

Notes from Hickory Ridge WAC Meeting 10/3/2018

Present: Iris Mars, Deborah Wessner

Since no quorum was present, we did not conduct a formal meeting. We discussed the following:

WAC Membership: we need more hands on deck so we can do more projects. All are encouraged to identify possible new members.

Log Articles: Deborah explained that Etarae is working on consolidating previously published Log articles and developing a publication schedule.

Plastic Reduction Campaign: Deborah wants to find some way that we can get our Village members to pledge to reduce single-use plastic use. She will look at existing projects and propose something that might work for our Village. We will pilot-test it and see if we can take it CA-wide. Iris proposed an info card like the Maryland Native Plant Society's shopper's card to give to restaurants. The Pledge or some kind of outreach, could include a checklist to help people think about plastics. The logistics of all this needs to be worked on.

Invasive Species Sales: Deborah noted pink signs at Home Depot on plants that are known to be invasive in MD. Nurseries are not forbidden to sell the plants, however. To ban sales within the state would require legislation.

CA/HRV/WAC Communications: Deborah would like to see better communications among and between CA Open Space (including John McCoy), Hickory Ridge Village (office and board), and our WAC, so we are all aware of stormwater management projects within the Village. Projects are sometimes initiated through Open Space and the Village seems to be the last to know. In addition, many projects are developed that cost a lot, and some are done through cost-share arrangements, and much of the needs and benefits for these projects are not advertised. CA has a new communications director, but we don't know if she has plans for these kinds of communications to the members.

Building on the Floodplain: it looks like homes in Dorsey's Search at the end of Columbia Road were built on the floodplain. After the heavy rains, that area has been flooded. This is a permitting and planning/zoning problem from HoCo, since HoCo allowed it.

HoCo GIS: the system was redesigned to use drop-down lists instead of sliding toggles, and may or may not be "improved".

Swimming Pool Runoff Issue: one person reported that her yard was chronically flooded, apparently by swimming pool runoff. Deborah discussed ways the affected homeowner could approach the pool owner about the legal ramifications of that to see if it can be resolved without a lawsuit.

CA Rain Garden Cost Share Program: Iris recently had two rain gardens installed under the program and experienced some issues with the process that she discussed. She will draft a survey to be sent to the rain garden recipients within our Village to get a better understanding of their experiences and how to improve the program.

Fall Cleanup: this is not on HRV's calendar: do we want to do one, and, if so, when?

Pull and Plant: Deborah has not heard back from John McCoy, so we're thinking it's probably not going to happen this year.

HRV's Special Events Calendar: Deborah will email us a copy to keep in mind for date conflicts.

WAC Activities Ideas: Iris briefly mentioned some activity possibilities and will share the list with the team to expand further.