

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 January 8, 2020

Note: There was no meeting in December

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Hillary Clawson	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Randy Benton	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Reinhardt Gray	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rick Hutson	Nancy Wilochka
		Rob Kolb	

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

Minutes from : Motion to approve passed, (Nancy/Peter)

Treasurer Report: Current funds are \$1645.53 (Bruce)

Lower Speed Limit on Gunston Road? Delegate Kathy Tran has discussed with VDOT the merits of lowering the speed limit on the first stretch of Gunston Road, from Route 1 to Belmont Blvd., and/or extending the school speed zone at Gunston School. Concerns are the traffic and somewhat limited visibility at the Gunston/Old Colchester intersection, and the safety of Gunston students. MNCA will write a letter in support.

Planned Cuts in State Funding for Mason Neck State Park: Delegate Tran opposes the cuts and MNCA (Marvin) will write a letter of support for continuing the current level of funding (which had already been reduced).

Next General Membership Meeting: Probably in March, need to check Gunston Hall availability.

MNCA Spring Picnic: Date will be April 25, 2:00 to 5:00. Arsenio and Bruce will constitute a food committee, and local businesses will be solicited for support.

MNCA Tri-fold Poster for Showing at Various Events: Hillary and Nancy will work on it.

Mason Neck Photo Calendar? Suggestion made to solicit photos of the Neck, choose a monthly winner, and then make a calendar for sale.

Fort Belvoir Nuclear Reactor: Noted that the Army's plan for dismantling and removing the remaining parts of the reactor (which was decommissioned in 1973) is available online and at the Lorton Library, and public comments are welcome until January 31.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 5, at 7:30 PM .

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:19 (Nancy/Bruce)

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 February 5, 2020

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Hillary Clawson	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Randy Benton	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Reinhardt Gray	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rick Hutson	Nancy Wilochka
		Rob Kolb	

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

Minutes from November: Motion to approve passed, (Marvin/Hillary)

Treasurer Report: Current funds are \$1645.53, but 2020 dues haven't been collected and the Secretary still has to be reimbursed for the last postcard mailing and the PO Box fee, over \$400 total.

Next General Membership Meeting: March 24, if Gunston Hall is available. Possible speakers are the Potomac Riverkeeper, VDOT about their plans for this area and/or someone explaining a proposed ordinance on "agritourism".

Mason Neck picnic on April 25? We hope to find local sponsors to cover most of the cost, probably with different levels of sponsorship. Peter will prepare list of possible sponsors. Discussion will continue at the next Board meeting.

Planned Cuts in State Funding for Mason Neck State Park: Hillary spoke against the cuts for her allowed two minutes at a House of Delegates hearing in Richmond.

Lorton Library: Noted that it will close on April 11 for about two years as construction of the Lorton Community Center gets underway.

Candidates for the next Board election: As per our bylaws a subcommittee will identify possible candidates; election must be held in May or June.

MNCA Membership numbers: They have declined substantially over the last 15-20 years, likely because fears of major development projects on the Neck have receded. Some ideas for attracting new members were discussed, such as a Happy Hour at a local restaurant, a brew fest, a social event focusing on our neighborhood, or just knocking on doors.

MNCA Gunston Road Cleanup: From Hallowing Point to Gunston Hall, February 15 9:00 to 11:00, weather permitting. Meet at the Great Marsh Trail parking lot.

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

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:57

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
Cranford Methodist Church
March 4, 2020

(Only four weeks ago but it seems like a different world...)

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Hillary Clawson	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Randy Benton	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Reinhardt Gray	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rick Hutson	Nancy Wilochka
		Rob Kolb	

President Hillary called the meeting to order at 7:38 and the following were discussed:

Minutes from February: Motion to approve passed, with two typo corrections (Nancy/Bruce)

Treasurer Report: \$1645.53, minus \$483.02 owed to Secretary for the last postcard printing and the annual fee for our PO box, plus dues paid so far for 2020 but not deposited yet. (Bruce)

Membership Report: 21 people have paid dues for 2020

Meeting with Christine Morin set for March 24: Main topic is agri-tourism, esp. planned ordinance change for properties of more than five acres; also update from Potomac Riverkeepers.

An MNCA Picnic (or something)? Our survey showed interest in having some kind of community event, preferably including kids. Marketing would be key for success. Ideas discussed:

- Happy Hour? Possible, but wouldn't appeal to families.
- Picnic? Maybe with bring your own food.
- MNCA night at Pirates Cove—very popular pool at Pohick Bay Regional Park.
- Gathering of some kind at Gunston Hall, possibly with Moon Bounce for the kids.

