

Mason Neck Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 4, 2004

Vice-president Randy Streufert commenced meeting at 8:10 p.m.

As agreed in the February 5th meeting the Board discussed proposals for grants to support projects that complement the Association goals and would be of benefit to Mason Neck. Joe Chudzik distributed a copy of a letter from Gunston Hall Director David Reese requesting support for a project to restore the garden based on an archaeological survey that revealed the original features of Col. George Mason's garden. The Board discussed this, and other proposals. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the Board to donate \$2,500 to Gunston Hall Plantation.

Treasurer Gary Knipling was directed to forward a letter and a check to Gunston Hall.

The MNCA General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Gunston Hall was discussed. Mary Kay informed the Board that a 40-minute film, AOCOQUAN Watershed@ would be presented. She will obtain additional information regarding this presentation.

Joe Chudzik agreed to draft a mailer announcement for the General Membership meeting; have it printed; and mailed at the post office.

The election of MNCA officers and directors in May 2004 was discussed. A nominating committee needs to be formed. Individuals who wish to continue as officers and members of the Board should notify Dave Walker.

Gary Knipling informed the Board that the Old Colchester Road Traffic Calming Survey was mailed and sixty-six responses have been received to date. Howard Savage stated that a 75% response rate is required to enable VDOT to design traffic calming measures. Canvassing the neighborhood to contact those individuals who did not respond to the survey may be required. The Board may need an extension of time if the deadline for submission to VDOT is March 15. Gary stated he would call Howard on Monday to review the status of the OCR survey. Howard said he would call Rhonda in Supervisor Highlands' office to inquire about an extension of time.

Marvin Miller stated Ft. Belvoir has approved the Outgrant of land for the Old Colchester Road intersection improvement project and VDOT is proceeding with this project. Howard presented an aerial photograph of the OCR/Richmond Highway intersection to the Board.

Gary informed the Board that he had contacted Peter Weyland regarding the proposed MNCA website and listserve. Weyland offered the Association a reduced fee of \$1000 to create the website and a home page. MNCA would be responsible for maintaining the website Marvin suggested the Board take this issue to the MNCA general membership in the event someone can offer to assist or perform this service for the Association.

Joe Chudzik distributed information on the Environmental Education Day and schedule of activities at the Elizabeth S. Hartwell Environmental Education Center at Mason Neck State Park on Saturday, April 24, 2004.

Gary read a letter from Chuck Reams regards to septic systems.

Mason Neck Citizens Association

Joe Chudzik distributed a flyer announcing the Mason Neck Shoreline Cleanup on April 3, 2004. Twenty organizations will be participating in the project held in concert with the 16th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

Joe reported that Fairfax County Public Health Division is sampling and testing water wells to determine if there are contaminants present as a result of the leachate runoff from the Rainwater CDD Landfill in Lorton. Jeff Smithberger informed the LCAT members that the tests would be broad spectrum including up to 250 parameters. VDEQ has initiated enforcement action regarding the reported violations and no further information has been released by VDEQ.

Gary said that Randy Streufert received three awards from the Virginia Wildlife Federation for his wildlife photography. Gary displayed a copy of AVirginia Wildlife@ magazine, which published several of Randy=s prize-winning photographs. Gary also presented Randy with some reptile and amphibian postage stamps.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Note Taker: Joe Chudzik

MINUTES OF THE MNCA BOARD – 22 Apr 04

Members in Attendance: President Dave Walker, Vice President Randy Streufert, Secretary, Marilyn Hildebeidel, Treasurer, Gary Knipling, Directors: Joseph Chudzik, Marvin Miller, Mary Kay Ryan, Cindy Rufty, and Howard Savage

Observer: Johan de Leede

President, David Walker, called meeting to order.

Item 1. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the March 04, 2004 meeting were approved

Item 2: Treasurer's Report: Assets: \$4,850.00. Paid memberships: 165. MNCA received a letter from David Reese, Director of Gunston Hall Plantation, expressing thanks for the gift of \$2,500.00

Item 3: Traffic Calming Measures on Old Colchester - We missed the 20 April deadline to send the completed canvassing forms to Rhonda Halsey, Mount Vernon District. Howard Savage will contact her to see if we can get another extension. If the date is extended, we need a concentrated effort in Harbor View to get the 170 signatures needed to move this project forward. Howard Savage thinks we have about 100 signatures supporting traffic calming and he will review to see how many more signatures are needed.

