

Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2011 (4:00 - 6:00 PM)

Committee Members Present: Nancy Beaver , Patti Psaris, Otto Gutenson, Anne Larson, Norma Wilson, Eleanor Adams, David Ward

Committee Members Absent: (None)

Guests: (None)

Location: Lovettsville Library, 12 North Light Street, Lovettsville, Virginia 20180

Call to order: 4:07 PM

Discussion

Approval of May 23, 2011 Meeting Minutes (Motion to approve with edits: Psaris; Second: Larson; Vote: Unanimous).

Historic Reports: Motion that Anne Larson, Historian, to draft letters inviting John Demary and David Nelson to act as Advisors. David Nelson lives at the Taylorstown mill and is preparing a slideshow on the Miller family and history of Brown family. Anne has obtained a paper copy of John Lewis Catoctin Creek history. Taylorstown Citizen Association established a history committee (Rich Gallespie and David Whitmer). Dick Gibbons has contacted Patrick Miller and will obtain a copy of the VA Tech report on Catoctin Creek. John Demary, a naturalist advisor, is a former Valley High School teacher and the Chatman-Demary Park in Purcellville is named after him. Michael Clem, an archeologist, is a possible speaker for the committee. Eugene Shields, historian, could be available as a speaker to the committee. Gem Bingol, Piedmont Environmental Council, could address water concerns and speak to the committee.

Referral Agent for Loudoun County Government: Otto Gutenson has contacted Gary Clare, Deputy Director at Building and Development to discuss the issues of the referral process being subjective and the differences in the referrals for applications that are legislative versus those that are by-right.

Motion to Speak at Public Input (Nominated: Adams; Second: Larson; Vote: Unanimous).

At the next Public Input on July 18, Otto Gutenson will read previously reviewed Committee statement. David Ward will reformat and include “red bud” photo. The statement will be email to the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee continues to inquire about the “Referral Agent” process by which the Committee may be provided the opportunity to comment on development projects that affect the scenic river. Otto Gutenson will request that Supervisor Kurtz to ask for clarification on the referral process and how the committee can get involved in the referral process. A letter will be sent to the County Administration, Board and Supervisors and Planning commission with two requests: (1) that the county fully implement the Land Management Information System (LMIS) wherein the field for “Scenic River”, currently containing only blank entries, be populated for each parcel in the county, (2) that the County develop a GIS mapping layer (polygon) of the Scenic Creek Buffer area. David Ward will circulate a draft of the request.

Development Projects:

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Waterford Downs: The Committee needs to prepare written comments. Dick Gibbons support meeting with landowners and that the committee should send comments even though the referral process is unclear. The letter could alternatively be submitted by “Concerned Neighbors”. It was suggested that Mike Kane meet with the landowner (Talton). Topics to possibly include in the letter:

- Viewshed impacts.
- Emergency access road and impact on viewshed of lot 55.
- Property should provide public access to the creek.
- The requirements of the Scenic Creek Valley Buffer Ordinance must be adhered to.
- Possibility of tax incentives for riparian buffer.

Ward to prepare and Psaris will assist in preparation of draft letter to be sent to Barbara Zimmerman at Loudoun County.

Discussed the development of: “Plan Review Guidelines”. Psaris will prepare draft of written guidelines to help in the review and response of development applications to be discussed in August meeting.

Outreach and Education:

- No discussion.

Announcements:

- Stream Day in Taylorstown on August 13. Cliff Fairweather will conduct a nature walk.
- “Friends of Catoctin” from Taylorstown bridge along Downey Mills Road to Patrick Ryan House – Conservation Easement with Virginia Land trust and others to be held first week in September at Lovettsville Community Center.

Next meeting(s): July 25, 2011 from 4 to 6 PM, at Lovettsville Library.

Adjourn: 6:18 PM (Motion: Psaris; Second: Larson; Vote: Unanimous)