



MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.


10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 www.montgomeryvillage.com

October 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on the Environment

FROM: Scott Gole, Assistant Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture 

SUBJECT: Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Committee on the Environment will be held Wednesday, October 11, 2017. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact me at 301-948-0110, ext. 2336 or by e-mail to sgole@mvf.org.

SG/tg



MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 www.montgomeryvillage.com

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

North Creek Community Center

20125 Arrowhead Road

AGENDA

1. Residents' Time
2. Call Meeting to Order
3. Chairman's Remarks
4. Review Minutes of Meeting July 12, 2017 – (Enclosure 4)
5. Board Liaison Report
6. New Business
 - a. Introduce Duncan Mullis, MVF Director of Recreation and Parks
 - b. Golf Course Development Update
 - c. Water Quality Monitoring at Lake Whetstone
7. Old Business
 - a. Update on Stormwater Management Grant Projects
 - b. Update on Tree Montgomery Plantings
8. Environmental News Updates
9. Next meeting date – January 10, 2018

Montgomery Village Foundation
Committee on the Environment
July 12, 2017



A regular meeting of the Montgomery Village Foundation Committee on the Environment was held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the North Creek Community Center, Montgomery Village, MD.

Members Present

Claudette Lease, Chairman
Nancy Farrar
Chris Mead
Ed Ohanian
Jeannie Pizzonia
Mario Salazar
Orlow Zumwalt

Members Absent

Scott Dyer, Board Liaison
Tim Goodfellow
Patricia Johnson
Tom Vetter

Others Present

Scott Gole, MVF Assistant Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Sarah Albert, Recording Secretary
2 residents

Residents' Time

Ms. Wilder presented information from the goose count, which has been conducted annually for 17 years. The goose count was requested by the MVF Board of Directors in 2001 after a public forum regarding geese-human interaction was held with representatives from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Humane Society of the United States. It was suggested that the number of geese in Whetstone Lake may have been reduced this year due to last year's dredging and that some of the geese from Lake Whetstone may have moved to South Valley Park since that number was higher. Ms. Wilder cited a program of cleaning the paths to mitigate the amount of droppings caused by geese not flying at this time of year due to goslings and molting. The Montgomery Village Foundation Board unanimously adopted a policy of co-existence with the wildlife. Ms. Wilder added that wildlife is one of the greatest assets of Montgomery Village.

Mr. Wilder stated that the goose count demonstrated a stable population of geese over several years. Mr. Wilder said that drivers have been very good at waiting for geese that are crossing roads. Ms. Pizzonia countered that she had observed drivers striking the geese and that there should be additional geese crossing signs on Montgomery Village Avenue placed at certain times of the year. She added that the current sign is in back of a bus stop sign and therefore obscured.

Mr. Wilder explained that it was important to have a wildlife cover between the lake and the paths and that the landscaping crew had bush hogged the lower story vegetation. He suggested that the child who fell into Lake Whetstone may not have if there had been dense vegetation around the area. He added that the vegetation around the shoreline helps to protect the geese and keep them from the walks.

Mr. Wilder circulated a copy of the "Triennial Review Report" for the Committee's review. He explained that "The Clean Water Act (CWA)" requires states to review their water quality standards every three years. He noted that four streams cited in the Maryland study were in Montgomery County. He continued that the Triennial Review study could be used to argue against M-83, as this development would ruin particular streams.

Mr. Wilder said that the Conowingo Dam was no longer holding back pollution in the Susquehanna River, which enters the Chesapeake Bay. He added that the levels of phosphorous and nitrogen pollution should be kept low to mitigate the growth of harmful algae. He stated that funding needed to be maintained to protect the Bay.

Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Lease, chairman presided. She called the meeting to order at 7:57 p.m.

Chairman's Remarks

Ms. Lease stated that on July 11th the State of Maryland broke ground on the new I-270 interchange. She added that this will both help and put a lot more traffic onto Watkins Mill Road. This project is to be completed by the summer of 2020; the money has been approved for this project.

Mr. Gole introduced Chris Mead, a new Committee Member. Mr. Mead stated that he has lived in the Village for nine years and was an army veteran. He wanted to join the Committee on the Environment due to the amount of trash he noticed in Montgomery Village.

Review Minutes of Meeting April 12, 2017

Ms. Lease asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the minutes.

Ms. Pizzonia moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 committee meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with six for and one abstention. (Ms. Farrar abstained.)

Board Liaison Report

No report.

New Business

a. Review Goose Count Data

Ms. Lease stated that the annual goose count was conducted on June 24, 2017. The count of geese was conducted at Village parks with lakes and ponds. Counters included members of the Committee of the Environment, MVF staff, and volunteers. Mr. Gole thanked those who were able to help.

