

GOOSE CREEK SCENIC RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 12, 2005 meeting,
Lovettsville Room
Loudoun County Government Center
1 Harrison Street, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia

Members Present: Chairman Helen Casey, Vice Chairman Joan Rokus, Kurt Erickson, Steven Combs-Lafleur, Ben Lawrence

Members Absent: Bill Hudspeth

County Staff Present: Marie Genovese, Planner, Community Planning
Jason Rogers, Planning
Janet Klein, Recording Secretary, PRCS

Chairman's Business

Chairman Helen Casey called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lovettsville Room. The next order of business was introductions.

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

MEADOWKIRK

A planned rural retreat/camp
with hundreds of feet of frontage along Goose Creek.
Presentation by Benjamin Leigh of the law firm Mims, Atwell & Leigh

- The National Capital Presbytery purchased the 358-acre property (formerly known as Delta Farm) in April 2004 and just filed a Minor Special Exception to use this property as a rural retreat/camp for up to 100 campers and up to 50 retreat participants. It is early in this process and they expect more referral comments. Committee members asked if users of this property would be expecting to go canoeing or fishing in the Creek.

- Helen stated that this Committee has always asked developers for a permanent 300 ft. setback from the Creek dedicated in the plans/proffers. As well, the Committee asks that within that easement there be no building, no destruction of flora and fauna, no tarring, and no disturbance. She would like to see that in writing.

- There was a discussion about trails. Benjamin Leigh stated that if there are any, they would be man-made non-disturbing trails. Helen stated that this Committee has a firm Trails Policy. She will send copies to Mr. Leigh and Cheryl Hartman. Helen said that Parks, Recreation and Community Services will most likely want the owners to continue the trail that runs along the Creek on the adjoining property. For security reasons because the campers will be children, the owners do not want an actual canoe launch there that would encourage anyone canoeing down the Creek to stop off and walk onto their property but they will be meeting with Parks, Recreation and Community Services staff on January 21st at 1:00 p.m. to discuss what the County would like to see on the property.

- Helen asked about drainfields. She would like to see where the fields will be located if they will be draining into the Creek.

- Mr. Leigh will have to check to see if the owners plan to use fertilizers but there are no plans for agricultural use. He will also get back to this group with more information about the water systems. Pre-treatment will be operated by LCSA. It will drain into the ground. It will be a low pressure distribution system – no spray. The County Health Department will be monitoring what they are doing.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Helen is trying to recruit some new members. She has invited many prospective members to our meetings but they do not come. Steven Combs-Lafleur will contact John and Barbara Rocca who live along the Creek. This Committee needs more riparian members. Helen asked everyone to think of people they know along the Creek and call to invite them to a meeting. Get those names of potential new members to Helen.

The next order of business was to reassign Fred's projects to other members. Kurt Erickson volunteered to take on Luck Stone and Joan Rokus agreed to be back-up on Brambleton.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ben called Fauquier County about extending the Scenic River status into Fauquier. Our purpose is to have them develop their own organization if they so desire. There have been some staff changes recently in the Fauquier County government and the County Administrator is very new on the job but he plans to contact Helen to discuss what we do. Ben told him that Dick Gibbons would also be a good contact. The County Administrator will get back to Ben about which direction they want to go

2. Joan told the Committee of an effort sponsored by Chairman York to raise funds to help rebuild parks and sports fields in the devastated region affected by the Tsunami. This group will be meeting for the first time at the NRPA headquarters in Ashburn. Cindy Welsh will be chairing this group and Joan will be vice chairman.

3. Joan Rokus announced that David Hobson is now Acting Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA).

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Guests Present: Benjamin Leigh of Mims, Atwell & Leigh
Cheryl Hartman, Meadowkirk
Mark Peterson, Luck Stone
Anne Donovan Larson, Catoctin Creek Scenic River Group
Julia Claypool, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Respectfully submitted,

Janet G. Klein