

Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee

Minutes of the November 10, 2004 meeting,
Lovettsville Room
Loudoun County Government Center
1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia

Members Present: Chairman Helen Casey, Steven Combs-Lafleur, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus

Members Absent: Kurt Erickson, Bill Hudspeth, Ben Lawrence

County Staff Present: Marie Genovese, Planner, Community Planning
Mark Novak, Park Planner, PRCS
Janet Klein, Recording Secretary, PRCS

Chairman's Business

Chairman Helen Casey called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Helen acknowledged the passing of Committee member Fred McIntosh on October 15. At Vice Chairman Joan Rokus's suggestion, the Committee observed a 15-second Moment of Silence for Fred. Joan then asked if a copy of Fred's obituary could be mailed out with the minutes of today's meeting.

Helen passed around photographs from the Sept. meeting and field trip with the Virginia state Scenic River Advisory Board members. She then welcomed everyone and introduced all those present. There followed a brief overview of the topics to be covered at today's meeting. Helen stated that a question had come up about the correct date for the establishment of the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee and it is indeed July 1, 2004, as written in the Annual Report. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in the Lovettsville Room at the Loudoun County Government Center.

Chairman Casey asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There being none, Steven Combs-Lafleur moved and Joan Rokus seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Evergreen Project– Cris Criswell

- The Evergreen project is on the west side of Beaverdam Reservoir and runs to Ryan Road.
- Cris reported that he proffered 148 acres of frontage along Beaverdam Reservoir and that Loudoun County will be managing the plantings in that area.
- He stated that he wants to re-zone his property and move the plan for his homes in the Evergreen Hamlets subdivision to the west side since he no longer needs the drain fields that had been approved for the east side of the property. He could then give some of the west side to the County for schools, trails, park land, etc.

Claude Moore

- Claude Moore is on the northeast corner of the Evergreen project. Cris will begin development there in the near future.
- The property is bounded on the North by Goose Creek, on the east by the City of Fairfax (Beaverdam Reservoir), on the south by Reservoir Road, and on the west by a conservancy lot (in the Evergreen Project development).
- The Claude Moore Property is zoned TR10 with a density of 1 unit per 10 acres. There will be 25 homes on 255 acres. Each lot will be approximately 3 acres. The rest of the land will be roads and open space. The common open space will be owned by the HOA. He stated that all open space must be contiguous. The northern portion of the property has mature trees and steep slopes near Goose Creek and will not be developed. It will remain open space.
- There will be one road coming off of Reservoir Road.
- The Claude Moore Land Development Site Plan Application is with B&D. Mark suggested that if Helen is asked to make a Referral Comment, she ask for an open space conservation dedication and that the land be donated. The land cannot be used for anything but they might say they will offer an easement. Steven Combs-Lafleur pointed out that it is human nature to not want to give away any land even if it is no good to them except for a tax write-off.
- Cris will be pumping and hauling until the sewer is installed and he can hook into it.
- Claude Moore currently has a 10-year open space easement over the entire property for tax purposes.
- He plans for the access road to lead out to Beaverdam River Drive and stay off of Reservoir Road.
- He stated that there will be a minimum 300-ft. setback – common open space – as outlined in the County's zoning ordinance. Helen asked whether a permanent easement could be obtained. He said they have discussed with PRCS extending the equestrian trail from the Rural Village all the way across his property inside that setback.
- He has done an historical survey of the property and there are a couple of old burned out houses there of no historical significance

Ann Lawson – Catocin Creek group

Ann spoke about this group's efforts to form an organization. They are hoping for a DEQ watershed grant. During a recent successful stream monitoring day, over 20 people participated and called in their results

Extension of Scenic River Status into Fauquier County

Helen reported that our Committee is being encouraged to ask for an extension of the scenic river status of Goose Creek into Fauquier County. Steven Combs-Lafleur stated that he would like to extend it all the way to the headwaters in Hume. Helen said the first step is to extend into Fauquier County. Those present voted unanimously to make the request for the extension into Fauquier.

Letter to Fred McIntosh's widow

Helen wants to send a letter to Fred's widow expressing the Board/Committee's appreciation for Fred's many years of dedication to the preservation of Goose Creek. Joan Rokus agreed to contact her friend Jan Evans to see if she knows how long Fred served on the Board. Helen stated she wanted help drafting the letter. Everyone expressed confidence in her writing ability and so it was decided that Helen would draft the letter and then email it to the Committee for approval before sending it out.

Helen reported receiving a Request for Referral from a development east of Rt. 659. She responded that it is not relevant to Goose Creek.

Update on Elizabeth Lock

Mark began by stating that everything along the Creek for both North and South properties has been dedicated to the County – 18 acres. Mark stated that originally Elizabeth Lock was not part of the proffers. PRCS then convinced Lansdowne to give the entire lock to the county which increased the park land by 30 acres.

Helen stated that she met with Gary Dumont of Lansdowne. They are supposed to take her down to the park area. She is still waiting to take a look at the Rivercreek front part. The issues have not been resolved. The pond is still over the line and they have not replaced the trees but they have removed the debris.

Someone stated that there is a story on the September tour in today's (11/10/2004) Loudoun Times-Mirror.

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Guests Present: Cris Criswell, Criswell Company LLC
 Mark Peterson, Luck Stone
 Chris Gleckner
 Anne Donovan Larson, Catocin Creek Scenic River Group
 Julia Claypool, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Respectfully submitted,

Janet G. Klein