



MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

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

July 6, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on the Environment

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Committee on the Environment will be held Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the North Creek Community Center. 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



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COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, July 11, 2018 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 April 11, 2018 – (Enclosure 4)
5. Board Liaison Report
6. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Ecotone - Lake Marion shoreline repair / North Creek Stream Valley
 - b. Review Goose Count Data – (Enclosure 6b)
7. Old Business
 - a. Fall Tree Plantings
8. Environmental News Updates
9. Next meeting date – October 10, 2018

Montgomery Village Foundation
Committee on the Environment
April 11, 2018

A regular meeting of the Montgomery Village Foundation Committee on the Environment was held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the North Creek Community Center, Montgomery Village, MD.

Members Present

Claudette Lease, Chairman
 Scott Dyer, Board Liaison
 Tim Goodfellow
 Tom Vetter
 Orlow Zumwalt

Members Absent

Nancy Farrar
 Patricia Johnson
 Chris Mead
 Ed Ohanian
 Jeannie Pizzonia
 Mario Salazar

Others Present

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

Residents' Time

Mr. Wilder addressed the Committee regarding the walk around Lake Marion. He commented that all of the vegetation in front of the benches had been cut down low. As a result, there was no protection to keep kids out of the lake. Mr. Wilder recommended planting shrubbery that was a lower height, which would allow for a view of the lake. The purpose of the shrubbery would be to keep kids out of the lake and wildlife in the water.

Mr. Wilder cited the status of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Scott Pruitt. He noted that federal workers who worked on climate change had been reassigned to menial jobs. Mr. Wilder stated that Mr. Pruitt was trying to roll back vehicle admission standards and that he hoped California would fight this effort. He added that Mr. Pruitt had rolled back power plant emission standards. He had also taken money from the Clean Water Fund to increase top aide salaries. Mr. Wilder said that under Mr. Pruitt's direction, EPA funding has been reduced by one-third and that its mission was to protect the polluters, rather

than the environment. Mr. Pruitt had conducted meetings among the polluters, rather than all stakeholders and had received below market value rent from a lobbyist. Mr. Wilder said that Mr. Pruitt was trying to roll back 50 years of market protections. He added that the EPA was founded by Republicans, but was not going in the right directions.

Ms. Lease responded that Governor Hogan has been against emission cuts. Mr. Goodfellow stated that Maryland recently passed a law requiring companies that conduct offshore drilling to be 100% for any pollution stemming from the drilling.

Ms. Wilder expressed concern about children harming the wildlife. She cited an incident at Walkers Choice Pond bank where kids acted up near a nest by the gazebo. Ms. Wilder stated that she observed children throwing objects into the pond and that she later noticed that an egg was removed from nest. She added that this was a time when we need to watch out for our wildlife friends. Ms. Wilder explained that children do not necessarily know to stay away from wildlife. She added that wildlife is an asset of the Village and we are lucky to have it. Ms. Wilder recommended contacting the police and the Department of Natural Resources if one witnesses criminal behavior.

Ms. Wilder stated that Saturday, June 23rd is the annual goose count.

Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Lease, chairman presided. She called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

Chairman's Remarks

Ms. Lease stated that she did not like the closing of the Village Café and Denny's. She said that there was a need for restaurants in the Village Center and that the lack of retail stores and restaurants was killing the Village. She asked whether temporary food trucks or vendors be brought in on the weekends. She stated that people were very upset about Denny's closing. Ms. Lease added that these restaurants and stores were closing in combination with the former golf course and the Professional Center. There was no incentive to move into Montgomery Village right now.

Mr. Gole responded that the new area will include a combination of commercial and residential properties. The goal is to include denser properties, which would attract commercial establishments. Mr. Goodfellow asked whether the site plan had been approved for the Village Center.

Review Minutes of Meeting January 10, 2018

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

Mr. Goodfellow moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 committee meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with four for and one abstention. (Mr. Vetter abstained.)

Board Liaison Report

Mr. Dyer stated that he was happy to be selected to continue to be on the Committee on the Environment. He reflected on the impactful moments of the Committee and how important education about the environment is. Mr. Dyer added that there were many opportunities to provide outreach to the community. He noted that there was an increased need for this outreach about trees and wildlife; and that this awareness and action is important. He thanked the members of the Committee and the volunteers.

Ms. Lease suggested installing tree identifying markers around Lake Whetstone, similar to the ones found at Kaufman Park.

New Business

a. Recommendation for Committee Chairperson

Mr. Gole stated that every year, the Committee recommends a Committee Chairperson to the MVF Board of Directors. He noted that the Board also reaffirms the committee membership.