Item 4. The next General Membership meeting will be on 18 May 04 at Gunston Hall 7:30pm. Main Agenda item is the election of the new MNCA Board. An update of the Mason Neck Trail issues will be provided (see 6). Mary Kay Ryan will determine if an additional speaker should be scheduled.

Item 5. Randy Streufert presented the MNCA slate for the 2004/2005 year

President - Marilyn Hildebeidel

Vice President - Gary Knipling

Secretary - Cindy Rufty

Treasurer - Dr. Christina Schreiner*

Board Members (eight)

1. Dave Walker (also Immediate Past President)
2. Howard Savage
3. Marvin Miller
4. Mary Kay Ryan
5. Joe Chudzik
6. Jerry Lyons
7. Pam Cressey*
8. Peter Weyland*

*new board members

Item 6: Mason Neck Trail - Section II (Golf course to Gunston Hall)

Joe Chudzik and Ms Hildebeidel provided a status update. On 16 Mar 04, Supv Hyland established a Trail Committee to review issues concerning the alignment of the parallel trails (paved and natural surface). Meeting was attended by Supv Hyland, Mr. Randall Flowers & Mr. Andy Royse (Fairfax County Dept of Public Works and Environmental Services, members of Hyland's staff, Marilyn Hildebeidel, Joe Chudzik, Brian Purdy and representative(s) from BLM, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Pohick Bay Park and the Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge. After the meeting, Supv Hyland tasked David Walker, as President MNCA, to work with the membership of MNCA to resolve issues regarding the alignment of the major paved and natural surface trail on Section II.

After a discussion, the MNCA Board agreed unanimously to the following:

a. Marilyn Hildebeidel and Joe Chudzik will continue to represent MNCA on Hyland's Trail Committee.

b. Affected property owners are the key stakeholders. Their issues and requirements are the primary factors in the routing of the Mason Neck Trail (paved and natural surface).

c. Section from Harley Road to the entrance of Camp Wilson: Support the BLM proposal which was accepted by the Trail Committee on 16 Mar 04.

- Natural surface trail on Meadowood from Harley Road west to an area on the east side of Ms Bushrods property. At this point, the trail users will proceed along the VDOT right away (south side of Gunston Road) to the area south of the Camp Wilson – where they can cross Gunston Road to gain access to Pohick Bay Park.

d. Section from Harley Road to Pohick Bay Park:

- Randall Flowers and other appropriate county employees will meet with affected landowners to discuss trail issues and impact on their properties. MNCA Board members will not accompany county employees or meet separately with affected landowners.

- After the County completes its discussions with affected land owners, the Trail Committee will review the landowner's decisions; develop options and recommendations for MNCA Board. The Board will prepare options and recommendations to be presented to the MNCA General Membership

e. President David Walker will inform Supv Hyland that the MNCA Board supports all trail (paved and natural surface) users. If it appears that the trail committee will not be able to develop options/recommendations prior to the 18 May General Membership, David Walker will work with Supv Hyland on determining an appropriate date by which the trail issue will be resolved.

Item 7: Environmental Committee Report: Joe Chudzik provided an update.

- Virginia Department of Transportation Certificate of Excellence - Adopt-A-Highway Program: The Mason Neck Citizens Association was awarded a Certificate of Excellence, dtd 08 Mar 04.
- Certificate of Appreciation for Shoreline Clean-up: Joe Chudzik presented Gary Knipling with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work.

- Mason Neck Shoreline Cleanup, 13 April 04: Joe Chudzik stated that the clean-up was a tremendous success and expressed appreciation for all the organizations and individuals that participated. The cleanup was part of the 16th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup.

Item 8: New Business

- Trash on Belmont Blvd. Trash along Belmont Blvd continues to be a problem. Board members agreed that local organizations needed to get involved. One option would be for organizations to “Adopt a High-way program

- David Walker stated that Joe Chudzik deserved formal recognition for his excellent work as the Chair of the Environmental Committee

- Resolution to recognize David Walker for his leadership and excellent work as President MNCA for the last two years. Board unanimously passed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm

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