

Hickory Ridge Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting June 6, 2018

Present: Deborah Wessner, Ellen Roberts, Iris Mars

May minutes were circulated by Iris and no objections were noted by those present.

Progress on Stenciling:

- Budgeting for supplies will have to wait until we know what we are buying and how much we need per drain.
- Iris got five different exterior primers, applied them 6/5/2018 to a drain on her street, applied the highway paint over them 6/6/2018, and is awaiting results of which will hold up better.
- Iris will order the oil-based KilZ primer since there wasn't a small container at Lowes nor at Home Depot.
- Iris suggested that Ellen take a drive to Thunder Hill and see the condition of the drains painted in Fall 2016 for her class project. Patriot Lane and Scarecrow Court cul-de-sacs, and north of them almost across from the neighborhood center on Thunder Hill Drive. They seem to be holding up much better, compared to the ones we have been working on. Iris knows what paint was used.
- Iris will send her Log article draft to the team for review.
- Iris created some "yard-sale-sized" samples to attach to a sign to explain what we are doing and will send them to the team for review.

Pull and Plant:

- The May Pull and Plant was canceled due to weather.
- The Pull and Plant may end up being rescheduled for the Fall, because of increasing numbers of mosquitoes and poison ivy.
- Iris said that the area where plantings were previously done does not have a lot of weeds and could be expanded without too much difficulty, but the rest of the woods would be challenging and pulling/planting is not recommended at this time.
- Deborah will check with John McCoy on a date for his availability; he also has the plants.

Communications:

- Deborah is still waiting for "Fats, Oils, and Grease" (FOG) to get published and will check with Anne.
- Deborah will find an article on requesting informal assessments from the WAC – not from the WSA – to publish that, too. The team discussed that, at the time of first contact, we were thinking of doing an informal assessment to see if a problem seemed to be big enough to refer to the WSA. Plus, the WSA is backlogged.

- Plus, an article on the pet waste stations. Two are known: one in Clemens Crossing on the Open Space path off of Sixpence Circle, and the other on the open space path leading into the woods beyond the Hawthorn pool, just outside the townhouse community. We need to inform people about how they work – they need to be kept full of bags. Some people may not know how they work. Deborah will write/expand an article?

Walkabouts/20 Minute Cleanups in June:

- Deborah supplied Iris and Ellen with gloves, bags, and grabbers.
- Deborah and Iris will identify a time when people are available to do a walk.
- We would like to see if the scouts want to do more stream cleanups throughout the summer.
- The scouts are planning another neighborhood cleanup, probably in the Fall; we need their date(s).

Rain Garden Photo Shoots:

- Deborah provided statistics on the number and types of homes in Hickory Ridge Village:
 - Clemens Crossing: single-family: 649.
 - Hawthorn: single family: 343; condo/townhouse: 336; apartment: 630.
 - Clary's Forest: single: 658; condo/townhouse: 910; apartment: 1246.
 - Now we know what we are finding out: Clary's Forest is a lot bigger!
- Deborah will resend the list of rain garden owners who said "Yes" to photography and we will go out and photo. Maybe on one of our walks?

Watershed Palooza:

- We still want to see if River Hill can allow us to join them. Iris will follow-up with the RHWAC chair.
- Deborah has been in contact with Robinson Nature Center about us hosting some watershed-related activity there; no news yet.
- We could also come up with a kids' activity to do for a short period for the organizations renting Hawthorn for the summer. Coloring sheets or something simple and a short talk.

Native Meadow Project:

- Iris reported that Sean Harbaugh from Open Space (she talked to him after the River Hill walk last week) said to go through the Village before sending it to Open Space. The Village Board would need to approve.
- Iris explained the situation with another project trying to get going and the roadblocks aka resistance by some neighbors. We're trying to avoid this.
- Iris put together a Project Plan form and drafted a survey. She will send to the team.

- Iris will try to get Open Space to indicate any other meadows and the maintenance issues involved.

Building the WAC Team:

- Deborah will contact two folks to see if we can get them to join/rejoin us.

Reducing/Eliminating Plastic Straws Campaign:

- First steps: get Hickory Ridge Village on Board.
 - Iris will check with Anne inre whether the Hawthorn Center and its pool have a Green Bin. It does have a Blue Bin. Hawthorn Center should be able to have a Green Bin picked up, if it is used.
 - Ellen will check with the Clemens Crossing pool inre recycle and green bins and whether we need to go through a “pool committee” to get this implemented. Idea is to do a pilot program within our village and let its success spread.
- Businesses: we need to develop a strategy for approaching them. We also need to keep repeating the message so it’s not so scary. Baltimore Sun article? Deborah mentioned that the Howard County Conservancy had an article about it in the Sun and she was going to follow-up with them.
- Awareness education: we need to pull together photos of what happens with the plastics. Great Pacific Gyre - There are some in the Atlantic, too, where our stuff ends up; Captain Trash Wheel in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor; trash in the environment.