Mr. Goodfellow moved to nominate Claudette Lease as Chair for the Committee on the Environment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

b. Coordination of Annual Goose Count – June 23, 2018

Mr. Gole said that an annual goose count is conducted at Montgomery Village Foundation owned lakes and ponds. He added that this event had been conducted for more than 15 years. Mr. Gole said that the count is usually conducted towards the end of June when geese are molting and cannot fly. Mr. Gole asked that Committee members who are interested in helping contact him. Ms. Wilder volunteered to help with the count and Ms. Lease said she could count at Kaufmann Park Pond and Ed DeSimon Recreation Area Pond.

Mr. Gole will follow-up with Ms. Pizzonia to confirm the Rake the Lake date.

Ms. Wilder recommended that the two events be held separately.

Mr. Dyer asked about including information in the *Village News* about wildlife and how to contact Second Chance Wildlife, if needed.

Old Business

a. Update on Stormwater Management Grant Projects

Mr. Gole provided an update about the storm water management grant projects. He stated that the state of Maryland awarded Ecotone a grant for stream restoration work, which will be conducted between Montgomery Village Avenue and Wightman Road. The project will likely take one year. Ecotone will create a design plan to present at the July meeting. They will seek input from the Committee.

Mr. Gole stated that there were two other proposals submitted to Montgomery County for stream restoration projects in South Valley Park and behind North Creek Lake. The County pulled the RFP for stream restoration projects and grants were not awarded. These projects are not moving forward at this time. The County may issue another RFP this summer for stream restoration projects.

Mr. Gole explained that Monument Reality was trying to get the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to take possession and management of the stream valley in the former golf course. However, Park and Planning want restoration of the stream valley to take place first; Monument Reality sought a grant for this restoration.

b. MVF Recreation and Parks Department Strategic Plan

Mr. Gole updated the Committee about the strategic planning process. He said that the Montgomery Village Foundation office had received about 500 responses to the survey that was sent out. The responses were being tabulated and a presentation of information collected will be given at the MVF Board retreat, as well as to the MVF Recreation Committee and the Committee on the Environment. The information will include high priorities and what people do and do not like. Mr. Gole will confirm the date of the presentation.

c. Lake Marion Shoreline Repair

During the walk at Lake Marion walkthrough, Committee members had an opportunity to view areas scheduled to be repaired between the path and shoreline.

Mr. Gole described Lake Marion shoreline repair efforts. He explained that the shoreline on the east side, where the banks are right next to the path, have eroded. Ecotone, a shoreline restoration firm, has been hired to design repair work in five areas around the lake. Design work will allow for the securing of permits from the county. The final plan will be sent to the County for review and permitting. Ecotone will present their design proposals to the Committee at the July meeting.

Mr. Goodfellow said that some of the wave action at Lake Marion was adding to the erosion. He stated that there were good opportunities for tree plantings. He added that the area along East Village Avenue had turf grass, which was not very porous and allowed for a lot of

runoff. He added that letting the vegetation grow back would help stabilize the slope, control erosion, and lessen mowing costs.

d. Update on Tree Plantings at MVF Parks and Facilities

Mr. Gole followed up with the Committee regarding their motion calling for tree plantings around North Creek Lake. He explained that the Board liked the idea of planting trees, but did not want to limit the plantings to just North Creek Lake. Mr. Gole added that he is going to follow-up with the Tree Montgomery Program to pursue tree plantings that will provide shade along paths.

Environmental News Updates

a. Arbor Day Celebration – Saturday, April 21st at noon – 2 pm at North Creek Lake

Mr. Gole encouraged Committee Members to attend the Arbor Day Celebration, which will be held on Saturday, April 21st from noon to 2 pm at the North Creek Lake Nature Center. The celebration will include events for children and the Montgomery Village Board will plant a Ceremonial Tree.

Mr. Goodfellow stated that he recently walked the golf course. He said that there were numerous specimen trees, 25-30 inches in diameter, which would be removed when construction began. He observed a sewer line break on the golf course and contacted WSSC.

Mr. Goodfellow stated that he addressed the MVF Board at their March 22nd meeting about Lake Whetstone. Mr. Goodfellow read his testimony to the Committee, which is as follows:

I am a member of the Committee on the Environment, but am speaking tonight as an individual about the management of Lake Whetstone shoreline vegetation – specifically the excessive pruning and unnecessary cutting of the sensitive shoreline vegetation and the deviation from the 2015 MVF Board-approved maintenance standards for lakes/ponds/streams.

What I saw last week around Lake Whetstone was all the vegetation cut and trimmed to the same height – in violation of Standard No. 2, which states, “Vegetation surrounding lakes and ponds shall be pruned at varying heights to provide a natural appearance and intermittent view of the lake or pond.” (Dam areas are excluded.)

Some of those shrubs will get taller and thicker during this growing season, but many areas had even more vegetation cut and removed this year – around the benches and fishing spots. I observed some trees, 1-2 inches in diameter that were also removed. This is not sound or wise management of our sensitive resources.

