

Minutes from Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting February 5, 2018

Present: Iris Mars, Sara McGarity, Deborah Wessner

The following topics were discussed.

Grease Recycling:

- Green bin can accept fats, greases, oils, with food waste.
- Deborah wrote an article for The Log on FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease). Team should review and comment. Deborah will follow-up with an electronic copy.

Door Hangers:

- Door hangers will be distributed late March. Deborah is still waiting for them to be printed.
- Also, Deborah wants to wait until people are ready to be outside doing things in their yard.

Bright Passage:

- Issues with steep outfalls further down the street; Iris has not yet walked there. Sara can see erosion from the path. The path goes from one side of Bright Passage to the other and around the cul-de-sac.
- Iris will do an online review for topography, etc.
- Possibly a focus for encouraging rain gardens and prioritizing site selection by CA for the reimbursement program.

Winter Inspiration aka Rain Garden Seminar:

- We have a date: March 15, 2018. Flyer and log article have been prepared. Flyers were given to attendees to hang around the community.
- Deborah has more rain garden photos and permissions from owners to photo. Iris will follow-up with her on this. Iris has the list of CA rain gardens and can photo any winter views from street or paths, when it's warmer. Close-ups require owner permission. Sara offered to create a Google Map with the rain garden locations and set permissions so it is private and accessible only to WAC members. She will also look into attaching photos as way to keep the files accessible and organized.

- John McCoy should tell HRWAC where to focus marketing for rain garden program. Deborah is in touch with him on this and he should get back to her next week.
- Rain Garden program scheduled for March 15th. John McCoy will do part of the program; perhaps someone from HoCo will come and explain the HoCo reimbursement program. Deborah is checking with HoCo office on this, but she thinks it may not happen because they're short-staffed.
- Identify stuff to put on the sign-in table:
 - sign-in sheet;
 - request for site visit;
 - WSA publications inre rain gardens, including magnet giveaways;
 - coupons for Tree-Mendous MD state tree planting program;
 - CA should bring rain garden brochures.
 - Sara offered to create a info sheet handout and/or signup about getting involved in the Hickory Ridge WAC
- We need to work with John on what the presentation should include such as statistics on how many rain gardens in the village.

Stenciling:

- Deborah will submit Iris' list for Board approval and get a letter. Iris can upload it to the County website.
- No additional information inre other areas to stencil, yet.
- Possibly ask a steward from WSA to walk Clary's Forest and put together a list of CA drains; Iris is holding off doing this herself until progress is made on the Hawthorn drains.
- Stenciling won't start until it's warmer.
- Unsure of whether to use the WSA supplies or get a grant to get our own.
- Ellen has a wagon; Deborah has an old rusting wagon.

Pull and Plant:

- No news for the next Weed Warrior training.
- Deborah will check with John McCoy inre when to do the Pull and Plant, since he will be there for the kickoff.

- Iris will do another walk through when it's warmer and things start to grow. She has winter photos.
- Unknown what will be pulled, whether to pull shrubs like Multiflora Rose or start with Garlic Mustard; unsure what's out there because things are dormant now.

CA News:

- CA is working with HoCo in re taking over maintenance of some of the ponds; legal people are working on granting easements so Howard County can do the work and take credit for meeting TMDL requirements.
- Considerable money has been spent on dredging the main lakes (Elkhorn, Wilde Lake) and some large ponds (Jackson).
- CA is looking at establishing an Environmental/Climate Change Committee and whether WAC should be part of it. We think the two should be separate since they have different missions and focuses. One representative from the CA WAC would be a member of the Climate Change AC. Eleven people would be on the Committee. Concerns about competing agendas and conflicts of interest. E.g., solar vs. trees. Herding cats.

Native Meadow:

- Iris needs to follow-up with Georgia on sites in HoCo to photo. Georgia put it on hold due to winter holiday.
- Iris suggested heading to Bowie to photo what's going on there..
- Probably not for this budget cycle – too much work involved.

CA Marketing:

- Statistics are nice – CA should market what has been done, percentage of rain gardens.
- Iris can pull from our rain garden list to see where we are percentage-wise.

Watershed Palooza: Postponed discussion until next month.

Webpage and Emails:

- HRV office has reached its limit of five emails for the web hosting service. We would need a Gmail if we want our own mailbox.