Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Meeting of the Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by the GWWCA President, Larry Dempsey.

Jane Delbridge spoke about an initiative of the Virginia Interfaith Center promoting 5 days of sick leave for every full-time employee in Virginia. Representatives of the group have gone to Richmond and spoken to Delegates about the proposal. She passed around a petition for those wishing to support the initiative to sign.

The featured speaker, Rhiannon Duck, was introduced. She is the Villages and Special Projects Coordinator for the Fairfax County Health Department. Her topic was the Neighbor to Neighbor Program (N2N) which promotes the creation of volunteer groups in neighborhoods to provide support to older neighbors. Some of these are referred to as "villages."

Ms. Duck said there are 200 villages in the U.S. and 12 in Fairfax County. They support such things as social activities, providing help during weather emergencies, rides to appointments, etc. There are several models for such villages: all volunteer (low or no fee), virtual connection (low or no fee), neighborhood network model (some dues – some volunteer services and some paid providers) and concierge (fee – has paid staff).

Ms. Duck introduced Diane Watson, a resident of the Spring Hill, which is a 55+ community in the Lorton area. Mrs. Watson is a volunteer with her neighborhood's program. They created a strategic plan by examining strengths, weaknesses, inputs and threats. They then formed a caring group which had 12 members originally. They offered short-term help. They discovered that there were people in need who weren't coming forward because they were too embarrassed to ask for help or they thought they didn't need help. They added 8 block captains, but realized that it was not enough for the 300 residents. Now they have 2 block captains for each street. The core group is the caring group plus the block captains. They meet about once a month. The concierge model wouldn't work for their community as it would be too expensive. Mrs. Watson stressed that each community is different, so have different needs. Some of the neighborhood groups do such things as wellness checks. The Washington Area Village Exchange will be holding a conference on November 14 at Marymount University. She also mentioned the Fairfax 50+ Community Ambassador Program. They hold quarterly meeting of village coordinators.

Ms. Duck suggested, as a first step, that a questionnaire be sent out to our community to determine what residents need. Nextdoor.com is also a start. Other requirements for getting started included: finding 3-5 neighbors willing to get the ball rolling, asking them to recruit others, and development of an understanding of needs.

There are some county programs that Ms. Duck recommended: the Shepherd Center of South County (https://www.scscva.org or call 703 799-0505) which will provide rides and Elderlink (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/elderlink or call 703-324-7948).

As our neighborhood is not near a convenient county senior center, an attendee asked about the possibility of part of the old Wilton Woods School on Franconia Road being used for that purpose. Ms. Duck said she would ask the appropriate county agencies about that.

She concluded by encouraging attendees to contact her if they have any questions. She can be reached as 703-246-8962 or by e-mail at rhiannon.duck@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The treasurer's report was presented by Mr. Dempsey and it is available upon request. Upcoming expenses include the annual newsletter, the Virginia state corporation commission fee, and possible funds to help refurbish the Memorial Garden, which is managed by the Shadow Walk Homeowners Association.

Mr. Dempsey encouraged all to join Nextdoor.com if they have not already done so. Since our last meeting in May, 61 new members have joined. Seventy-one percent of residents in the Greater Wilton Woods neighborhood now belong.

A survey was taken to determine if the location of GWWCA meetings should change to the John Marshall Library on Rose Hill Drive. The majority of people who responded approved of that change. Meeting at the library would give us a newer space, but there may be an issue reserving space as reservations can only be made 90 days in advance and parking may be an issue, although it was pointed out by an attendee that we could use the school's parking lot with permission from the school's principal. The survey also asked about the time and day of the meetings and most respondents were happy with the Tuesday night meetings and the start time of 7 p.m.

VDOT sent out an update about the Pike Branch project. Handouts detailing community input and comments were available at the meeting and are at the end of these minutes.

