

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

Minutes from the Spring Meeting

April 10, 2019, 7pm-8:50pm

CWCA President Larry Allen called the meeting to order and made introductions of the other CWCA officers: Lizzy Conroy, VP; Jennifer Versaw, Treasurer; and Ellen Garrett, Secretary. Approximately 40 residents were in attendance.

Review of Recent Community Events

- a. **Traffic Calming** – Sarah Merchak provided an update on the Fairfax County Dept of Transportation’s ongoing traffic study regarding Chesterbrook Rd from Kirby to the Arlington County line. The goal of this CWCA committee is to reflect the wishes of the community regarding this topic.

Step 1: Study Initiation (complete)

Step 2: Traffic Count & Speed Study (complete): The FCDOT survey gathered traffic data in 2018 based on two factors: speed and volume. The study revealed that 5,000 cars passed per day at an average speed of 35 mph. The 85-percentiles for speed were 38 and 45 mph. This is definitely high and could justify a traffic calming solution.

- Attachment >> [Chart of Summary Speed & Volume Statistics for Chesterbrook Rd.](#)
- Attachment>> [Chesterbrook Rd Speed Study](#)

Step 3: Conceptual Plan Development. (in works) The initial proposal of the county is to create 2 extended speed bumps and 1 regular speed bump.

Step 4: Community Meeting (details pending) There will be a FCDOT community meeting this fall to discuss the pros, cons, alternative ideas to this issue. Date TBD.

Step 5: Community Vote. If the proposal moves forward, there will be ballots send out. Some of CWCA’s residents are in the voting block (142 lots).

- Attachment>> [Map of Voting Block](#)

Some concern was also expressed regarding speed on both sides of Forest Ln. It was shared that Forest Ln is considered a “Collector Road” by the county and that pursuing traffic calming measures would not be as arduous as the current study for Chesterbrook Rd. In 2011, a study was completed on Albemarle Rd that resulted in speed bumps. This is a similar type road to Forest Ln and this study can be shared with those residents who are interested. Please contact CWCA President Larry Allen if you would like to be a contact person for such an initiative. Note that no plan can move ahead without two to five contact people willing to volunteer.

- Attachment>> [2011 Speed & Volume Study on Albemarle Rd](#)

- b. **Dominion Energy Tap Line Burial** – Dominion Energy has reached out to eligible neighbors for their state-wide reliability initiative, Strategic Underground Program.

Neighborhood feedback was that Dominion could not yet pinpoint exact locations for the transistor boxes, but they were willing to discuss with residents. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Tony Robinson, Marketing & Communications Coordinator at 571-329-7663, anthony.d.robinson@dominionenergy.com

A concern was raised over the lack of collaboration of all utility companies and the logical sequencing of this project and the sidewalk efforts. Dominion has approached Verizon and Cox and they are not interested in participating in the undergrounding of their lines. If we want our neighborhood cleaned up and the utility poles removed, then the State Corporation Committee must be appealed, since that is who controls the contracts with Verizon and Cox. They ought to make this a contractual requirement to participate in the undergrounding. Additionally, the undergrounding should happen first, followed by the sidewalk project, so that the sidewalks don't have to be ripped up to do the undergrounding. Currently, this sequencing does not appear to be a consideration. The CWCA will reach out to Delegate Sullivan to discuss this issue.

Treasurer's Report

- CWCA collected dues from approximately 66% of households. This is down from previous years, which is usually 70%.
- The budget is in a strong and financially stable state.

Report from Supervisor Foust's Office

Supervisor Foust was unable to attend the meeting, but he was represented by Ms. Jane Edmonson, Chief of Staff.

- Budget Update** - Foust was at a budget hearing reviewing the advertised budget that was released on Feb 19. The tax rate remains the same at \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value. The projected revenue is \$163M. Schools will get what they asked for (\$86M additional dollars) to pay for teacher salaries. On the County side -- \$76M is being set aside for things like the new police station and the opioid task force. On May 7 the Board will vote to approve the budget.
- 'Connect McLean' Trails Project - Sidewalk Projects on Kirby and Chesterbrook Roads.**

Kirby Road Sidewalk Projects (from east to west)

- Construction on sidewalk on the north side of Kirby Road from Chesterbrook to east of Chesterbrook Elementary School was completed at the end of the August. The sidewalk was fully in place for the start of school.
- South side of Kirby Road from Chesterbrook Elementary School to Halsey Road and from Halsey Road to Franklin Avenue
 - Land acquisition underway.

