

Mason Neck Citizens Association

Monthly Board Meeting

Cranford Methodist Church

7:30 pm, January 5, 2011

Note: there was no Board meeting in December

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets (absent)	Jerry Lyons
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson	Marvin Miller
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson (absent)	Bruce Scott (absent)
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges	Peter Weyland (absent)

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:32 and the following were discussed:

Approval of November minutes:

Motion passed to approve the November 3 Board meeting minutes (Miller/Lyons).

New/Old Business

Google searches for “Mason Neck”—question raised as to whether something could be done to make MNCA show up higher in the results—Rodney and Peter will look into it.

Comprehensive Plan for the Elizabeth Hartwell Wildlife Refuge—Jerry noted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has released a draft of the plan, which is open for public comment until Feb. 21

Next General Membership meeting—March 8 tentatively set as date—possible agenda items include the BLM Meadowood facility (particularly what will be done with the horse barn); the status of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) and its impact on our area; the annual Eagle festival at Mason Neck State Park; and the outlook for the park (given Richmond’s budget problems)

Membership drive—looking into possibility of making use of Facebook

Triathlon—Likely to be large event, with perhaps hundreds of entrants; Keith Salisbury will coordinate planning; late September is a likely time frame; Supervisor Hyland will help arrange traffic control

Eagle Fest—need to check on current plans and seek more media coverage; perhaps could work archeology into the event, given the recent and ongoing archeological activity on the Neck

ICAR—Has concluded that Pump-and-Haul is too expensive an option, now looking into

constructing the smallest possible sewage treatment plant.

Abandoned retention pond at ??????—mentioned that the hole constitutes a safety hazard.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 PM

Meeting Adjourned: motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. (Kennedy/Lyons)

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 7:30 pm, February 2, 2011

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets	Jerry Lyons
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson (absent)	Marvin Miller
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson (absent)	Bruce Scott
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges	Peter Weyland (absent)

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 and the following were discussed:

Adam Dameron gave a brief update on MNCA-sponsored Cub Scout Pack 1900—Den 1 now has 8 1st graders, and Den 2 has 7 2nd-graders plus 1 3rd-grader.

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the January 5 Board meeting minutes (Miller/Scott).

New/Old Business:

March 1 General Membership meeting—After discussion, four topics were chosen for the meeting: the incinerator issue, ICAR, BLM/Meadowood update, and the State Park. Speakers for these issues will be solicited. A postcard announcement will be sent to all Mason Neck residents on about Feb. 24 listing the agenda items and encouraging citizens to come out to meet their neighbors and to bring ideas.

Gunston Hall Resolution: Marvin proposed and the Board agreed to send a resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of Education, Senator Puller, and Delegate Albo asking that the position of Education Coordinator at GH be re-funded and that the duties of the position be defined to include improving access and attendance.

ICAR: George Mason U. is now planning to build a smaller facility, closer to the one originally envisioned, and construction likely will start this summer. It has decided on a sewage treatment plant as the best option for handling waste materials but wants the smallest facility possible—maybe 5,000 gal/day or even less, depending on what is feasible.

Supervisor Hyland’s Annual “Town Hall” Meeting will be on Saturday, attendance is encouraged.

Eagle Festival: Date set for April 16 at the state park, Board will discuss further a later date.

Membership promotion: Agreement to use the March 1 meeting as a vehicle to promote. Membership Chair Rodney suggested centralizing data on the MNCA web site, we will discuss with webmaster Peter.

Gunston Hall and ICAR: Sergio suggested that MNCA try to encourage collaboration between the two.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, at 7:30 PM .

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. (Lyons/Lee)

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 8:00 PM, March 9, 2011

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets	Jerry Lyons
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson (absent)	Marvin Miller
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson	Bruce Scott
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges (absent)	Peter Weyland

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 8:00 sharp and the following were discussed:

Kristen Avioli provided an update of triathlon plans – it will be a “mini-triathlon” to gauge interest and gain experience. Tentative date is Sat., May 14, starting ca. 6:30 AM and consisting of a 500-meter swim, 13-km bike ride, and 3-mile run. Estimated number of participants is 100. Location is Mason Neck State Park, probably also using Gunston Rd. for part of the bike ride. The event has three commercial sponsors so far but no official name – Board members suggested that the name should include “Mason Neck” and Kristen agreed. Still must obtain special use permit from the state.

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the February 2 Board meeting minutes (Miller/Devlin).

New/Old Business:

Letters of thanks to speakers at our March 1 General Membership Meeting –

Marvin suggested sending, and also a letter to the VA Sec. of Education to thank him for his attendance at the meeting to discuss Gunston Hall on the same date (letter should also remind him of our previous communication to him on this issue). We will do both.

