

Minutes of the July 12, 2006 meeting,
Lovettsville Room
Loudoun County Government Center
1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia

Members Present: Chairman Helen Casey, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus, Steven Combs-Lafleur, Lynn Gibson, John Isom, Benjamin Lawrence, Mark Peterson, Kurt Erickson (by proxy)

Members Absent: Kurt Erickson

Advisors Absent: Phil Daley

County Staff Present: Steve Sawyer, Division Manager, Parks, PRCS; Melanie Wellman, Planner, Community Planning, Department of Planning; Mark Novak, Recording Secretary, PRCS

Chairman's Business

Chairman Helen Casey called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday September 13, 2006 p.m. in the Lovettsville Room. The next order of business was introductions followed by special guest speaker Shannon Groves. Due to the speaker's time constraints, Chairman Casey requested Shannon's presentation be presented at this time.

Chairman Helen Casey introduced Shannon Groves; an upcoming senior at Broad Run High School whose interest in protecting the environment has led to volunteering on water quality projects. Ashburn Village Community ponds and the Broad Run Water shed in Northern Virginia are two projects she is currently involved with. Ashburn Village where she lives was of particular interest, as a school science project. Shannon studied "The Relationship between Temperatures and Water Pollution in the Lakes of Ashburn Village" and placed first in the 2004 science fair. Copies of her report will be made available to the Committee.

Chairman Helen Casey requested a return to the agenda and a motion to accept May's minutes. Ben Lawrence moved to accept minutes. The motion passed, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus absent for the vote, Kurt Erickson (by proxy).

Report on Luck Stone: Mark Peterson, Luck Stone, presented a new idea under consideration for the creek crossing for the proposed quarry operation to the west

side of Goose Creek. Mark invited Kurt Erickson, designated Luck Stone liaison, out to the site and shared their idea. Mark introduced Travis Chewing, Mining Engineer, and Louis Murphy, Plant Manager, who have been working on the feasibility of the alternative crossing. As a means of getting the mined material across Goose Creek, a bridge crossing was approved under the original 1990 plan. During the last year in preparation for the development of the west pit, there was a lot discussion on the design and operation of the bridge. Over the last five months of brainstorming, the idea of putting a tunnel 50' below the creek was discussed. In the early discussions of a bridge over the Goose, there was a lot of concern by members of the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory (Board) Committee, as to the potential environmental impact from falling debris into the Creek. Travis Chewing concurred that this was also a shared concern with Luck Stone. The decision to switch to a tunnel made sense not only from an environmental view but, from an operational point as well. Anne Larson asked about the possibility of the tunnel being flooded by Goose Creek especially in bad weather. Travis stated Luke Stone had hired the Sauer Company, a world renowned tunneling firm (which also designed the Metro tunnel under the Potomac River) to design the tunnel and feels very comfortable with preliminary design discussions that the tunnel would be protected against flooding. The proposed entrances to the tunnel would be outside of the 300 foot easement held by Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Other questions were asked as to the depth of the tunnel under the Creek and future use of the tunnel once the quarry operations are completed. Currently the design of the tunnel is underway with more preliminary detail expected by the end of summer. Should the tunnel prove to be feasible, a special exception will be required, at which time conditions such as the future outcome of the tunnel will be determined. To complete the design for the tunnel, drill core holes will need to be conducted to determine whether the material is suitable for a tunnel. Two (2) of the core holes will need to be within the 300 foot easement. Location of the core holes within the easement will be determined in the field to minimize impact to existing trees and vegetation, upon completion, core holes will be grouted (sealed). Travis laid out the following timeline Luck Stone is considering for the operation of the new quarry: core drilling needs to begin now, to complete the design of the tunnel. This would take about two weeks. The next step would be submission and approval for a special exception and other required permits or studies, looking at one (1) to two (2) years. Luck Stone is anticipating being out six (6) to seven (7) years from full operation of the new pit. In closing, Luck Stone offered to come back to the Committee after the core drilling and tunnel design had been completed with a representative from the Sauer Company to present and discuss the design of the tunnel. Chairman Casey accepted the offer and added them to the September agenda.

