

HICKORY RIDGE VILLAGE CARES COMMITTEE

ZOOM Meeting Apr 16 2026, 7pm

ATTENDING: Deb Wessner, Jerry Lioi, Leah Donovan, Bill Richardson

Draft Agenda was approved but information on the Landscaping Seminar was moved forward to the beginning of the meeting; Minutes from March Meeting were approved and will be sent to Laura for publication.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Seminar on LANDSCAPING (5/6 7-9pm at Hawthorn Center)

Leah indicates that she met with the speaker and will be working with Laura (village manager) this week to develop appropriate article to publish in LOG and on social media accounts.

Projects with Sustainability Funds – Pollinator Garden

One of the projects suggested to use the sustainability funds for was a pollinator garden in Clary's Forest near LPP. Donna, who has been following the project, indicates that the work on the garden has already started!! Pictures and an article for the LOG will follow. Members asked to walk by and take photos while Donna is on vacation in May.

Webpage design/content update

Jerry said that both he and Laura have been overwhelmed with work and have not yet finalized a webpage approach. He encouraged that any updates to the current webpage be sent to Laura so she could simply update the current webpage instead of waiting for the new format to be established.

LOGO

Deb sent Laura a copy of the new logo. Laura said there would be enough money in the budget to fund T-shirts for committee members and that she would develop a desktop poster of the logo for our event table.

Spring Stream Cleanup and Testing Report

The neighborhood cleanup took place on Saturday April 11 with about 80 volunteers who collected a lot of bags of trash, primarily on the pathways and near the streams in the Hawthorn neighborhood. Jerry and Deb were there to lend a hand in the work and to advise the volunteers why this cleanup is important for our community. Unfortunately CA's special event crew did not count/weigh the bags of trash!

Salt Watch - Janine Pollack has indicated that the volunteers will be able to do Nitrate Testing in the streams when they do Salt Testing. Kits to do testing are free on the same website as Salt Watch. The testing should be done monthly on the 15th.

StreamWaders, a Howard County volunteer group that has been monitoring Columbia stream health for 10 years, came to an HRV stream for the first time on April 6. The group of about a dozen volunteers looked for insects, fish and water creatures to gauge how healthy the stream near bridge HRBR28 is. A number of different “critters’ were found including damsel flies and salamanders. We should get a report back from the state on the water quality and will be able to compare the salt content they find with what one of the Salt Watch volunteers (Pam Franks) has measured at the same location

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

Bill, Jerry and Leah will attend to give away plants at the event on the parking lot.

LOG “CARES Corner” Established - Next Articles

5/7 – Fireflies e-newsletter, e-newsletter

5/21 - Fireflies e-newsletter, e-newsletter

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

NEW BUSINESS

Deer Survey

CA wants to find out how residents feel about the deer population roaming through CA land and on our properties. Please take the anonymous survey at:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LnvVeU0b7UmsAlgiFAjK9NOCohwQu3VIq_n66zDQv_JUNTdURFlaVDhXWEIGVkw1SjdCREpQQjVaVS4u&origin=QRCode

Solar for Office

Laura talked to Josh Bennet who said that the electrical panel is a maximum capacity. However, he was open to the idea. He put solar panels for us on his list of things to consider for FY27. Not a guarantee, but at least it made the list.

Assessment Projects at Tanglewood

Leah reported that the Tanglewood HOA was presented with some suggestions to alleviate stormwater issues near their outdoor meeting pavilion. Instead of having residents do the work they are requesting HOA budget funds to hire a landscaper to dig trenches and install pop-up emitters.

New Trees in Clemens

CA has arranged for new trees to be planted along the pathway that runs from HRBR10 to Cardinal Lane in Clemens Crossing. The work will be done by ECOWORKS, managed by Eric Walker from CA. Students already worked with ECOWORKS during spring break to remove invasive plants in the area where trees will go and staked out the planting locations with pink and white flags. The plan is for adding 40-80 native trees in an effort to reforest tree canopy gaps.

English Ivy Removal Project

Bill was very helpful in putting window cuts into the rooted vines of English Ivy climbing the trees at the corner of Crossbeam and Launcelot! He will continue to be watchful for other areas where this needs to be done. Thanks, Bill!

Farmer's Market Research

Information on Farmers' Markets is not yet out on the Howard County website since markets typically start in late May. One market is starting early this year, on Fridays and Saturdays at the Fulton shopping district. Deb will write an article for the LOG once the information is available on the HoCo website and Facebook page so our residents know when and where they can get fresh produce.

New Web Page for CA to Show Off Sustainability Initiatives

CA has just published a new online brochure identifying the sustainability initiatives they are actively involved in at

https://issuu.com/columbiaassociation/docs/2026_ca_sustainability_snapshot_?fr=sOWFIZDkxMTk3NjE