



NRC Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Brandermill Woods

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order
2. Member Voice 10 minutes
3. Motion to Approve November 9, 2010 NRC Minutes 2 minutes
4. Chair's Report – Mamie McNeal 10 minutes
5. Treasurer's Report – Karen Gammons 3 minutes
6. Committee Reports
 - A. Membership Committee – Bev Bell 2 minutes
 - B. Communications Committee – Chris Glaze 2 minutes
7. NRC Year-End Report – Mamie McNeal 5 minutes
8. Election of 2011 NRC Officers 15 minutes
9. Work Session for 2011 NRC Board of Officers 15 minutes
10. Adjournment

Announcements

- Chesterfield County will host an informal meeting on February 7, 2011 at Swift Creek Middle School from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for participants to look at the plans and renderings for the roundabout to be located at the new Clover Hill High School.
- Chesterfield County will be presenting its Comprehensive Plan to the BCA Board of Directors and Brandermill residents on February 24, 2011, 7 p.m., Swift Creek Middle School (cafeteria).
- The Natural Resources Committee seeks volunteers to work on The Landing master plan project as well as to serve on the committee. Contact: Susan Smith, 744-2747, Mark.Susan.Smith@verizon.net.
- The Community Character Committee seeks volunteers to work on their effort to help Chesterfield County Public Schools. Contact: Dianne Cardea, 744-3002, dcardea@verizon.net.
- The Community Character Committee seeks a volunteer to help coordinate activities of the 2011 Green Market and in particular, to man a table at the Green Market in Market Square on Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Shelley Bartelink-Waye, msbartelink@hotmail.com.



NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:00pm
Brandermill Woods Meeting Room

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by NRC Chair Mamie McNeal on November 9, 2010 at 7:06 p.m. in the meeting room at Brandermill Woods, 14311 Brandermill Woods Trail, Midlothian, Virginia 23112.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jenny Henderson – Arrowood	Gloria & Horst Arfert – Northwich
Doug Camp – Barne’s Spring	Rin & Kevin Barkdull – Northwich
Herb Russakoff – Barne’s Spring	Mamie McNeal – Planter’s Wood
Joan Bernick – Brandermill Woods	Clint McDonald – Poplar Grove
Richard Kury – Cove Ridge	Don Blom – Promontory Pointe
Frances Hillman – Huntgate Woods	Carla Snyder – Riverbirch Trace
When-Dee Morrison – Huntgate Woods	Laurie Van Cleve – Riverbirch Trace
Kit Kavanagh – Huntsbridge	Doug Wayne – Rockport Landing
Kathy Cantrell – Huntsbridge	Sandy & Jim Schrecengost – Timber Ridge
Julane Johndrow – Long Shadow	Dick & Judy English – Winterberry Ridge
Dan Baker – North Point	Courtney & Chris Glaze – Woodbridge Crossing

MEMBER VOICE

Richard Kury (Cove Ridge) stated that residents are still confused about the mailboxes. He feels there are different things being said and published. He feels there is a lack of leadership from the BCA Board of Directors on the mailboxes. Can anyone officially state the status of the mailboxes at this time? Chair McNeal responded with the BCA Board’s position continues to be that they have only approved a new mailbox design at this time and is looking to MPOC for implementation recommendations. Chair McNeal asks those in attendance if they are ready to move forward and discuss the implementation of the new mailboxes.

Horst Arfert (Northwich) heard from Dick Guthrie that a 6-1 vote had taken place for the mailbox design. Chair McNeal commented that those who needed new mailboxes have been allowed to use the new mailbox design. She continued by asking, "Now what about the rest of the residents, how do we want to handle that?" MPOC has agreed to a three year transition period. Many residents don't want scattering of different mailboxes for three years. Is there a way to make this transition more uniform? Horst commented that everyone in Salisbury has their own mailboxes and why do we Brandermill residents have to get new mailboxes? Chair McNeal stated that the BCA Board's response would be that they have approved a new mailbox design. Horst feels that that is not the voice of the people.

Chair McNeal asked again whether those in attendance were ready to move forward and many responded that they were not ready to.

Kit Kavanagh (Huntsbridge) commented that we live in a democracy and that we elected the Board to represent us. That is the process.

Rin Barkdull (Northwich) agrees that the issue is not with the design but rather how the design was chosen. She stated that based on President's Rowe comment she has read page 286 of the Master Plan, and it states nothing about replacing all the mailboxes.

Herb Russakoff (Barne's Spring) stated that he got a copy of the specs for the mailboxes and had yet to price it out, but feels that the cost of the new mailboxes is still an issue. He feels this was not the right time to implement such a change, given the state of the economy.