Zoning Issue: Rock Hard Excavating wants to put a septic field on an adjacent property, addresses are 10208 Old Colchester and 10125 Giles Run. Is this harmless because it doesn't involve sewers, or is it possibly a bad precedent? We need more information.

Eagle Festival on May 19: MNCA will repeat its donation from last year. Hillary and Nancy will work on a trifold handout for Festival attendees, with info about MNCA and perhaps Mason Neck, and Mark will handle printing.

MNCA's planned photo contest: Entries can be sent to info@masonneck.org

South County Federation Meeting: On second Tuesdays at the high school; one current topic is sidewalk on Lorton Station Blvd.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 PM .

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:48 (Nancy/Bruce)

Mason Neck Citizens Association **Special Board Meeting**

Held On-line using Zoom

July 15, 2020

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Hillary Clawson	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Randy Benton	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Reinhardt Gray	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rick Hutson	Nancy Wilochka
		Rob Kolb	

Note: MNCA’s activities were disrupted by Coronavirus. The Board had a brief on-line meeting in April, using Zoom, that encountered some technical difficulties, and the May and June meetings were cancelled. A Zoom meeting was held on July 1, and there was agreement that MNCA needed to rethink its past practices, and this special meeting was scheduled for July 15 to discuss options.

Two things of note from the past three months: Randy said he was resigning from the Board, due to other commitments, but suggested a replacement to keep Harbour View represented. There was also a discussion, via email, of setting up some kind of information exchange for Mason Neck residents to seek or offer help related to the pandemic, but Peter had already done something similar, and the other Board members thought that was sufficient.

MNCA’s Future: The Board has been concerned for several years about the decline in MNCA membership—likely due to the reduced threat of development on the Neck—and the adverse impact this is having, or will have, on our ability to influence our elected State and County representatives. Those representatives, from both major parties, generally have been very supportive of Mason Neck in the past, and have regularly participated in our annual “Candidates Night” for a face-to-face meeting with Mason Neck residents.

The July 15 meeting: After further discussion, the Board voted unanimously for a resolution from Marvin that would make the following changes, some of which will require amendments to our by-laws, which must then be approved by a vote by the MNCA membership:

- Most importantly, MNCA membership will be **FREE** for all Mason Neck **RESIDENTS**, age 18 and above.
- Becoming a member just requires sending your name, street address (to confirm residency), email address, and, optionally, your phone number to peter@look.net.
- We will solicit donations to hopefully cover basic operating expenses, which in recent years have mostly been the cost of printing and mailing postcards or letters to the 1130 post office addresses on Mason Neck. The initial fund-raising target will be \$3000 a year.
- General Membership Meetings will be reduced from three a year to two—a Board election meeting in the spring and Candidates Night in the fall. The meetings preferably will be in-person at Gunston Hall, but may be on-line if the Coronavirus threat persists.
- The Board will aim to have the required revisions to the by-laws ready for Board approval at our August 5 meeting, and then will schedule a General Membership Meeting so MNCA members can vote on them. The meeting most likely will be in August, on-line, but with an option for members to submit votes by email.

We also must hold the annual Board election, which was delayed past June by the pandemic. All the current Board members will run for re-election to their current position, except that Hillary will step down as President (after five years!) and Nancy will run to replace her. The election will take place at the same meeting where the by-laws changes are voted on.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, at 7:30 PM .

Motion to adjourn: Meeting ended around 8:30 w/o a formal motion.

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
~~Cranford Methodist Church~~ Virtual Meeting via Zoom
 October 7, 2020

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Hillary Clawson	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Reinhardt Gray	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Rick Hutson	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rob Kolb	Nancy Wilochka

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

Minutes from September: Motion to approve passed (Marvin/Bruce).

Treasurer Report: \$1826.83 in our account (Bruce)

Membership Report: Currently 23 or 24, much lower than normal because Coronavirus has cancelled all the planned MNCA events in 2020.

Board election results: Thirteen electronic ballots received, a sufficient number given the reduced membership, and all supported the slate—the existing Board but with Nancy taking over as President.

“Harmony Hills”—A proposed Equine Riding and Boarding Center: Owner(?) Terry Abrams gave a presentation to the Board about the plan and their hopes to have it included under the County’s new agritourism zoning provisions. The County has rejected their request but they are appealing and asking for MNCA’s support. Marvin proposed a resolution of support, which passed unanimously.