Don Sutherland made a presentation about the Clermont Park Master Plan Revision Proposal. The site, just across Franconia Road from Wilton Woods, is approximately 40 acres and has 4 ball fields. The property originally belonged to Clermont School, but was deeded to the Fairfax County Park Authority several years ago. At the time, lighting, noise and concessions were prohibited. FCPA wants to install lighting on two of the ball fields and in the parking lot. This would allow games to go until 9:30 p.m. and the parking lot would be lit until 10 p.m. FCPA held a meeting about the proposal on July 26, 2019 which was followed by a 30-day public comment period which ended August 26, 2019. For information about the lighting, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/clermont and www.saveclermontpark.com.

The Bus Rapid Transit project on Richmond Highway will extend from Huntington Metro to Sherwood Hall Lane. It is in the design phase. Construction is scheduled to be in 2023. The latest information is on the webpage https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt.

Election Day is November 5, 2019. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Important dates for absentee voting and voter registration:
- On or about September 20: absentee voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax, VA

- October 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5:00 pm, online: 11:59 pm
- Absentee VOTING HOURS at the Franconia and Mount Vernon Government Centers:
    October 17-November 2
       Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday... 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
    October 19, 26, & November 2
       Saturday… 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- October 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5:00 pm
- November 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5:00 pm
- November 5: Deadline to return your ballot to the Office of Elections, 7:00 pm

Further information about the election, including absentee voting at the Franconia Governmental Center, sample ballots and candidate contact information can be found at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-locations/franconia-governmental-center and https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.

From the police crime report, there were only 9 police events in our neighborhood since May.

The next meeting is November 19 and the speaker will be Rodney Lusk, candidate for Lee District Supervisor. Elections will also be held for officers. If you are interested in running for President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary, please send an e-mail to GWWCA.President@gmail.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

COMMUNITY INPUT / COMMENTS: LISTING, RANKING, ACTIONS, NOTES

SUGGESTIONS & REQUESTS	INTEREST RANK (by # of comments received): Highest:>10; Medium: 6-10; Lower: <5	VDOT EVALUATIONS /ACTIONS ADDITIONAL ACTIONS/ NOTES (involving non-VDOT agencies or groups) *Approximate Timeframes:* *Short-Term (within 1 yr); Medium-Term (<5 yrs); Long-Term (>5 yrs)*
Ped/ bike: Sidewalks/ Cross-walk/ Trails / Bike lane • Continue along Old Telegraph Rd at missing sections (1) • Complete sidewalk on west Old Telegraph Rd (18) • Trails within VDOT ROW (5) • Sidewalk from intersect. Old Telegraph & Telegraph to X-walk at The Pkwy (west side of Telegraph) (15) • Sidewalk on east side of Telegraph Rd between The Pkwy and Algona Ct, Algona Ct. and Hillview Ave (16) • Fill in missing links of sidewalks along Telegraph to The Pkwy (29) • Need sidewalk & lighting up Old Telegraph from southern intersection with Telegraph (30) • Bicycle lane along Telegraph Rd (19) • Crosswalk from Tracey Ct across Telegraph Rd (35) • Sidewalk the length of Old Telegraph Rd (41) • Remove barriers and extend sidewalks along Old Telegraph to Church) (43)	11 Comments: Highest Interest	- VDOT prepared preliminary map of "missing" sidewalk segments along Telegraph and Old Telegraph Roads (Map Updates: *Short term*). - VDOT forwarded map of missing segments to Fairfax County for review. Fairfax County prioritizes and applies for funding (as needed) for design and construction of sidewalk projects. Funding applications are competitive (Implementation: *Medium to Long Term*) - VDOT is coordinating with utility company (Dominion Energy Virginia) to return overhead utilities to original permanent location (temporary relocation was done due to emergency stream slope repair). Once pole relocation is complete, VDOT Maintenance will repair affected Old Telegraph Rd. sidewalk segments (*Short term*) - Old Telegraph Rd. Sidewalk barriers (43) being reviewed by VDOT Traffic Engineering (*Short Term*) - Telegraph Rd Cross-walk at Tracey Ct (35): under review by VDOT Traffic Engineering (*Short term*) - Bicycle lane along Telegraph Road (19). Fairfax County Traffic group evaluates feasibility of bicycle lane at time of (in conjunction with) VDOT road repaving plans. Telegraph Road repaving is not part of 2019 Paving Plan. 2020 Paving Plan will be reviewed as it is finalized (*Evaluation: Intermediate-term*). - Trails within VDOT Right of Way (5). Fairfax County is evaluating sidewalk/ pedestrian facilities along corridor. "Goat paths" that cannot be maintained by public sector (VDOT / Fairfax County) are not encouraged.