Incinerator Discussion – Peter mentioned the soot that falls on his property and Jerry noted that his neighborhood also gets diesel soot from trucks on Rt. 1 and I-95. Dave noted that in the early 90s the incinerator burned “controlled” (and possibly noxious?) trash materials from Europe to meet its tonnage requirement. Peter noted the need for air quality monitoring stations, preferably independently operated.

Motion made and passed to send Supervisor Hyland a letter expressing MNCA’s support for the option of Fairfax County purchasing the incinerator to maximize local control of its operations, to be followed by a second letter on the need for monitoring stations.

BLM – Mike and Marvin took the new director E. Lynn Burkett for a “tour” of the Neck to get acquainted with her and familiarize her with our interests.

MNCA General Membership Election Meeting—Date set for Tues., May 24. Calendar as follows: April 6--Board will appoint nominating committee; April 18—list of nominations due; nominations mailing sent to printer; April 25—letter and election materials mailed to all Mason Neck residents. The letter will also highlight MNCA accomplishments over the past year — Marvin & Dick will collaborate on this.

ICAR: Nothing new, our next meeting with them will be May 4.

Membership promotion—an email solicitation will be sent, with a follow-up in the election mailing.

Eagle Festival: (April 16) MNCA will have a presence at the festival.

MNCA Award— There was unanimous agreement on a recipient, name will be made public later.

Fall General Membership Meeting— Date tentatively set for Tues., Oct 11, prior to VA state elections.

BRAC--General agreement that there will be severe traffic problems when all the BRAC transfers arrive in September, because of the scant progress in doing road improvements on I-95 and Rt. 1. The May election meeting would be a good time to discuss this — we will seek a speaker from Ft. Belvoir.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 PM .

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM.
(Miller/Weyland)

Monthly Board Meeting
Cranford Methodist Church

7:30 PM, April 6, 2011

Attendees:

Officers		Board of Directors
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges (absent)

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:34 and the following were discussed:

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the March 9 Board meeting minutes (H)

New/Old Business:

Incinerator: Jerry proposed that we ask the County to reopen for an indefinite period the monitoring station at Gunston School, plus a second station at Hallowing Point for at least a draft of a letter to Supervisor Hyland.

BLM: The engineering report on options for the barn is due out on April 15.

Cub Scouts: Bob noted that \$240 has been received for MNCA memberships for scouts.

Annual Election Meeting on May 24: The Nominating Committee selections are due by May 24th with the candidate names must be mailed by the 24th.

We will have a speaker to provide an update on BRAC.

Eagle Fest: MNCA will only present an award to one person this year. Jerry showed color posters he has prepared for display—he will make copies of one that we can see (they are about \$3.75). Lucia suggested collecting food and clothing for Shiloh Baptist Church.

ICAR: Next meeting with ICAR people will be on May 4.

Mason Neck West Park: Dave noted that the park, which is supposed to be open to t times, or is unlocked but with a “Closed-No Trespassing” sign.

Possible blighted house: Lucia mentioned one that is now under a contract that expires

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, at 7:30 PM .

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn at 8:34 PM. (Miller/Diaz-Briquets)

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Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 7:30 PM, June 1, 2011

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets	Jerry Lyons (absent)
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson (absent)	Marvin Miller
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson	Bruce Scott (absent)
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges (absent)	Peter Weyland

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:33 and the following were discussed:

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the May 4 Board meeting minutes (Weyland/Lee).

New/Old Business:

Gunston Hall: Agreed to send without further change the letter to the Governor concerning the vacant Education Coordinator position.

May 25 General membership Meeting: Turnout was about 70, general agreement that the presentations were well-done and informative. Agreed to send thank-you letters for their participation to Colonel Strycula (Ft. Belvoir Commandant), Delegate Albo, and Supervisor Hyland.

BLM/Meadowood horse barn: Marvin is trying to contact the original builder of the barn to get information about its construction. General agreement that it would be helpful to have another engineer review the study of barn options that was recently done. Michael noted that he had gotten an informal estimate of \$630,000 for constructing a new barn, suggesting that the cost might lower than the study indicated.

Membership: Bob volunteered to ponder ways of increasing membership. It was suggested that we send reminders to previous members who haven't paid for the current year.

SCAR (formerly ICAR): Nothing new.

Incinerator: Situation seems to be at a standstill. We understand that the County is not happy with Covanta for presenting a contract that did not conform to what had been agreed on. The County is looking into doing additional air quality monitoring, as MNCA had requested.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup of Old Colchester: June 18, 9:00 to 12:00, was agreed as the next date for the quarterly cleanup, which is jointly sponsored by MNCA, the

Mason Neck Lions Club. and the Noman Cole Pollution Control Plant. Volunteers should meet in the Cranford Church parking lot.

Forest Fire Danger Warning Sign (next to the fire station): Michael will inquire informally as to who owns/maintains the sign.

