

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Hickory Ridge Village Watershed Advisory Committee
Committee Meeting – Oct 2 2017 - Hawthorn Center – 7pm

I. Proposed Agenda approved.

II. Old Business

- **Stenciling Project:** Ellen is planning to begin on October 14th after the village cleanup in the morning. Iris will help as needed. Actions are shown below.
 - Ellen will work with the HRV office staff to get the brochures printed.
 - Ellen will contact HRV Board Member Allison Sultan, to invite her to participate.
 - Future Stenciling: Deborah wants to get the first project in Clemens Crossing done then move to another area in HR. Iris suggested an article in The Log after Ellen's project is done, asking for volunteers who want to contribute sweat equity.
 - Deborah will work with Anne to get the word out in The Log following the project, since we have too little time before the project.
 - Iris will work with Ellen and Howard County Sustainability to get approval for additional storm drain stenciling.

- **WalkAbouts:** Iris and Deborah have been conducting walks on the streets in HRV and have completed the first walk on about 2/3 of the streets. Thus far the primary things we have seen are downspouts that need to be re-directed and English Ivy and Bamboo invasives that should be contained.
 - WAC is not proposing to amend the guidelines to require downspouts to be rerouted from hard surfaces because the problem is widespread and will create more work for the RAC and cost for homeowners. We're focusing on educating people to change what they can and ways to do it.
 - The Board has approved the idea of using door hangars to remind people about things they might change. Deborah will be drafting a design for review by the team and then the Board.
 - A question was raised about helping homeowners remove English Ivy or other invasives. The WAC agreed this is not a suitable activity for us as there are liability issues. We can direct residents to contact U-MD Extension for ideas on best ways to remove it since pesticide applications should be done by pesticide professionals licensed by the State of MD.

III. New Business

- Sara McGarity as **At Large Member**: Deborah spoke with Anne to confirm that the bylaws will not let Sara be a village rep on our committee. However, nothing will prevent us from having Sara serve as an At Large Member to represent the outparcels that exist in our “Swiss cheese” village. Sara confirmed she is willing to serve in this capacity.

Ideas for coming year:

- **Local Rain Garden Tours vs. seminar**: After discussing the idea with John McCoy, he advised that it would be better to have a presentation in Hawthorn with a speaker. John (and Anne K from HRV office) felt that insurance liability issues, accessibility to some rain gardens, and coordination of people to be at the properties for a prolonged period are issues that make a tour cumbersome. Actions are:
 - Deborah will contact John to get a list of rain gardens in HR.
 - Iris volunteered to contact the owners to ask for permission to photo the rain gardens for a slide show for a rain garden forum in winter or early spring.
- **Watershed abatement plans for shopping center renovation**: One concern we should be aware of is whether the abatement plan will affect the stormwater pond off Quarterstaff Road
 - Iris will contact Joan and get more information about what's on the plans and see where to go from there.
- **Defining a watershed webpage or focus on HRV website/Facebook**: We need to determine what articles can be placed on the HRV news on the websites as references for our residents and how the web can attract positive resident attention.
 - Iris, Ellen, and Sara will work on a design and content for the web page(s). Joan uploads them to the HR website. Content will include copies of Log articles.
- **Fall Cleanup – Oct 14**: Will be a lower scale project than our Spring cleanup, in lower Clemens near the Martin Road Park. Scouts have been recruited to help.
 - Iris and Deborah will attend.
 - Deborah will see if HRV office agrees to hand out dog waste bags at the cleanup.
- **Pull and Plant**: It would be ideal to have a Pull and Plant in spring.
 - Iris will see if she can encourage Pat Smith, another HRV Weed Warrior, to assist in the planning of the event.
 - Deborah will speak with John McCoy about what location might be reasonable for the next P&P, since we already did one.

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- **Articles for the LOG:** We need to determine which articles should be placed in the village newspaper and when. There will be times when we need to focus on something new, but many articles have already been written and can be reposted.
 - Deborah will provide Iris with articles that have already been published.
 - Iris will suggest, with the help of the team, a publication schedule and identify what to print when and who will write the article(s).
 - Deborah will write an article on proper disposal of unused/unwanted prescription and over the counter drugs and get the office to publish it.
- **Signage for HRV Native Garden:** Deborah indicated that Jan Clark has offered to put some signage about the native plant garden in place, but first she needs to replace some of the plants that did not thrive over the summer.
 - Deborah will continue to pursue getting the signage.
- **Special Walkabouts:** There is an opportunity for the WAC to be proactive in noting HRV common areas (Open Space) where there is watershed attention needed. This may require one or more special “walkabouts” to identify the areas and then speak with the adjacent homeowners to see what their perceptions are before we publish anything to the Board. Once target areas are identified, CA Open Space needs to include the work in budget requests for the next fiscal years ... something that requires the HRV Board’s approval and action. One such area is the street named Bright Passage: issues with flooding; steep hills drain to the homeowners' properties. WAC should go out and take a look to get an idea of what's going on. Another area is White Cord Way: properties have a steep drop to the streams leading to the river. These areas may be targeted for outreach on rain garden installations. The CA Budget has some funding requests for renovation of the White Cord area in FY20, but we do not have details of the design that is planned.
 - Iris and Sara will review CA's documentation and identify a set of easy-to-follow metrics we can use during walkthroughs.
 - To be discussed further at next meeting.
- **Spring Watershed Palooza:** We need a date, sometime in April, maybe, possibly with election day to bring out people (if we have an election). We would like the native garden signage done by then. We could have demonstrations using the watershed model from WSA, provide native seeds and plants, games, checklist, rain barrel giveaway, VIPs.
- **Create a Map of Watershed Devices in HRV:** This could include locations of rain gardens, bio-retention, streams, possibly identified as part of the HRV marked Open Space areas as well as streets.

- Iris will contact Open Space to get the HRV parcel boundaries. The bridge numbers can be identified by walking through, but it might be faster to get them on a map.
- Consider using the WSA-GIS capability to map these and ensure that we do not post storm drains or other areas that could be security issues.