The data below was collected during the count:

<u>PARK</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GEESE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GOSLINGS</u>
Lake Whetstone	119	0
South Valley Park	183	0
North Creek Lake	152	0
Lake Marion Park	73	3
Ed DeSimon Rec. Area	14	0
Kaufmann Park	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	541	3

Grand total = 541

Mr. Gole stated that a public forum was conducted in 2001 with the assistance of Department of Natural Resources and the Humane Society. The Montgomery Village Board made a motion to establish a baseline of the number of geese and the count is conducted annually. The geese on Foundation owned ponds are counted, but the golf course ponds and the homeowner association ponds are not. The count provides a study to show that the number of geese is consistent over 17 years. Ms. Farrar added that young geese that do not have black or white on their face are considered goslings.

Mr. Salazar moved that the Annual Goose Count Report be sent to the Montgomery Village Board of Directors for publication in *The Village News*. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

b. Lake Whetstone

Ms. Pizzonia stated that she and Tim Goodfellow had walked around Lake Whetstone and were concerned that there were a number of vines choking out healthy trees. Mr. Goodfellow marked areas of concern. Ms. Pizzonia will work with staff member Ron Shroers and the MVF Youth Corp to try to remove some of the invasive vines. She added that there was a lot of trash in the creeks flowing into Lake Whetstone and that there will be a clean-up on September 9th.

Ms. Pizzonia asked about a section of grass on the hill above the volley ball court on Lake Whetstone; the grass here cannot be mowed because the hill is too steep. Mr. Salazar suggested planting a ground cover. Mr. Gole stated that previously there was ground cover planted on the hill but many tall weeds also filled in the area and it became unsightly.

Mr. Salazar stated that Lake Whetstone used to have trash cans around the lake on the Whetstone Homes Corporation side. Since their removal, there has been a large amount of trash around the lake and he suggested placing some trash cans on the north side of the lake. Mr. Gole explained that this would be a matter for the Whetstone Homes Corporation as it is their property.

Old Business

a. Update on Tree Montgomery Plantings at MVF Parks and Facilities

Mr. Gole explained that Tree Montgomery would monitor the new trees for three years. Mr. Gole added that the trees would be replaced if they died during this time frame. There have been a few trees that have not survived and they will be replaced in the fall.

b. Update on Solar Power Project for North Creek Community Center

Mr. Gole stated that Tom Vetter asked about newly passed state regulations allowing for more electricity to be provided through renewable energy sources. Mr. Vetter wanted to know whether the new regulations would impact the installation of solar panels in North Creek Community Center. Mr. Gole explained that the market value for solar renewable energy credits (srec's) were still very low, but the project was still on hold as investors are not as interested in smaller projects at this time.

Environmental News Updates

The Committee Members discussed their walk around North Creek Lake and noted that the vegetation had grown back and the area was much improved. The Committee noted that the islands had some erosion and that there were a several birds including Purple Martins and

Hérons. Additionally, there were areas to attract butterflies including numerous milkweed plants and a jut out area planted with flowers such as Coneflowers and Lupines.

Mr. Goodfellow emailed the Committee on the Environment in advance of the meeting. He noted that the vegetation around North Creek Lake looks great and that establishing a no-mow zone has allowed dense, diverse, beautiful, and beneficial vegetation to flourish at the lake's edge. He added that in South Valley, he noticed that the white line on the grass that establishes the lake buffer was ignored in many areas, with mowing occurring right up to the lake's edge. He expressed concern and asked about this practice.

Mr. Goodfellow suggested that, in addition to the one ceremonial tree planted adjacent to the North Creek Lake Nature Center during Earth Day celebrations, the MVF should plant two trees (each year) along the trail around North Creek Lake. The trail and lake would benefit tremendously with more deciduous trees. There are plenty of spots around the lake where trees could very easily be planted.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting for the Committee on the Environment will be held on October 11, 2017 at North Creek Community Center.

Adjournment

**Ms. Farrar moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.
The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The reports, authorizations and other documents presented at the meeting have been initialed for identification and attached hereto or filed in the Montgomery Village Foundation offices.

/s/

**Sarah Albert
Recording Secretary**

MVF Committee on the Environment

Results of July 12, 2017 Meeting

Motion List

1. Ms. Pizzonia moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2017 committee meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with six for and one abstention. (Ms. Farrar abstained.)
2. Mr. Salazar moved that the Annual Goose Count Report be sent to the Montgomery Village Board of Directors for publication in *The Village News*. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
3. Ms. Farrar moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Action List

_____ Mr. Gole will investigate the feasibility of installing additional geese crossing signs along Montgomery Village Avenue.

_____ Mr. Gole will investigate the next steps for an area of grass on Lake Whetstone by volley ball court, which is too steep to cut.

_____ Mr. Salazar will contact the Whetstone Homes Corporation regarding installing trash cans around Lake Whetstone.