



MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 www.montgomeryvillage.com

January 4, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on the Environment

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Committee on the Environment will be held Wednesday, January 9, 2019 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.

SG/tg



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COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 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 October 10, 2018 – (Enclosure 4)
5. Board Liaison Report
6. Old Business
 - a. Review Standards for MVF Property Maintenance around Lakes, Ponds and Streams (Enclosure 6a)
 - b. Update on North Creek Stream Valley Shoreline Stabilization Project
 - c. Update on Lake Marion Shoreline Repair Project
 - d. Update on Potential Tree Planting Project Around North Creek Lake
7. Environmental News Updates
8. Next meeting date – April 10, 2019

**Montgomery Village Foundation
Committee on the Environment
October 10, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Montgomery Village Foundation Committee on the Environment was held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at the North Creek Community Center, Montgomery Village, MD.

Members Present

Claudette Lease, Chairman
Tim Goodfellow
Jeannie Pizzonia
Ed Ohanian
Mario Salazar

Members Absent

Scott Dyer, Board Liaison
Nancy Farrar
Chris Mead
Tom Vetter
Orlow Zumwalt

Others Present

Scott Gole, MVF Assistant Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Sarah Albert, Recording Secretary
4 residents

Residents' Time

Mr. Wilder addressed the Committee regarding the lake clean-up day at Lake Whetstone. This time volunteer cleaners found fishing trash including lines, hooks, and cans. He asked that signs be posted and an article be placed in the Village News. Mr. Wilder added that the Oarlock sockets on the row boats need to be replaced.

Ms. Pizzonia noted that the area near the boat house should have improved signage to notify fishermen that there is a container for their debris. The signage could be placed in the showcase.

Mr. Wilder asked for an informational handout regarding the proposed stream stabilization project. For the North Creek Lake project, Mr. Wilder asked that good trees not be cut down just to build toe lines. Mr. Wilder asked about the potential disruption of habitat, should trees be cut down.

Mr. Wilder stated that he observed people dumping yard clippings in the forest and stream area near his house. Mr. Wilder asked for the installation of no dumping signs near the South Valley ponds. Ms. Lease encouraged Mr. Wilder to contact the local homeowners association regarding installation of such signs.

Mr. Wilder stated that county executive candidate Marc Elrich had a strong environmental record and was against the construction of M-83.

Terry O'Greedy thanked the Committee for rehabilitation work in the area around Lake Marion. She asked that residents around the lake be notified when construction starts.

Ellen Hardy stated that she is concerned about the Lake Marion restoration project. She explained that this area has had rats and snakes and that the construction might displace them. Ms. Hardy asked that there be education about this displacement of the animals, which could be in the form of a flyer or an article in the newspaper.

Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Lease, chairman presided. She called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

Chairman's Remarks

Ms. Lease addressed the Committee about changing smoke detector batteries. She explained that if one is over 65 and telephones 311, members of the fire department will change your smoke detector battery.

Separately, Maryland has a new program called "The Maryland Senior Call Check." Maryland is the first state to have this service where someone will call you every day to check on you. The service is free. The phone number is 800-243-3425.

Review Minutes of Meeting July 11, 2018

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

Mr. Ohanian moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 committee meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and passed with four for and one abstention. (Mr. Goodfellow abstained.)

Board Liaison Report

No report.

Old Business

a. Update on Lake Marion Shoreline Repair Project

Mr. Gole provided follow-up information to the Committee regarding Lake Marion Shoreline Repair Project. Mr. Gole reviewed highlights of Ecotone's July presentation. The

next phase is for the project to go to permit review. The project proposal will be sent to the county and state for review and comment. Comments, if given, will be incorporated and then final permits will be secured. After the permits are secured, the project would be sent to construction companies for bid. At this time, construction is planned to begin in early 2019.

Mr. Gole explained that the hardscape work would take place underneath the water by where the rocks are. The softscape work would be where the grasses are. The path would be restored and extended, so that the lake would not be right at the path's edge. This project is funded by the Montgomery Village Reserves Budget and about \$75,000 has been budgeted for the project.

Mr. Goodfellow asked for more information about the restoration detail.

b. Update on North Creek Stream Valley Shoreline Stabilization Project

This project has been granted by the state of Maryland and will take place along the stream by Wightman Road. This is a conservation easement project. Currently, this project is in the process of permitting. Construction is planned for the summer of 2019.

Mr. Goodfellow asked that Ecotone give a tour of the area to see the construction.

c. Update on the Potential Tree Planting Project Around North Creek Lake

Mr. Gole explained that last month, members of the committee and residents took a walk around North Creek Lake to identify areas that would benefit from tree canopy. Following the walk around, pictures were taken to mark the selected areas. Mr. Gole contacted Tree Montgomery with a proposal for the installation of new trees. Mr. Gole explained that the Foundation would continue to follow-up.

The Committee recommended that Mr. Gole notify local home owners' associations about the Tree Montgomery Program.

Environmental News Updates

Mr. Ohanan stated that there was a prescription drug take back program to ensure that medications were appropriately disposed. He stated that this was an environmental issue and asked whether the Committee could support such efforts. The next prescription drug take back program will take place on Saturday, October 27th and is being run by the police department. Mr. Gole stated that he will investigate the program. Mr. Goodfellow recommended a supplemental article in the Village News describing the environmental impact of improperly disposing of medications.

