

Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019 (4:30 - 6:00 PM)

Committee Members, Eleanor Adams, Bruce Johnson, Joan Linhardt, David Ward, Patti Psaris (Present); David Nelson, Carol Matheny (Absent)

Guest: Lynn Crump (DCR), Phil Daley (Goose Creek SRAC)

Location: Robey Meeting Room, Purcellville Library, 220 East Main Street, Purcellville, VA 20132

Call to order: 4:38 PM

Review Minutes: Motion to accept the November 2018 minutes - Adams(m); Johnson(s); Approved with request to include Addendum on VDOT meeting

Development Projects:

-) Waterford Downs - Home construction continues with houses being constructed along the edge of Catoctin Creek.
-) Waterford Estate on North Fork Catoctin Creek – Home continues upstream of “Scenic” designation.

Loudoun County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Formerly Envision Loudoun): There are a series of meetings being held. On 2/13/19, PEC has organized a meeting at the Old Waterford School.

State Scenic River Program and 50th Anniversary:

The Virginia Outdoors Plan Summary was issued in 2018. There were clarifications provided regarding statements about the need for protecting scenery and scenic views as this is “very important”.

The Subcommittee of Scenic River met last fall and second meeting is planned for February 27.

The Steering Committee will meet at Lake Anna on March 6.

The Board of Conservation and Recreation is preparing to issue a Resolution about the 50th Anniversary of the Scenic River program. The Catoctin Committee will seek to have Loudoun County Board of Supervisors adopt a similar Resolution by July 2019.

Scenic River Brochure: An updated version with 50th anniversary logo was distributed.

Scenic River Signage: There are meetings with VDOT and possible future legislation to fund scenic river signage.

Stone Dumping Incident: Virginia Department of Transportation dumped large amount of very large rip-rap stone along banks of Catoctin Creek upstream of the Taylorstown bridge as part of road renovations on east side of Downey Mills Rd. This was reported in LoudounNow newspaper.

From meeting with VDOT on February 6 at Supervisors Higgins office:

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- Stone originated from construction project along Sycolin Creek.
- Contractor had offered to deliver stone at no charge to VDOT.
- There was no engineering or prior road assessment performed by VDOT.
- VDOT will consider removal of stone and replacement with alternative (indigenous) rock.

A team is needed: (1) to assessment the impact and damages, (2) engage a hydrologist to evaluate impact of flow in stream, and (3) engage an engineer to review roadway and evaluate the need for maintenance.

The committee (Pсарis/Ward) will prepare a scope of work and circulate.

Need to include staff from Soil & Water Conservation District and Rural Roads representative.

Other discussion included the possible need for Corp of Engineers Permit and the need for FEMA flood study.

Catoctin Preservation Fund: A meeting is planned for March 24 at the Old Waterford School “Turning the Map Green”.

Elections: Motion to keep slate of officers the same.

-) Bruce Johnson – Chair
-) David Nelson – Co-Chair
-) Eleanor Adams – Secretary

Motion by Psaris; Second by Matheny; Vote: Four members – For; Johnson - Abstain

Next meeting: March 11, 2019 – Monday - Purcellville Library – 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Adjourn: 5:50 PM (Motion – Psaris; Second – Linhardt)

Addendum to Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2019.

The following addendum is added to the Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2019 as way of documenting and providing some history regarding the VDOT disposal of large rocks along the scenic portion of the Catoctin Creek, along Downey Mill Road, August 2018.

DATE	DESCRIPTION
8/14/2018	Patrick Huger emails Supervisor Higgins about an on-going “project” along the banks of the Catoctin Creek along Downey Mill Road. He alerts Geary Higgins and Randy Minchew about the problem and reached out to Jim Betz, VDOT District Supervisor.
8/14/2018	Jim Betz, VDOT District Supervisor, visits Patrick Huger at his home and expressed his dismay about what was going on. He indicated that the “project” was one that his substation crews took on at their own initiative. Mr. Betz indicated to Mr. Huger that normal operating protocol and procedures were not followed and that the stones were simply dumped and shoved down the bank using a loader. Other procedures were also not followed. There was no notice of a project and the result was damage to Mr. Huger’s property, the banks of the Catoctin, the scenic nature of the creek, and the trees located along the creek bank.
8/23/14	Patrick Huger contacts Eleanor Adams and Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee via email to let us know what is going on.
8/24/14	Eleanor Adams contacts Mitch Diamond to alert him and the Coalition about this issue.
9/28/2018	Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee (CCSRAC) agrees to investigate the “project” and write a letter to VDOT. (This letter was not sent).
10/12/2018	Site is walked (by CCSRAC) and photos taken, created map with volume estimate as to how much stone was dumped along the bank
11/12/2018	CCSRAC committee meeting. CCSRAC decides to set up a meeting with VDOT through Supervisor Higgins’ office.
1/23/2019	Loudoun news article “VDOT Dumps 350 Tons of Rock on Catoctin Creek Banks” https://loudounnow.com/2019/01/23/vdot-dumps-350-tons-of-rock-on-catoctin-creek-banks/
2/6/2018	Meeting with VDOT (with Higgins, CCSRAC, Diamond). Mitch Diamond prepared meeting minutes (email dated 2/7/19 to all present at the meeting)
2/11/2019	CCSRAC to prepare a proposed scope of work for site remediation along Downey Mill Road to submit to VDOT.