Vegetation/ Landscaping • More regular vegetation removal along Old Telegraph Rd (within 3-4 ft. from road by VDOT) (4) • Removal of Vines/ Invasive species (6) • Rebuild barrier/ replace dead trees with fast growing trees (Giant Arborvitae) (7) • Curve east of Church: plant with low growing vegetation to improve sight distance (8) • Integrate/blend planning plan inside/outside stream project (9) • Keep cover (tree/plantings) (10) • Work on re-education (not to dump leaves, yard waste into streams & gutters) (11) • Better foliage (work to match County's work) along green portion of stream restoration project (17) • Request mature trees on both sides of stream to help block road (28) • Short trees requested in the same area (in order to protect power lines) (26; Old Telegraph Rd. area) • Find "friendly" species of trees that grow rapidly to help fill in new voids of vegetation (27) • Fast growing trees in all green areas, along both sides of stream (42) • Can non-native ornamentals be planted in green areas? (ex. Crepe myrtle) (23) • Work sidewalk additions and bus stop changes so max. green space available to regrow screening (36)	14 Comments: Highest Interest	**Stream Restoration Project** webpage will be updated by October 2019, to include stage progress graphics, photos, updated schedule http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/pike_branch.asp (*Plan: Short-term; Implementation: Intermediate-Term*) **Landscape Enhancement Planting Plan** (by VDOT NOVA Landscape Architect with Environmental Group support), to complement Stream Restoration project, will be shared with community in fall 2019 (*Plan: Short-term; Implementation: Intermediate term*) VDOT Maintenance to trim vegetation causing sight distance issues (4, 8) (*Short-term*) **Consider Supplemental Community Efforts** (with potential VDOT input) (*Intermediate-Long Term*): ▪ Education: no Dumping, clean-ups, distribute literature to recognize native/ non-native species and invasive species, etc. ▪ Following implementation of VDOT projects, consider limited additional Planting by community, of native low shrubs and others, under VDOT permit, for community to install and maintain (permit process to insure sight distance or clear zones are not affected, and traffic safety procedures are followed during maintenance).
Lighting • Street lighting along Old Telegraph (2) • Need sidewalk & <u>lighting</u> up Old Telegraph from southern intersection with Telegraph (30) • Lighting along all of Old Telegraph (44)	3 Comments: <u>Lower Interest</u>	- Roadway Lighting is not part of Stream Restoration or other current projects. State or federal funding is typically not authorized for corridor lighting, except to address safety or site-specific "node" concerns. - Street light requests to Dominion Energy for roadway lighting go through the County.