Mr. Wilder stated that there would be a briefing on Tuesday, October 16th at 7:00 pm regarding the development of the former golf course. Mr. Goodfellow stated that he co-wrote a

letter expressing concern about the proposed drainage of seven ponds. The letter asked that the wildlife be relocated. Mr. Goodfellow stated that many specimen trees are slated to be cut down for the development.

Ms. Pizzonia presented an update about ongoing tree trimming efforts. She stated that there are several trees that have been trimmed or removed near Lake Whetstone. Ms. Pizzonia also showed pictures of trash left by fishermen. She asked that the tree near the trash can be sealed to protect the tree. She also stated that there was at least one leak in South Village, which resulted in pooling water and mosquitos down on the Lake Whetstone Stream Valley path. Mr. Gole explained that there have been times in the past where the leaks have been caused by pipe breaks on South Village residents property and the water drains underground down to the stream valley. Mr. Goodfellow added that this area was slippery. Mr. Goodfellow suggested building a trench to channel the water away from the path. Mr. Salazar asked whether this condition was the result of a leak or faulty grading. Mr. Gole will follow-up with the South Village Manager about this area; he added that this was South Valley property and that it might be difficult to find the source of the leak. Ms. Pizzonia asked that the Committee recommend South Village review this matter. Mr. Goodfellow asked that someone try to trace the source of the water. Mr. Goodfellow asked that should a source not be found, that some sort of structural remediation be considered.

Ms. Pizzonia stated that the forsythia bushes above a retaining wall on South Village property near the Lake Whetstone Stream Valley have been allowed to grow over the timber wall. She asked that the bushes be trimmed back to allow sunlight and prevent the wall from becoming damaged. The area has become too shady and become muddy.

Ms. Pizzonia stated that a lot of the wood timber borders at the Lake Whetstone Park picnic area has been replaced, but the steps need to be checked. Mr. Gole will follow-up.

Ms. Pizzonia asked about the construction on the bridge at the park at Lake Whetstone. Mr. Gole stated that this was Whetstone Homes Corporation Property. Ms. Pizzonia stated that the project was being undertaken by Montgomery County.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting for the Committee on the Environment will be held on January 9, 2019 at North Creek Community Center.

Adjournment

**Mr. Salazar moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.
The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 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 October 10, 2018 Meeting

Motion List

1. **Mr. Ohanian moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 committee meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and passed with four for and one abstention. (Mr. Goodfellow abstained.)**
2. **Mr. Salazar moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Action List

_____ Mr. Gole will investigate creation of sign publish notice in the *Village News* regarding appropriate disposal of fishing trash.

_____ Mr. Gole will contact residents surrounding Lake Marion when shoreline restoration work begins.

_____ Mr. Gole will send more detailed information to Mr. Goodfellow regarding the Lake Marion shoreline restoration project.

_____ Mr. Gole will schedule a walkthrough tour with Ecotone and Committee Members of the North Creek Lake Stream Valley Stream area near Wightman Road in April.

_____ Mr. Gole will contact community managers regarding the Tree Montgomery Program.

_____ Mr. Gole will investigate the local drug take back program to see whether the Committee could co-sponsor such efforts.

_____ Mr. Gole will follow-up about the possible leak emanating from South Village.

_____ Mr. Gole will check condition of wooden steps at Lake Whetstone Park.



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Standards for Montgomery Village Foundation Common Property Maintenance Around Lakes, Ponds and Streams

Purpose: To foster improved view sheds and safety, while maintaining shoreline stabilization and other environmental benefits around Montgomery Village Foundation lakes, ponds and streams, and to enhance community property values in Montgomery Village, the following standards shall apply:

1. No mowing shall occur within 3 feet of lake and pond shorelines wherever possible, and stream buffer width will be as wide as practical.
2. Vegetation surrounding lakes and ponds shall be pruned at varying heights to provide a natural appearance and intermittent view of the lake or pond.
3. Shrubs/Brush within 5 feet of benches and around habitable structures will be maintained at 12 inches or less.
4. Pruning of vegetation shall take place once a year in late fall/winter (or during the recommended pruning period for a particular species), however vegetation that is encroaching upon paths and impeding path access or that is creating a safety issue may be pruned at any time. Pruning should not harm a plant's survival, flowering or pollination and should enhance a plant's growth, shape or form
5. Non-native or invasive species that are aggressively spreading, displacing other native vegetation or disrupting the environment; or trees that exhibit excessive crowding, may be removed on a case by case basis.
6. Landscaper will use hand tools only such as hand saws, pruners, loppers, and gas shears. No bush hogging or clear cutting will be permitted.
7. Lake and pond dam embankments will be maintained per State guidelines (as referenced in the Maryland Dam Safety Manual) and directives.
8. The Maryland Department of Environment and the MVF Committee on the Environment will be notified of shoreline maintenance prior to commencement of any work that is outside the stated standards above. A description and reason for such shoreline maintenance work shall be provided to the MVF Committee on the Environment at their next meeting.
9. These standards shall be reviewed annually by the MVF Committee on the Environment and any recommended changes shall be forwarded to the MVF Board of Directors for consideration.

Approved by MVF Board of Directors 7/23/15