

## **Mason Neck Citizens' Association**

**Minutes, 1 June 2004**

**Attending:** Marilyn Hildebeidel, Gary Knipling, Cynthia Rufty, Christina Schreiner, Howard Savage, Marvin Miller, Mary Kay Ryan, Joe Chudzik, Pam Cressey, Peter Weyland, Dave Walker.

**Not in Attendance:** Jerry Lyons (still convalescing).

**Nonmember Observer:** Johann De Leede.

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m., Cranford Church

### **Old Business:**

Minutes of the last (General Membership) meeting on May 18, 2004, were read, discussed, and approved.

Minutes of the 13 May Special Board Meeting were read, discussed, and approved.

**Gary Knipling** reported a checking account balance of \$5,618.16, plus a Post Office credit of \$295.54, making total assets equal \$5,913.70. We now have around 250 family memberships (over 400 individual memberships).

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to **Christina Schreiner** by **Marilyn Hildebeidel** for her work as a volunteer in the Pohick Creek Cleanup project on May 16, 2004.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Howard Savage (River and Roads):** The Old Colchester Road Traffic Calming Survey still does not have the requisite number of homeowners' signatures. Howard solicited aid from the board for a last-minute effort this week and weekend and received a good number of volunteers to go house-to-house.

### **Joe Chudzik (Environment and Land Use):**

The Corps of Engineers has finalized its plans for dredging in the Occoquan River. Although we had been worried as to the possible placement of sludge removed from the project, it has now been determined that the Engineer Corps intends to place the sludge in the Prince William County landfill. We

remember that the Corps had considered the alternative of depositing the dredged material behind segmented breakwaters along the shoreline of Mason Neck State Park.

**Joe** reported on a chemical discharge into Pohick Creek on April 28 resulting from a contractor dumping 600 gallons of sodium hypochlorite solution into a drainage ditch leading to the creek. The County Fire Marshall's office has filed criminal charges against the contractor responsible for this.

**Joe** passed out flyers for the upcoming Park Cleanup on June 5 and urged necessity for volunteers at same.

The Board approved a letter to **Supervisor Gerry Hyland** regarding the property at 1121 Gunston Road. Joe provided an update on the efforts being made to identify the current ownership of this abandoned communications structure. Three of these structures have now been located, two on Mason Neck and another in the Pimmit Hills section of Tysons Corner. **Joe** gave the letter to **Marilyn Hildebiedel**.

Section 3 of the Mason Neck Trail is already 1 year behind. The contractor now expects completion by mid-summer; Fairfax County predicts completion by the end of the summer.

**Mason Neck Trail Committee:** **Marilyn** stated that **Mr. Randall Flowers**, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environment, plans to meet with property owners affected by the major paved trail during late June. Affected homeowners are those along Section 2 (portion from Pohick Blay Park east to Harley Road - North side of Gunston Road). The purpose of these meetings is to determine whether the landowners will grant the easements necessary for the paved trail. It was agreed that MNCA Board members will not discuss the trail with affected homeowners until after **Randall Flowers** has met with them. The Trail Committee will meet in July to discuss the results of these meetings. Several MNCA members have volunteered to serve on the Trail Committee.

Questions had been raised as to whether the natural surface trail was "multi-use." Marilyn checked with Randall Flowers who said it was.

**Education Committee:** No Chair as yet. There was a brief discussion as to the need for such a committee. **Christina Schreiner** suggested we ask **Pam Cressey**. **Anne Gorham's** name was suggested as well.

**Historical Committee:** Report deferred until **Jerry Lyons** returns.

**Membership Committee:** It was noted that, although we have approximately 250 memberships (households), this number reflects over 400 individuals. However, there are over 800 houses on Mason Neck. Discussion was held whether to solicit further membership. The next newsletter will ask for nominations from the General Membership as to members willing to serve as the Public Relations and Membership Committee Chairs.

**Program Committee:** **Mary Kay** said she is considering several options and will report further when finalized.

**Homepage and List Serve:** **Peter Weyland** presented the two listserves he suggests for the board, one **MNCA@ListServe.com**, which will be a one-way announcement server, and also **MNCABoard@ListServe.com**, which will provide a forum for round-robin discussion among board members. **Peter** circulated a basic outline for the web site, including a home page with mission statement, etc., contact information, upcoming events/bulletins, archives, links to other Mason Neck sites and maps. Several board members suggested possible Mason Neck sites not listed, such as the parks, other citizens' associations, etc.

**Marilyn and/or Gary** will approve all items to be posted on the MNCA List Server.

**Marvin** suggested we accept **Peter's** proposal and form a committee to discuss (a) content and (b) policy. Several members volunteered to serve on such a committee when formed.

**Peter** thanked the board and said he would offer his services (Look.Net) free of charge. Reimbursement was suggested for actual costs, which **Peter** blue-skied at approximately \$1,000.

**South County Federation:** **Dave Walker** stated initially that he would only be able to attend about 80% of the meetings. **Marilyn** agreed to attend as an alternate. **Joe** asked what the Federation has actually done in our behalf. No specifics being mentioned, **Marvin** suggested that we, as a board, suggest what we need and then, in turn, ask the Federation. **David** indicated that, during the last two years, the Federation has supported all the issues that MNCA asked them to support.

**Marilyn** requested an agenda item for the next board meeting, namely that of the future/fate of the Maximum Security Facility, immediately off of Silverbrook Road. They are still open for comment on this and **Marilyn** asked we give it consideration in the meantime.

**The May 18 Election of Officers** was discussed. The floor vote for the office of President was close, 31-28. **Christina** said that the instruction to “circle names” on the ballots was confusing to her. **Gary**, who’d helped with the election, read the instructions at the head of the ballot and stated that they seemed clear. 10 ballots had neither choice for President circled, while other names were circled, and thus were not counted for either candidate for President. There were also 16 proxy votes submitted which did not affect the outcome of the floor vote. **Joe** read a list of specific questions posed by the election. **Marvin**, who served as Parliamentarian for the election, stated that 15 or the 16 proxies were valid.. These 15 proxies had been submitted in accordance with MNCA By-Laws. He then pointed out that any change of procedures would require a change to our by-laws, a lengthy and arduous process. **Gary** called for future rectification of proxy votes.

There was reasonable agreement among the overwhelming majority of the Board that the matter of how to improve our election process would/should be looked at by the Board later this year. In the interim, we’ll give the matter more serious thought.

**Since it was already after 9:30 and the agenda had stipulated 9:00, it was decided to adjourn.** **Marilyn** asked us all to think of goals/objectives to consider at our next meeting.

**Cynthia Rufty**, Secretary