- Construction expected to begin mid/late fall 2019 and be completed late spring/early summer 2020.
- North side of Kirby Road from Birch Road to Ivy Hill Drive and from Ivy Hill Drive to Corliss Court
 - Construction expected to begin this June and be completed in late 2019/early 2020.
- South side of Kirby Road from Mori Street to Chesterbrook Road
 - Land acquisition expected to begin this month.
 - Construction late fall 2021; estimated completion summer 2022

Chesterbrook Road Sidewalk Projects (from west to east)

- South side of Chesterbrook Road from Chesterfield Way to Maddux Lane
 - Construction to begin May/June 2019
 - Estimated completion late 2019
- South side of Chesterbrook Road from Chesterbrook Vale Court to North Albemarle Street
 - Scoping to begin in July.
- South side of Chesterbrook Road from North Albemarle Street to Forest Lane and Forest Lane to North 41st. Street.
 - Scoping to begin this July.

- c. **Storm Water** - For the construction project at the intersection of N. Albemarle St and Chesterbrook Rd. There was a Fairfax Co and VDOT meeting where it has been determined that the pipe needs to be upsized. They have decided on a pipe layout. This week there may be utility companies digging holes. In the late summer, you may see additional digging. There are no requirements for easements from nearby landowners.

The stream restoration of Pimmit Run will tie into the Albemarle project. This is a big step to be on this work plan.

- d. **495 NEXT** <http://www.495northernextension.org/>

The Virginia Department of Transportation is conducting an environmental study about plans to extend the 495 Express Lanes by approximately three miles from the I-495 and Dulles Toll Road interchange to the vicinity of the American Legion Bridge and Maryland line. Virginia's 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension study, also referred to as 495 NEXT, is being developed as an independent, stand-alone project that will be closely coordinated and compatible with plans for the 495 Capital Beltway in Maryland. The full scope of improvements will be refined over the coming months.

May 20: second public meeting. 6:30pm – 8:30 pm. Cooper Middle School.

- e. **Downtown McLean** - Working to re-amend the comprehensive plan of revitalization. Since the December 17 meeting, they are creating a “vision plan” for the area – which

is estimated to take about a year to complete. Task Force meetings are open to the public.

f. Discussion

- A question was raised regarding the recent major road closing on 495 and the resulting congestion that ensued inside the beltway. Would it be possible to make the Chain Bridge one-way to alleviate the traffic during an emergency situation like that? Answer: No – not by Foust’s office, the Chain Bridge is owned by Washington D.C., not Fairfax County.
- Concern was raised over the group homes in the neighborhood, how many cars are parked at the residence, and whether they are operating under the correct type of license. Answer: They are allowed under the Federal Fair Housing Law and the county has no legal authority to do anything about them. On a similar note...there are 3 drug rehabilitation group homes going up in a row near McLean High School – there is a public meeting happening after spring break on April 24, 7pm, McLean High School. <http://mcleanptsa.org/>
- Concern was raised over the 3-way stop at Chesterbrook and Kirby Rd. Residents are noting that traffic coming from Kirby toward Chain Bridge Rd are missing the stop sign completely and blowing through the stop sign. Request was made to Foust’s office to position a police officer there and to urge residents to take extra care at this intersection. Conjecture was made that the cause of this issue is to the new tolls on Rte 66, and new drivers to this area are cutting through and are unfamiliar with the intersection and the signage is not great.

Committee Reports

Snow Removal:

- Ed McGrady and Steve Sunderhauf reported for the committee
- There were 4-5 events this past winter
- Cost \$11,000 – typical average year
- Just renewed the contract with the plow service
- We are aware of issues with cul-de-sacs getting missed and for the snow pile ups. The committee re-iterates these issues to the plow service. Please be aware that not every plow service or sand/salt truck that comes through the neighborhood is the one that CWCA hires.
- Email for issues regarding the snow plow service on your road: CWCASnow@gmail.com
- Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/cwcasnow>
- CWCA’s Wunderground Link: <https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KVAMCLEA53#history>

Environmental Committee:

