



HICKORY RIDGE VILLAGE CARES COMMITTEE

ZOOM Meeting Mar 19 2026, 7pm

ATTENDEES: Leah Donovan, Jerry Lioi, Bill Richardson, Patrice Donnelly, Deborah Wessner

GUEST: Colin “Cam” MacLachlan

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

We welcomed Patrice Donnelly as a Board Approved member to the committee. We welcomed Cam MacLachlan, a Landscape Architect, as a guest who represents HRV to the CA WRAP committee that advises on watershed issues.

Approve/update Meeting Agenda; Approve Minutes from Feb Meeting

No issues with the agenda except that guest, Cam McLachlan, requested insight to the projects we asked CA to work on. No issues with Feb Minutes

Budget Priorities/Sustainability Funding Projects for CA, tree/plant Giveaways – Deb

The HRV Board was advised that Permeable Pathway we suggested will not be installed until at least 2027 and will conform to ADA regulations. Bill let everyone know that there is a Howard County tree giveaway where signup starts on Monday. (The online reservation system opens on March 23 at 9am on the [Howard County Bee City website](#).)

Webpage design/content update- Jerry

Jerry indicates some changes have been made but they are still not quite what we wanted. He will attempt to speak with the village manager about it this week.

RAC Guidelines – Bill

Based on discussion with Laura, the village manager, the guidelines we suggested will be presented to the new RAC after changeover of the HRV Board (sometime in summer.)

LOGO –

Jerry did a great job AGAIN! Revised logo was accepted (see above). Deb will speak with Laura about getting a large placard, tablecloth/banner (Patrice’s suggestion) and possibly some T-shirts for committee members.

Spring Stream Cleanup (4/11 9:30-11 at Hawthorn Center) – Vanessa

NOTE: The village stream cleanup will be on the same day as Greenfest at HCC. CARES Members are encouraged to join in the cleanup and let folks know why we remove trash so it does not pollute our streams.

Seminar on LANDSCAPING (4/14 7-9pm at Hawthorn Center) – Leah

Bill noted that the seminar does not appear on the HRV calendar so Leah will speak with Laura and Emily.

Native Plant Giveaway (4/24 – 5-7:30pm at Hawthorn Center) –

Bill and Jerry have volunteered to handout plants. Leah developed info cards that Emily will print. Deb will advise when we know if we will have seeds to give away as well.

Salt Watch – Leah, Patrice and Bill have signed up

CA volunteers will continue to take samples through the year (monthly) and results will be compared with Stream Waders findings for streams they already monitor. Possibly this will be extended to also capture nitrate samples to see if fertilizers are significantly entering our streams. If anyone has time there will be a StreamWaders event in Hickory Ridge on April 6 from 12:30 to 2:30pm to identify not just salt but also the benthic species that find the water habitable (may indicate the clean state of the stream.) The sampling will take place near HRBR28 off of Bridgehead Court.

LOG “CARES Corner” Established - Next Articles

2/5 - TellHoCo Summary for HRV was in the printed newsletter

2/19 - Free trees article, e-newsletter

3/5 - gas-powered equipment, e-newsletter

3/19 - gas-powered equipment, e-newsletter

4/2 - reusable bags, printed newsletter

4/15 -reusable bags, e-newsletter

5/7 – Fireflies e-newsletter green bin?, e-newsletter

5/21 - Fireflies e-newsletter green bin?, e-newsletter

June: green bin article, Culdesac article?, plastics to recycle

Patrice would like to have photos and short movies of fireflies in HRV yards submitted to the CARES email so we can post them on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Items – Solar for Office, Assessment at Tanglewood – Deb

The HRV Board inquired about why the Hawthorn Center was not equipped with solar panels to help offset the cost for electricity. Deb investigated with CA and learned that Hawthorn has not been evaluated nor equipped with solar (all other village offices either have some solar or were judged to have inadequate roof structure or inadequate power panel to support solar.) Information was passed on to village manager who will try to get specific answers when CA sends a team to examine the current Hawthorn structure for other matters.

Last week Deb went to the Tanglewood HOA to investigate some concerns with storm water flow around the common area pavilion. Report with suggested actions was submitted to Tanglewood. Deb will ask that a new article be placed in the LOG letting residents know they can get a free assessment from the Watershed Stewards. She will advise CARES team in case anyone wishes to accompany her on the assessments.

English Ivy Removal Project

CARES received two reports of English Ivy climbing trees on CA Property in HRV. Now that we hope the snowfall is over she will contact the HRV Weed Warriors to see if they can help with “windowing” to prevent the ivy from spreading and killing the trees. CARES members are invited to come and assist on these projects.

Farmer’s Market Research

Deb asked if anyone knew why HRV does not have a Farmer’s Market during the spring and summer. Leah volunteered that there previously had been a well-attended market at the hospital but it is no longer there. With the cost of food rising and with a desire to have food from local sources to avoid the pollution with trucking it in from far away there may be a desire to have a more local option. Deb will see if Vanessa is willing to research this and, at the least, get an article in the LOG that highlights the Farmer’s Markets around Columbia.

Find a new CA Open Space Adopt a Spot in HRV?

CARES members were asked to continue considering where a good Adopt A Spot might be located in HRV that we can install.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Cam requested information on the work that was done on the pathway behind the Hawthorn pool near an outfall along the path. A number of trees were removed and it was unclear what the work was being done to help mitigate stormwater issues. Deb will investigate and provide feedback to CARES members and Cam.