But this is about more than just non-compliance with maintenance standards, whether by apathy, laziness, lack of oversight, or gross ignorance. This is about proper environmental management that is key to the long-term health, sustainability, and resilience of the Lake Whetstone environment.

The excessive disturbance and cutting of this vegetation is allowing the growth and proliferation of aggressive, invasive vines that will eventually blanket and smother everything around the lake if changes are not made. This was evident last year.

I know you agree that we don't want a future lake shore to be an ugly mat of vines and weeds.

It's instructive to examine the Whetstone side of the lake. The vegetation there is tall, lush, diverse, and stable with virtually no invasives – because there is no regular disturbance and cutting of their shoreline vegetation.

It's easy to criticize, but productive to offer solutions. Here's my solution:

I strongly urge the MV Board to direct staff to engage resources to hire the services of a licensed landscape architect, and arborist, a botanist, or a forester to examine the lakeside vegetation in the late summer and develop and implementable plan for invasive control, wise pruning, and even new plantings.

This will allow Lake Whetstone to flourish.

Mr. Goodfellow moved that the Committee recommend that the MVF Board direct staff to engage resources to hire the services of a licensed landscape architect, an arborist, a botanist, or a forester to examine to examine the lakeside vegetation in the late summer and develop and implementable plan for invasive control, wise pruning, and even new plantings. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting for the Committee on the Environment will be held on July 11, 2018 at North Creek Community Center.

Adjournment

Mr. Vetter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 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 April 11, 2018 Meeting

Motion List

- 1. Mr. Goodfellow moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 committee meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with four for and one abstention. (Mr. Vetter abstained.)**
- 2. Mr. Goodfellow moved to nominate Claudette Lease as Chair for the Committee on the Environment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- 3. Mr. Goodfellow moved that the Committee recommend that the MVF Board direct staff to engage resources to hire the services of a licensed landscape architect, an arborist, a botanist, or a forester to examine to examine the lakeside vegetation in the late summer and develop and implementable plan for invasive control, wise pruning, and even new plantings. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- 4. Mr. Vetter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Action List

_____ Mr. Gole will investigate whether the site plan for the Village Center has been approved.

_____ Mr. Gole will follow-up with Ms. Pizzonia about the Rake the Lake date.

_____ Mr. Gole will follow-up about including information in the *Village News* about wildlife and how to contact Second Chance Wildlife.

_____ Mr. Gole will circulate a date with the Committee for the strategic planning questionnaire results.



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July 6, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on the Environment
 FROM: Scott Gole, Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks
 SUBJECT: 2018 Goose Count

On Saturday June 23, 2018, a count of geese at Village parks with lakes or ponds was conducted. Counters included COE members, MVF staff and other interested volunteers. The following data was collected during this count. I have also attached a comparison sheet that has the past seventeen year's data.

<u>PARK</u>	<u># OF GEESE</u>	<u># OF GOSLINGS</u>
Lake Whetstone	241	7
South Valley Park	29	0
North Creek Lake	152	7
Lake Marion Park	44	0
Ed DeSimon Rec. Area	25	0
Kaufmann Park	0	0
	491	14

GRAND TOTAL = 505

SG/tg

Goose Count Data Yearly Comparison

Year	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Lake Whet Geese	140	149	138	91	168	171	191	151	169	118	138	123	181	193	191	153	119	241
Lake Whet Goslings	0	4	0	28	0	19	0	0	9	2	0	4	0	11	37	0	0	7
Lake Whet Total	140	153	138	119	168	190	191	151	178	120	138	127	181	204	228	153	119	248
South Valley Geese	166	179	192	175	225	162	150	146	151	170	115	107	112	91	83	85	183	29
SV Goslings	2	14	8	7	14	1	3	11	0	5	1	2	17	0	2	0	0	0
South Valley Total	168	193	200	182	239	163	153	157	151	175	116	109	129	91	85	85	183	29
North Creek Geese	143	127	130	152	166	143	114	141	156	230	104	138	123	132	133	137	152	152
NCL Goslings	3	0	17	8	11	6	15	20	0	6	7	0	19	9	21	0	0	7
North Creek Total	146	127	147	160	177	149	129	161	156	236	111	138	142	141	154	137	152	159
Lake Marion Geese	35	50	23	24	1	14	0	24	16	34	33	36	58	36	15	57	73	44
LM Goslings	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	0	2	3	3	0
Lake Marion Total	35	52	25	24	1	14	0	24	16	34	37	36	63	36	17	60	76	44
DeSimon Geese	50	13	26	24	37	31	35	20	14	61	30	29	30	17	4	5	14	25
DeSimon Goslings	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeSimon Total	50	13	26	24	38	31	35	20	14	61	30	29	30	17	4	5	14	25
Kaufmann Geese	0	24	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaufmann Goslings	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaufmann Total	0	25	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Geese/Gosling	539	563	548	509	626	547	508	513	515	626	468	439	545	489	488	440	544	505