The committee can be contact at: cwcaenvironment@yahoogroups.com

a. Infill development survey – Neil Ende is planning to survey residence in the coming months – more details pend

b. Recycling Tips – by Betty Ende

- Helpful video to understand the problems caused by plastic bags in recycling bins: <https://www.facebook.com/newshour/videos/665380457180350/?t=9>
- Empty & rinse plastic bottles before recycling. You can attach the cap.
- Reuse glass bottles where you can, jars make excellent storage containers. Otherwise, recycle them empty and rinsed. It is preferred that glass be taken to the Recycling and Disposal Centers [I-66 Transfer Station](#) or [I-95 Landfill Complex](#) where we have purple glass-only recycling containers. The glass from the purple containers will be crushed and used for a variety of purposes. Glass is accepted for collection in curbside recycle bins but makes the recycling process more expensive since if it breaks it can contaminate other recyclables and when it comes in this way, it is sent to trash. The county is working on setting up additional Purple recycling containers for people to donate their glass. Do not put mirrors, light bulbs or glass beyond bottles and jars in the recycling bin.
- [Curbside Recycling Rules](#) – put items in bin loose (not in a garbage bag)
- [Don't put these items in recycling bin](#): Plastic bags, Shredded paper, Hangers, Cords, Hoses, Takeout containers and cups, Dirty Diapers
- [Electronic Waste Recycling \(Falls Church\)](#) – how to recycle TVs, monitors, computers, ink cartridges, phones, microwaves, printers, etc.
- [Other Recycling \(Arlington and Falls Church\)](#) – more resources for harder to recycle items
- [Number Five \(yogurt cups, etc.\) Tysons](#) – Fairfax Co cannot currently recycle plastic items marked no. 5 in the recycle icon. These can be taken to Whole Foods on Rte. 7; the bin is located inside next to the composting in the dining area.

c. Impact of Pesticides – by Rose Wells

- Roundup is a suspected carcinogen and contains a chemical called glyphosate that has been proven to cause cancer
- Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides: 16 are toxic to birds, 24 are toxic to aquatic organisms and 11 are toxic to bees
- Children in homes using pesticides are 6.5X more likely to develop leukemia
- Dogs exposed to chemically treated lawns are two times more likely to develop lymphoma
- Neighbors would like a list of alternative products to use
- Neighbors would like a list of lawn care services that don't use Roundup
- A suggestion was made to put up “pesticide free” signs in your yard in support of this cause
- Earth Day is on April 22
- There will be a community clean up day this spring: Date TBD

Pineapple Patrol:

- Thank you to our most recent chairs, Catherine Blakely and Allison Lurton, for their volunteer efforts chairing the Pineapple Patrol. Both chairs are stepping down so the CWCA is seeking new volunteers for the Pineapple Patrol. Please contact the CWCA Board if you are interested: chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com
- Block captains and neighbors—please continue to advise the Pineapple Patrol when new neighbors move in. Often there is a remodel that occurs prior to the family moving in, and it is helpful to know when the residents are actually living there.
- Send new neighbor's names, email addresses, and phone numbers to the CWCA Secretary, Ellen Garrett, for inclusion in the CWCA Directory: ellen104@gmail.com

Re-Election of Officers:

A motion was made and seconded for the re-election of the 4 sitting officers. Residents in attendance unanimously voted to re-elect the Board.

Ticks: Identification, Lifecycles and Controls

Presented by Joan McIntyre, President of Northern Virginia Master Gardeners

- There are 4 common breeds of ticks that can be identified by their ornamentation and size.
- If you need help identifying a tick, you can put it in alcohol and bring it to the extension office located at:
**3308 South Stafford Street,
Arlington, VA 22206**
- Disease transmission:
 - It takes 24-48 hours before Lyme disease is transmitted
 - It takes 4-6 hours before Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is transmitted
 - Therefore, the quicker the removal, the lower the risk of transferring a disease
- Remove & wrap in tape or kill in alcohol (Don't use a match)
- Tips:
 - Create a mulch barrier between the grass and your seating areas
 - Keep grass short and remove brush piles
 - Pesticides are ineffective on ticks
 - Use DEET, Merck, and Paramone sprays
 - Tuck pants into socks, wear long sleeves, and light-colored clothes to more easily see ticks
 - Check your dog's bedding
- Mosquitos - remove standing water in your yard to remove the breeding areas (i.e. Rain gutters, plastic covers, potted plant trays)

Open Forum:

- Campaigning for Virginia State Senate elections are underway. The primary is June 11 and the general election is November 5.
- Elections for the McLean Community Center's Governing Board are underway. Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are eligible to vote during the election.

Voting for Governing Board members will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, at the McLean Day 2019 festival at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd. Residents also may vote by absentee ballot from Monday, March 18, through Wednesday, May 15.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 PM.

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