Board member from Harbour View? Randy suggested a possible candidate. (Note: MNCA by-laws do not require that all parts of Mason Neck be represented but the Board has always tried to have broad representation.)

Proposed indoor ski slope on the site of the closed Lorton landfill: The County has given permission for the developer to proceed with further exploratory studies. Supervisor Storck supports the idea but some environmental groups are opposed.

Voting rules for the November 3 election: Marvin outlined the rules and suggested using school buses to help transport people to the voting site (Laurel Hill for Lorton residents).

Staff positions at Mason Neck State Park: The legislature has approved restoring two of the badly needed positions but still has to approve funding for them.

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

Motion to adjourn: Passed at ???.

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
~~Cranford Methodist Church~~-Virtual Meeting via Zoom
 November 4, 2020

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Hillary Clawson	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Reinhardt Gray	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Rick Hutson	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rob Kolb	Nancy Wilochka

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

Minutes from October: Not done yet. Bad secretary!

Motion thanking Hillary for her five(?) years of service as President: Passed unanimously!
 The Board is taking donations for a contribution to the Friends of Mason Neck State Park, in Hillary's honor (she is their President.)

Problems getting MNCA emails: Issue raised by Nancy, Peter said it was likely a problem with Cox's internet service and they now have a way to take complaints.

Treasurer Report: \$1826.83 in our account (Bruce)

Harmony Hills: They have filed a zoning appeal with the County, meanwhile have cleared some trees and planted grass seed. Marvin suggested that when a zoning hearing is held, MNCA should attend to express our support. See October minutes for more info.

Presentation to the Board about the County's agri-tourism plan? Motion to request such a presentation passed unanimously (Marvin/Bruce). Hillary has the info on who to contact.

Power failures, esp. in Gunston Manor: Bruce noted that they are increasing and more underground lines are needed. Marvin suggested a letter to Supervisor Storck and Dominion Power. Motion to send letter passed unanimously (Hillary/Bruce).

Free MNCA membership: Agreement to send a postcard to the approximately 1140 residents of Mason Neck residents announcing that this will be in effect for 2021 for all adult residents who provide an email address. Target date of Nov. 20, will also put up a banner with this information at the Gunston/Old Colchester intersection.

Board member from Harbour View? A person has been suggested, Hillary will contact.

Panera Bread next to the car wash? Planned but on hold for now.

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

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:36 (Marvin/Bruce).

Mason Neck Citizens Association Monthly Board Meeting
~~Cranford Methodist Church~~ Virtual Meeting via Zoom
 December 2, 2020

Attendees in bold face:

<i>MNCA Officers</i>		<i>Other Members of the Board of Directors</i>	
President	Nancy Wilochka	Arsenio Ayon	Scott Stroh
Vice President	Marvin Miller	Hillary Clawson	Mark Thompson
Secretary	Dick Kennedy	Reinhardt Gray	Peter Weyland
Treasurer	Bruce Scott	Rick Hutson	
		Rob Kolb	

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

Annie Collins was introduced as a prospective Board member from Harbor View

Presentation on Agritourism in Fairfax County (35 minutes): By Sara Morgan from the County, with particular reference to how proposed horseback riding faculty on Harley Rd. might be affected.

Motion to add Annie to the Board (Peter/Marvn): Approved by acclamation!

Minutes from October and November: Postponed till next month because of time.

Postcard mailing to all Neck Residents (about 1150 addresses): Has been sent for printing, should be mailed by next Tuesday. Main purpose is to tell adult Neck residents that MNCA membership is now free; Secretary Dick this weekend will put up a banner at the Gunston/Colchester intersection that also announces the free membership.

Brief bios of Board members: General agreement on posting them on our web site.

Harmony application for permission for horse-riding facility on Harley Road: It was noted that Harmony got a special exception for this two years ago and that a County hearing is scheduled for March 10. The South County Federation will discuss this issue at its meeting next Tuesday and a **motion was made and seconded (Marvin/Rick) and approved 7 to 2** that MNCA write a letter of support before then.

Letter to Dominion about recurring power outages on Mason Neck: Nancy is drafting, will include data and/or graphic about the outages.

Phone Tree for urgent communication to Board members: Has been created.

Final decommissioning of the nuclear reactor at Belvoir (which ceased operating decades ago) is in progress: Hillary has all the info on this.

“Next Door” cell phone app: Some discussion of its possible usefulness for communications among Neck residents, no decision.

Meeting adjourned: 9:07 pm

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