

Hickory Ridge CARES Committee Meeting Minutes
19 Feb 2026

Attendees:

Deborah Wessner
Bill Richardson (til 7:30)
Jerry Lioi
Donna Warner

Meeting commenced at 7PM (via Zoom)

January minutes were approved

Old Business

Budget Priorities/Sustainability Funding Projects for CA, tree/plant giveaways - Deb

Board supported new projects (permeable path and bamboo removal)
We are still on feedback on our HoCo recommendations (one of which was to offer a buy-back program to encourage folks to use battery-powered landscaping equipment)

Webpage Design - Jerry

Structure is moving in the right direction but still needs more work. Jerry will continue working with the office to update the page. Once it's set up, we will update the site and populate it.

RAC Guidelines - Bill

Provided proposed updates to Laura. The RAC will be updating guidance in the fall. The team will review then.

Logo - Deb/Jerry

So many choices - the team offered feedback and Jerry (and AI) will work to update the logo

Spring Stream Cleanup - Vanessa

Columbia Cleans has been dissolved so individual villages are working on their own timelines. Vanessa will be working with Emily to organize a date/time for HRV

Tree Canopy Session

Unfortunately no one was able to attend the mid-day session.

New Business

Seminar on Landscaping - Leah

Leah has a speaker and has 4 dates in April to propose to the speaker. Deborah suggested that the speaker discuss environmental impacts of micro-clover as part of landscaping. Leah will work with Laura and Emily to organize the event.

Action: if anyone has topics they would like addressed, contact Leah

Log “Cares Corner” - Deb

Need two articles. Donna offered to draft articles on the proposed pollinator garden and the push towards battery-operation hand-held landscaping equipment

ACTION: Donna to reach out to Danielle to ensure topics are captured accurately

English Ivy Project

Several spots have been identified. Deborah is working with Weed Warriors to organize a time to cut windows in the ivy

Salt Watch

Deborah asked for volunteers to check water in nearby streams. Deborah will send out the info and asks that we sign-in as HRV CARES when we do tests

CA Open Space Adopt-a-Spot

Derailed by snow

Recycling

Deborah wondered if it made sense to reach out to the county to see whether they tracked impact from for plastic bag law (potential good news story for the Log)

She is also considering asking about how we're doing re recycling. (That is how much trash is put in recycling bins)

CA Splash pad

Donna mentioned that she has concerns about the CA splash pad proposal. Since the plan is to have free flow water, there is a concern about what that means from an environmental perspective, especially since MD has drought conditions,

Is this something the CARES team should look into or weigh in on?

We'll do some research and revisit issue. If we feel action is needed, we'll consider reaching out to other villages.

Meeting adjourned 8:15PM