Traffic & Transit	10 Comments: Medium Interest	The following questions are being evaluated / addressed by VDOT (Traffic Engineering, Permits) for recommendation/ actions (Evaluation: *Short Term*; Implementation: *Short to Long Term, depending on findings*):
• Install mirrors @ Old Telegraph Rd/ Telegraph Rd. intersection (northeast end) so drivers can see traffic (14) • Improve bus stop (cover) on Telegraph across from Ronson Dr. (looking for safer wait area) (31) • Alleviate/ mitigate 135 degree turn off Telegraph Rd to Old Telegraph (33) • Need some type of barrier on south side of southern intersection of Old telegraph and Telegraph (safety hazard – trees, guard rail) (34) • Guardrail with reflectors at corner (north side of southern intersection of Old Telegraph and Telegraph (32) • Traffic light at northern intersection Old Telegraph Rd. and Telegraph Rd. (37) • Traffic light at southern intersection Old Telegraph Rd. and Telegraph Rd. (45) • Sightline from Old Telegraph onto Telegraph Rd; signs blocking view; trim vegetation to improve sightline (38) • Speed bumps along Old Telegraph Rd (39) • Straighten dangerous curved section near church (N. of church on Old Telegraph) (40)		- **S intersection Old Telegraph and Telegraph**: (34) Barrier; (32) Guardrail with reflectors at corner (north side of intersection): VDOT will add 6 Edge of Road Delineate signs (black and white) around curve, extend white edge line around curve to Old Telegraph Road (150 feet), and cut back some of bushes to clear up sightline at stop sign. (*Short term*) - **N intersection Old Telegraph and Telegraph**: (14) Install mirrors so drivers can see traffic: VDOT will evaluate (*Short-term*); (38) sight line: Vegetation will be trimmed and Signs in RW may be removed if affecting sight distance (*Short Term*); (33) VDOT is evaluating potential short-term measures to help alleviate/ mitigate 135 degree turn from Old Telegraph Rd. to Telegraph Rd. (**). - Traffic lights at N and S intersections Old Telegraph Rd. and Telegraph Rd. (signal warrant study **) (37, 45) - Evaluate "dangerous curved section" on Old Telegraph Rd. near church ** (40). ** Potential New Projects: Any new project (such as to realign intersection or road segment, or install traffic signals) would need to be evaluated and funding be identified for design, utility adjustments, right of way acquisition, and construction. Funding for such a project would need to be identified by locality (such as through funding application submissions under competitive funding programs) (*Medium to Long term*) Speed bumps (39). Fairfax County administers the Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP) and "works directly with communities to decrease the impacts of traffic and enhance safety in area neighborhoods. Speed bumps are considered one of the Traffic Calming tools; details of the RTAP program can be found at the following link: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/residential-traffic-administration Bus stop improvements (31). Fairfax County Connector staff are reviewing request for potential actions to improve safety. Bus shelters are typically reserved for locations with high number of passenger boardings.

Drainage • Storm Drainage improvement along "house side of Old Telegraph Rd. (3) • Concerned about pools of water being a place for mosquitoes to breed (21) • Culvert close to 6156 Old Telegraph Rd is usually clogged (24) • Ditch close to 6212 Old Telegraph Rd. fills with water (concern about mosquitos breeding there) (25)	4 Comments: Lower Interest	- Stream Restoration project included inspection of pipes/ culverts that discharge to stream, and identified repair/ relining recommendations (VDOT identifying funding). (*Intermediate-term*) - VDOT Maintenance to address ditch cleanup close to 6212 Old Telegraph Rd (25) and along "house side" of Old Telegraph Rd. (3), evaluate (address short term findings or recommend action) culvert close to 6156 Old Telegraph Rd. (24) (*Short-term*)
Utilities • Request undergrounding utilities along Old Telegraph (since work is underway) (20) • Move power lines back to east side of Old Telegraph Rd (22)	2 Comments: Lower Interest	- Move power lines back to east side of Old Telegraph Rd (22). VDOT is monitoring progress of emergency slope repair (top soiling and seeding, stream restoration access needs) and coordinating with Dominion Energy Virginia company to return poles for overhead utilities to their original/ permanent location as soon as feasible (*Short-term*). - Utility undergrounding. Current VDOT Stream Restoration project does not include design, funding or environmental evaluation for undergrounding of existing overhead utilities (federal or state funding is typically not approved for undergrounding of utilities). - Power Company program. Dominion Energy Virginia's Strategic Underground Program has a system-wide initiative to shorten restoration times following major storms by placing certain outage-prone overhead electrical distribution lines and equipment underground: :https://www.dominionenergy.com/company/electric-projects/strategic-underground-program.