

Hickory Ridge CARES Committee Meeting Minutes

18 Dec 2025

Attendees:

Deborah Wessner
Bill Richardson
Jerry Lioi
Donna Warner

Meeting commenced at 7PM (via Zoom)

Approve Minutes

November minutes were approved

OLD BUSINESS

Webpage design/content - Jerry

Jerry spoke with Laura. Laura, with Jerry's help, will try to work on the new layout in January with a goal of being done in early February. Once the format is done, we will post published articles to the website.

Logo - Deborah

Ellen agreed to assist with updating Logo - but no update on when she will be about to work on it.

CARES Corner Established - Deborah

We submitted two articles this month for the Log and residents now have an opportunity to ask the committee questions via a new CARES alias. Right now, emails from the alias will go to Deborah and Donna.

Budget Priorities

Laura has requested feedback from both HoCo and CA regarding whether the CARES suggestions will be looked at.

Tree/Plant Giveaways

CA liked the idea of offering bushes and trees and is funding plant and tree giveaways again this coming year

Sustainability Funding Projects

Four of the five agreed projects were presented to and accepted by HRV Board and sent to Danielle at CA for review. Those projects are pollinator garden, landscaping stones for eroded path, shrubs for the fall give away, and soil tests for the landscaping seminar. Replanting the recently weeded area near the office was tabled as the land is owned by the DoEd. Danielle had questions about whether the landscaping stone project fell under sustainability.

Seminar on Landscaping (Update - Leah)

Leah absent so tabled for now.

Seminar on Recycling - 14 Jan (7-9pm)

Sign up is listed in the Dec 18 log and is open for registration. Bill noted that the event seemed to be missing from the event calendar. Deborah will reach out to Emily to ensure it's there.

Click FIXIT Kudos

Deb is still working on data analysis. Lots of new tickets coming through as well as closures on trees. Several tickets for trees were closed but work doesn't appear to be complete (ie trees marked as rr but trees are removed but not replaced.) Deborah has reached out so she can better understand their process.

NEW BUSINESS

New Sustainability Projects

-Permeable Pathway near office - board member made suggestion. Mike is asking if we can include it as a sustainability project since folks will take a short cut across grass.

-Bamboo removal at Cedar Ln & Hickory Ridge on CA property- CA flagged this. They would like to use our sustainability funds for removal but will cover costs of future mitigations. Deborah recommended they contact owners near the area.

Those present agreed to the new proposals. We will present to the board in January.

RAC changes

Suggestions to be sent to Bill for discussion at our next meeting (15 Jan) The goal is to provide feedback before the RAC updates its guidelines.

Bill sent sustainability links and suggested our team referencing those links in RAC guidelines and our posts.

Open Space Invasive Identification

Proposal - write an article for the January Log requesting resident assistance in locating patches of English Ivy. When id'd we would ask weed warriors to determine if it's accessible and whether they can do window cutting.

Bill asked whether there are some invasive that we should focus on. English Ivy is bit of a problem in Clary's Forest and is easy to id in the winter, Other invasive plants are easier to locate in the Spring.

CA Volunteer Celebration

Two awards were given at the celebration. One went to Kate Reilly (KC Cares lead) who spearheaded Columbia CARES newsletter

The other went to the CARES team in WL which celebrated 10th year and has several Adopt-a-Spots in its areas. Deborah shared in Snow Reach where the team weeded and planted natives.

Brainstorming about adopt a spots

We discussed identifying areas for adopt-a-spots in the village. Suggestions include highlighting invasive species once a month to help identify areas that need attention. Those locations could be future Adopt-a-Spots. We also discussed attacking high traffic areas such as those areas near tot lots so folks would see the work and hopefully encourage more participation. Deborah noted that CA will fund native plants to replace the weeds.

Spring Columbia Cleans

Need a volunteer to coordinate needed work with Emily

Article ideas:

Jerry suggested an article on BGE offering Energy Audits (and using a thermal camera)
Donna suggested alternating articles about invasive plants and updates on the teams progress
on our goals.

Meeting adjourned at 8PM