Lot at corner of Gunston and Old Colchester: The shrubbery needs trimming again so that drivers on Old Colchester can see oncoming traffic on Gunston.

Thank-you: Agreed to send letters of thanks/appreciation to Dawn for her outstanding work in maintaining the MNCA web site, and to Shawn Drury, for his hard work and great success in developing Lorton Patch (Shawn is moving to another Patch near Charleston, SC).

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 7:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn at 8:22 PM (Miller/Weyland)

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 7:30 PM, July 6, 2011

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets	Jerry Lyons
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson	Marvin Miller (absent)
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson	Bruce Scott
Bob Lee (absent)	Treasurer	Rodney Loges	Peter Weyland

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:37 and the following were discussed:

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the June 1 Board meeting minutes (Scott/Diaz-Briquets).

Old Business:

Letter of appreciation for Shawn Drury (departed editor of Lorton Patch): Text of letter approved with comments about what a good job Shawn had done.

BLM/Meadowood horse barn: Letter to Supervisor Hyland and BLM/Meadowood manager Burkett approved unanimously, with Jerry recusing himself.

SCAR (formerly ICAR): Marvin and Rick had another meeting with Andre Bartoli, who now has the title of Dean since it is now a "School" and not an "Institute". He is interested in speaking at our fall general membership meeting to provide an update on developments at SCAR.

New Business:

LCAC Board: Bruce (business liaison) and Peter (military liaison) are now board members; interested in coordinating a breakfast with the South County CofC. Also noted that the LCAC thrift shop has lots of good stuff to sell but sales are down.

Letter of appreciation for Christine Morin (Hyland assistant) keyed to her recent award, suggested by Rodney.

Providence to Yorktown march: Jerry noted that the Washington/Rochambeau reenactors will pass through Colchester on September 26 & he is working with the Fairfax County Park Authority to do something to celebrate the event, such as having the marchers bivouac in the park.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 7:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn at 8:17 PM (Scott/Lyons)

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 7:30 PM, August 3, 2011

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets (absent)	Jerry Lyons
Dave Kyle (absent)	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson (absent)	Marvin Miller
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson	Bruce Scott
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges	Peter Weyland (absent)

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:35 and the following were discussed:

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the July 6 Board meeting minutes (Miller/Scott).

Old Business:

BLM/Meadowood horse barn: Multiple organizations have sent letters to BLM asking that the barn be repaired and the process expedited. The existing contract should be modified to allow replacement of horse boarders who leave – the BLM Mid-Atlantic Director has this power. Need continued support from our elected political representatives on this.

SCAR (formerly ICAR): Is interested in getting an easement to make the 80-acre portion of its property a nature preserve. Also Marty Shannon, Fairfax County soils expert, can advise on possibilities for a septic system.

Fall General Membership Meeting: October 4 chosen as date – one month before elections. Candidates will be invited to speak, as usual. Other possible topics and speakers mentioned for this or future meetings: include SCAR (Dean Bartoli), the Civil War in this area (Don Hakenson), local archeology (Mike Johnson), and local history (Gary Knipling).

Providence to Yorktown march – 230th anniversary commemoration: Jerry provided update – about 6-8 marchers will reach Colchester on Monday, Sept. 26. They may bivouac in Mason Neck West Park (near where the 1781 marchers encamped. Fairfax County Park Authority is coordinating.

New Business:

LCAC: Noted that their need for food donations is particularly high now.

Environmentally dangerous dumping? Jerry noted that there has been for some months a large pile of the bituminous material scraped up during road resurfacing operations and located on the truck/trailer/RV storage lot on Rt. 1, very close to

Giles Run, risking contamination of this environmentally sensitive area. He had contacted the County and the pile shrunk thereafter but has grown again. He now has notified Supervisor Hyland's office. Noted that Shannon Curtis in Fairfax's Storm Water Planning Division is a likely contact. **Motion passed** to send letter to Board of Supervisors Chair Bulova if needed after a response is received from Sup. Hyland. (Scott/Loges)

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn at 8:35 PM (Miller/Devlin)

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 7:30 PM, September 7, 2011

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets	Jerry Lyons(absent)
Dave Kyle	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson (absent)	Marvin Miller
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Rick Hutson (absent)	Bruce Scott
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges (absent)	Peter Weyland

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:35 and the following were discussed:

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the March 9 Board meeting minutes (Scott/Miller).

New/Old Business:

“Candidates Night”: Marvin noted that most invitees have confirmed, will try to finalize this week, send postcard next week.

- Agreed to include a food drive for LCAC as part of this general membership meeting.

Propane deal for MNCA members: Mike said the original contractor has left; he will look into other possibilities.

