

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
April 3, 2024, at Cranford Methodist Church

Attendees

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Nancy Wilochka	Peter Weyland	
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Dick Kennedy	
Secretary	Jim Martin	Rick Hutson	
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Hillary Clawson	

President Nancy Wilochka called the meeting to order at 7:31, presented the agenda, and welcomed guest John Rand, who live in Hallowing Point. The following were discussed:

Minutes from March Meeting: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the March 2024 Board meeting minutes.

Treasurer Report: Bruce reported that MNCA has \$3616.64 in its account, with expenditures for mailing General Membership meeting announcements the next large, anticipated expense.

MNCA General Membership Meeting:

- **Speakers:** The Board agreed the three elected officials speaking will each have 7 minutes for remarks and 3 minutes for discussion. The wetlands panel discussion will be allotted 20 minutes:
- **Brag Sheet/MNCA Accomplishments:** The Board reviewed Jim’s draft document, which included new language on the Caisson horses and MNCA’s role in saving Mason Neck State Park. Members suggested we need a version that has bullet points rather than just narrative. The bullet point version should be used on-line and at EagleFest. Marvin said he would work on edits to the current document.
- **Draft letters to Elected representatives:** Marvin said the letters should not tell representatives what we may be seeking from them but rather simply thank them individually for their specific past assistance. He will draft letters to send.

Cellphone Towers: The Board agreed that Gunston Hall land, as previously proposed by Scott Stroh, is the best choice for a cell tower location. It was agreed that Nancy would discuss with Scott, whose Virginia Department of Education contacts may be able to introduce MNCA to the appropriate state agency to help.

Digitization: Jim reported he is working with Peter to post up-to-date minutes on the MNCA website.

BLM Meadowood Parking Lot: Marvin reported that BLM claimed MNCA had not commented on the parking lot proposal and could not prove a specific member had been injured, and so denied standing. Both assertions are incorrect, but we no longer have time to appeal.

Speeding on Gunston road: Two members mentioned recent incidents where drivers overtook them at unsafe high speeds on a part of Gunston road with double solid yellow lines. It was suggested that MNCA: a) send a message to the community expressing concern and asking people to be careful; and b) ask police to patrol more.

Fairfax County Fire Department Funding/Gunston Firehouse: Nancy noted recent reports that the updated Fairfax County budget makes cuts in some Fire Department services. Cuts to water tanker staffing are a particular concern given the lack of hydrants on Mason Neck. Nancy will draft a message to the community on behalf of the Board. Nancy said the project manager for the new Gunston road Firehouse had reached out to her and said work on the septic system for the new firehouse should being at end of April/start of May.

MNCA Postal Permit: Jim reported that the MNCA postal permit is up for renewal in May at a cost of over \$300. However, it appears that we can use a slightly different method, designed for groups who mail fewer than 2000 items per mailing. It would cost a very small additional amount per mailing, but we would not need to pay for the permit, thus saving money. The Board agreed this made sense if correct, and asked Jim to explore a little more before making a final decision.

EagleFest: Hillary, who is also President of the Friends of Mason Neck State Park (FMNSP), asked whether MNCA planned to be a sponsor for FMNSP's annual EagleFest and have an exhibition booth. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved for MNCA to be a sponsor, make a \$300 contribution, and have a booth. Visitors to EagleFest this year must take shuttles from Gunston Hall or Pirates Cove (at Pohick May Regional Park), but exhibit staff can park at the event.

New member for Board: Guest John Rand introduced himself and expressed interest in joining the Board. He has lived in Hallowing Point since 2017, is on the Board of FMNSP and wants to help preserve Mason Neck's natural environment. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to add John to the Board's slate of candidates to be voted on at the General Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

- Make edits to proposed brag sheet/List of Accomplishments for use at General Membership Meeting **(Marvin)**
- Draft thank-you letters to Sen. Surovell, Del. Henson, and Supervisor Storck **(Marvin)**
- Contact VA Dept. of Education re: state agency with cellphone responsibilities **(Nancy/Scott)**
- Send e-mail to Mason Neck Listserv about unsafe speeding on Gunston Rd **(Nancy)**
- Reach out to Police Department about speeding **(Nancy)**
- Message to Mason Neck Listserv about Fire Department Funding **(Nancy)**
- Get General Membership Meeting announcements printed/mailed **(Jim)**
- Ask Lorton P.O. for additional P.O. Box key. **(Jim)**
- Finish posting minutes on website and update info on website (Jim/Peter)

Next Board Meeting: General Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 30 at Gunston Hall; Board meeting May 1 via ZOOM

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 9:01.