Committee Business

Ben Lawrence made the motion to accept continuing of board membership as follows: Helen Casey, Joan Rokus, Steven Combs-Lafleur, Lynn Gibson, John Isom, Benjamin Lawrence, Mark Peterson and Kurt Erickson. Motion passed, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus absent for the vote, Kurt Erickson (by proxy).

Ben Lawrence made the motion to accept slate of officers as follows: Chairman Helen Casey, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus. Motion passed, Vice Chairman Rokus absent for the vote, Kurt Erickson (by proxy).

Ben Lawrence submitted to the committee, Phil Daley to be added as a prospective committee member. Ben Lawrence moved for the recommendation of Phil Daley's name for membership to the Goose Creek Advisory Committee. Motion passed, Vice Chairman Rokus absent for the vote, Kurt Erickson (by proxy).

Ben Lawrence made the motion that the Chairman write a letter to Department of Conservation and Recreation requesting Phil Daley be appointed as a member. Motion passed, Vice Chairman Rokus absent for the vote, Kurt Erickson (by proxy).

Ben Lawrence listed Mark Novak, Loudoun County Parks Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) as the Recording Secretary.

Chairman Casey stated at last month's meeting committee members were provided a copy of the Paths and Trails Policy of the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee. Chairman Casey asked whether anyone had a desire to change any part of the Paths and Trails Policy. Policy dates back to October 2001, presented to the Loudoun County Planning Commission. Mark Novak, PRCS asked to comment, concerned with excluding equestrian and dogs within the 300' easement. The County's Revised General Plan River and Stream Corridors Resources Policies allows for paths and trails – including footpaths, biking or hiking paths, and horse trails. Chairman Casey understands PRCS position and appreciates their cooperation and relationship over the years. Chairman Casey requested that committee members review the policy and provide any changes they would like to see.

Chairman Casey introduced the guest speaker Tom Farley, Lansdowne Community Development, presenting Ridgewater Park (formally Creekside). Tom updated the Committee on the resubmission of the rezoning and explained changes that have occurred. Tom mentioned how the Goose which borders the property was an import amenity to the project with potential trail connections to the W&OD. In addition, Tom discussed how the proposed rezoning will allow for the development of a Planned Community that will integrate Inova Health System's

research and education campus with a residential community in a strategic location between Ashburn and Leesburg.

Ben Lawrence gave an update on the Fauquier County scenic status, stated they are moving along very well, looking at getting everything done as early as next year. Chairman Casey suggested that we invite them to come and celebrate their accomplishment.

John Isom gave a brief update on Lime Kiln Road; rumor going around that Meadowkirk was going to be subdivided into three (3) acre lots. No one was able to confirm. Chairman Helen Casey will follow up with Meadowkirk attorney to see whether there has been a change in their development plans.

Anne Larson gave an update on Catoctin Creek. Anne provided background history on Catoctin Creek, Corp of Engineers' original plan to dam Catoctin Creek to provide water for Fairfax County, and designation as a scenic river. Anne is very concerned with the current low level of the creek, and with the projected increase in development and population, fears the creek will become even lower. Anne fears in a few years time Catoctin Creek will be a series of ponds.

Ben Lawrence is updating the Goose Creek pamphlet that was done a few years back. Would like to have more printed up, Mark Novak will check and see if PRCS can print them on the color printer.

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m.

Guests: Chris Pauley, NVRPA
Erika Richardson, VOF
Tom Farley, Lansdowne Community Development
Lewis Murphy, Luck Stone
Travis Chewing, Luck Stone
Shannon Groves
Mr. and Mrs. Groves (Annette and Bill)

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A. Novak, ASLA, PRCS