Membership boosting: Suggestion to hand out flyers with a return envelope in neighborhoods--flyer would mention MNCA successes, such as the state park, BLM stable, crosswalk at Rt. 1/Gunston Rd., Pirates Cove pool, and ICAR. Suggestions of eliminating individual memberships, or having different levels of membership, or perhaps offering “sustaining membership” title to members who pay a higher fee.

SCAR (formerly ICAR): Marvin will send to SCAR Dean Bartoli the names of three companies, all accepted by Fairfax County, who might be able to work with SCAR on its sewage treatment options.

BLM/Meadowood stables: Mike said it is a wait-and-see situation; he will check with Sup. Hyland’s office.

\$5000 Neighborhood Enhancement grants: Discussion of applying for a grant to study the possibilities of making Mason Neck a sort of R&R center for Wounded Warriors and their families. Noted that the new hospital at Ft. Belvoir will be the treatment center for wounded vets and that Pohick Bay Regional Park has already made several adaptations to accommodate people with disabilities.

Next Board Meeting: Not decided, normal schedule would be Wed., Oct. 4, at 7:30 PM .

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn at 8:38 PM. (Miller/Diaz-Briquets)

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 7:30 PM, November 2, 2011

Note: the Board did not meet in October.

Attendees:

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Michael Devlin	President	Sergio Diaz-Briquets	Jerry Lyons
Dave Kyle (absent)	Vice President	Lucia Ferguson (absent)	Marvin Miller (absent)
Dick Kennedy (absent)	Secretary	Rick Hutson	Bruce Scott
Bob Lee	Treasurer	Rodney Loges	Peter Weyland

President Mike Devlin called the meeting to order at 7:35 and the following were discussed:

Approval of minutes: Motion passed to approve the September 7 Board meeting minutes (Lyons/ Diaz-Briquets).

New/Old Business:

Cub Scout Pack 1900 (Mason Neck): Cub Master, Adam Dameron described membership growth (three dens now on Mason Neck) and budget status during the last year. He also described some of the many pack adventures this year, including day camps, the Belvoir camp-out, hiking at Great Falls, and visit to Marine Corps Museum. Adam delivered first aid kits to board members whom had placed orders.

“Candidates Night”: Board agreed that brief letters of appreciation will be sent under Michael’s hand, and composed by Secretary Kennedy, to those political attendees who presented at the October 4 general meeting.

- Gerry Hyland
- Gail Parker
- A. Will Radle, Jr.
- Jeff Frederick
- Dave Albo
- Jack Dobbyn
- Dan Stork
- Michele Nellenbach

Propane deal for MNCA members: Peter briefed the Board:

Need for interested residents to sign-on by end of November.

After contacting several local propane suppliers, Ferrell gas has continued to offer us the best rate for a Group Discount. They are quoting the Mason Neck residents of Cost + \$.0559 IF we can match the number of clients based from last years effort. The current price is \$1.753 so the cost per gallon based on today's price would be \$2.312. If we do not have 27 homeowner's sign up the price goes up to Cost + \$.899 so the price would then be \$2.652 per gallon (again, based on today's price).

Last year we had 27 people sign up through this program. For the program discount to work we need 27 people this year. We do run some risk if we do not have 27 people fill out the attached form.

If everyone currently with Ferrellgas or those who wish to use this program, please fill out this form and mail to:

Ferrellgas
10826 Tidewater Trail
Fredericksburg, VA 22408-2047
(540) 373-2753

Membership boosting: Effort continues to hand out flyers with a return envelope in neighborhoods--flyer would mention MNCA successes, such as the state park, BLM stable, crosswalk at Rt. 1/Gunston Rd., Pirates Cove pool, and ICAR.

SCAR (formerly ICAR): Michael and Rick reported that we are now waiting for next clarification/decisions regarding type of waste treatment and capacity by SCAR.

BLM/Meadowood stables: Issues of leasing numbers and final disposition of barn remains unresolved or unreported by BLM management.

\$5000 Neighborhood Enhancement grants: Brief re-cap by Jerry, showing graphic attachment items. Two applications submitted: Wounded Warrior Program and Mason Neck ingress/egress signs keyed to MNCA website. Agreed that following awards and subsequent preliminary design work, the project(s) will posted for citizen participation through website and MNCA mail list.

Additional discussion opened by Bruce about formation of a broad-based coordinated rehab and help program in the community comprised of MNCA, LCAC, USO, and the Ft Belvoir Community Hospital in providing creative activities such as specially modified canoeing and horseback riding. Our Board agreed that such an initiative would be a very good thing for Mason Neck. LCAC Board Members involved with this initiative are Lynn Swogger, Marvin Miller (MNCA), and Bruce Scott (MNCA).

Next Board Meeting: Board agreed to not meet in December unless for urgent matters.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion passed to adjourn at 8:40 PM.