-up day at Lake Whetstone. He stated that there were a number of plastic water bottles removed from the lake and that the bottles comprised most of the debris. Mr. Wilder asked how so many bottles could end up in the lake. Mr. Gole responded that there are about 2,000 acres that drain into Lake Whetstone, which could account for the large number of plastic bottles and debris that wash down into the lake.

Mr. Wilder addressed the changes at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He stated that the new head, Andrew Wheeler, was a former coal lobbyist. He added that President Trump was now starting to attack judges who are enforcing environmental regulations.

Mr. Wilder also discussed the local elections results. He stated that Hans Riemer and three new County Council Members were strong environmentalists, but that Sidney Katz and Craig Rice did not have very strong records. He added that the county executive race was still not determined. Robin Ficker and Nancy Floreen, who are both running for County Executive, did not have strong environmental records. At the state level in District 39, Lesley Lopez, Gabriel Acevero, and Kirill Reznik won House seats. He added that Representative Shane Robinson was a terrible loss as he was a strong environmentalist.

Ms. Wilder presented information from the goose count, which has been conducted annually for 18 years. Ms. Wilder issued an analysis of the goose count yearly comparison to the Committee. Per acre of parkland, there are 2.21 geese. The average for 18 years is 2.19 geese per acre. She stated that this year's goose count in South Valley Park was unusual. There is ongoing construction in South Valley Park, which could have disrupted the geese. She added that there was a significant issue of residents not cleaning up after their dogs.

Ms. Wilder explained that the goose count was requested by the MVF Board of Directors in 2001 after a public forum regarding geese-human interaction was held with representatives from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Humane Society of the United States. The Montgomery Village Foundation Board unanimously adopted a policy of co-existence with the wildlife. Ms. Wilder added that wildlife is one of the greatest assets of Montgomery Village.

Ms. Wilder stated that the goose count demonstrated a stable population of geese over several years. She added that drivers have been very good at waiting for geese that are crossing roads. Mr. Wilder noted that there were fewer geese, but bigger families.

Orlow Zumwalt addressed the Committee regarding geese going into yards. He asked for suggestions about how to reduce the number of geese entering his yard. Ms. Wilder explained that geese are not able to fly right now, but this should change in a few weeks.

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Ms. Lease, chairman presided. She called the meeting to order at 8:33 p.m.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Ms. Lease cited an article about the parcel of land where Lake Forest Mall is. She stated that the article described how the City of Gaithersburg is seeking to turn Lake Forest Mall and the area that includes the former Toys R Us and Burlington Coat Factory into a business enterprise zone. Mr. Gole explained that this mall is within the city of Gaithersburg and the purpose of the program was to encourage economic growth and development.

## Review Minutes of Meeting April 11, 2018

Ms. Lease asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the minutes.

**Mr. Vetter moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2018 committee meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with four for and one abstention. (Ms. Farrar abstained.)**

### Board Liaison Report

No report.

### New Business

#### a. Presentation by Ecotone – Lake Marion shoreline repair and North Creek Stream Valley

The Committee discussed the presentation by Ecotone, Inc. Mr. Gole said that the projects were in the design phase. The Lake Marion project would involve five areas, where there is significant shoreline erosion. The project has to be designed and then permits must be obtained from the County and State before the projects can begin.

#### b. Review of Goose Count Data

Mr. Gole stated that the annual goose count was conducted on June 23, 2018. He said that when he was counting the geese, he observed a number of geese walking from South Valley to Lake Whetstone. The goose count was conducted at Village parks with lakes and ponds. Counters included members of the Committee of the Environment, MVF staff, and volunteers. Mr. Gole thanked those who were able to help. The numbers are consistent from previous years.

The data below was collected during the count:

<u>PARK</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GEESE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GOSLINGS</u>
Lake Whetstone	241	7
South Valley Park	29	0
North Creek Lake	152	7
Lake Marion Park	44	0
Ed DeSimon Rec. Area	25	0
Kaufmann Park	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	491	14

Grand total = 505

Mr. Gole stated that a public forum was conducted in 2001 with the assistance of Department of Agriculture, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Humane Society. The Montgomery Village Board made a motion to establish a baseline of the number of geese and the count is conducted annually. The geese on Foundation owned ponds are counted, but the former golf course ponds and the homeowner association ponds are not. The count provides a study to show that the number of geese is consistent over 18 years. Mr. Gole added that young geese that do not have black or white on their face are considered goslings.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Update on Tree Plantings at MVF Parks and Facilities**

Mr. Gole followed up with the Committee regarding their motion calling for tree plantings around North Creek Lake. He explained that the Board liked the idea of planting trees, but did not want to limit the plantings to just North Creek Lake. Mr. Gole explained that the Committee could walk MVF park properties to survey areas to plant trees. He added that the trees should not be planted too close to paths, because the roots can break up the path.

The committee agreed to meet at North Creek Lake prior to the October meeting to survey areas for possible tree planting.

Mr. Gole added that he had submitted another application to the Tree Montgomery Program.

## **Environmental News Updates**

Mr. Wilder recounted the County Council hearing about storm water management. The presentation included information about water quality. Representatives stated that they had not been receiving timely information from the Department on the Environment.

## **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting for the Committee on the Environment will be held on October 10, 2018 at North Creek Community Center.

## **Adjournment**

**Ms. Farrar moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.  
The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. The reports, authorizations and other documents presented at the meeting have been initialed for identification and attached hereto or filed in the Montgomery Village Foundation offices.

*/s/*

**Sarah Albert**  
**Recording Secretary**



## **MVF Committee on the Environment**

### **Results of July 11, 2018 Meeting**

#### **Motion List**

- 1. Mr. Vetter moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2018 committee meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with four for and one abstention. (Ms. Farrar abstained.)**
- 2. Ms. Farrar moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

#### **Action List**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Gole will send example design photos of what the finished projects at Lake Marion and North Creek Stream Valley will look like.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Gole will circulate a Committee meeting date in September to walk around North Creek Lake to survey areas for possible tree planting.