Jenny Henderson (Arrowood) said that the feeling in her neighborhood is that the BCA Board took on a project outside their budget, and it is now costing the residents more. The BCA Board passed the buck to the residents.

Richard Kury (Cove Ridge) comments that the Master Plan states to enforce the existing standards. If the BCA Board and BCA Staff would do that, then it would take care of the current problems with the mailboxes. He also feels that the current BCA Board is overstepping their authority in regards to freedom of speech.

Doug Camp (Barne's Spring) feels that if we have problems with keeping up with the current mailboxes, then there is going to be trouble getting residents to switch to the new mailboxes. He feels that the BCA Board has a problem on their hands.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2010 MEETING

MOTION: Kit Kavanagh (Huntsbridge) moved to approve the September 26, 2010 minutes as written.

MOTION SECONDED: Richard Kury (Cove Ridge).

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously **APPROVED**.

CHAIR'S REPORTS

A. BCA Proposed Code of Ethics: Director Friedel called Chair McNeal and went through the NRC's submitted comments on the Code of Ethics line by line. Many of the items that we brought up in September are going to be addressed. It is Chair McNeal's understanding that another draft of the Code of Ethics will be on the agenda for the December 2010 BCA Board meeting. With regards to the item that the majority opposed – having to agree with any decision made by the BCA Board – Chair McNeal suggested to Director Friedel that it would be more palatable if it was worded that committee members would not work against the BCA Board decision, as it is our right to voice our opinion. Director Friedel feels that anyone on any BCA Committee needs to operate under the proposed Code of Ethics.

Comments from Membership:

Doug Camp (Barne's Spring) stated that he was confused as to the need for the Code of Ethics. Chair McNeal stated that it is for all the BCA Committees, BCA Board of Directors, and BCA Staff. Director Friedel felt that a Code of Ethics was needed and the BCA Board agreed. Camp felt that it is a bit insulting that someone needs to define ethics for the community.

Courtney Glaze (Woodbridge Crossing) stated that in general she felt a Code of Ethics was nice when working with a group of people as it holds people accountable. However, she felt this was being forced on the committees and felt that people would no longer want to volunteer.

Rin Barkdull (Northwich) stated that you cannot make someone agree with anything, and felt it should state that you should treat people with respect.

Clint McDonald (Poplar Grove) feels the idea of a committee is to bring ideas together, and if they are trying to force everyone to agree with the Board, what is the purpose of having committees?

Jenny Henderson (Arrowood) stated that a representative could speak on behalf of themselves and not their neighborhood to circumvent agreeing with the Board decision.

Chair McNeal stated the mailbox issue brought a lot of people to the BCA Board meetings because the NRC Reps got out there and let the residents know what was going on. Without the network and without the "Rep title", it is difficult to know if someone really speaks for their neighborhood. The Board has also questioned the NRC's credibility and asks if we representing ourselves or our neighborhoods when speaking at BCA Board meetings? Chair McNeal suggested NRC acquire polling capabilities so we could poll individual residents to address the credibility issue.

B. BCA Board Approved Budget: Chair McNeal wanted to applaud everyone who spoke about the budget. It was passed with 0% increase in the dues. The salary increase pool was not approved.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR'S REPORT

Chris Glaze reported that the NRC website has been switched over to the "Brandermill umbrella." He has been working on getting the archives up on the NRC web site (www.brandermillNRC.com). If anyone has comments about the site, please let him know. He has more control over the content than the layout.

Chair McNeal shared that the NRC Board of Officers had been worried about the BCA censoring the content on the NRC web site, but because Chris put up so much so fast the BCA finally gave the NRC the "publish button." Another item that will be coming, since the NRC web site migrated to the BCA servers, is the private blog. The blog would have been most appropriate for the mailbox issue since it is private and everything would have been in-house (i.e., within the community). The blog will also help the BCA Directors know residents' feelings on certain issues. Anyone can say anything on the blog as long as it is not defamatory. She hopes that not only the negative will be shared, but the positive as well. It is important to share the positive.

MAILBOX IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Chair McNeal proposed this question "Are we ready to move on, or are we still mad?"

Clint McDonald (Poplar Grove) asked if we could kill the mailbox project?

Chair McNeal stated that the BCA Board at its last meeting said they would not rescind their decision on the new mailbox design. The BCA Board got ahead of the MPOC process. MPOC should have asked for resident feedback on whether or not they wanted to do anything about mailboxes, including replacing them before the BCA Board considered a new mailbox design.

Frances Hillman (Huntgate Woods) came back to the mailbox issue and asked what it would take for the community to move on. She does not feel that the current sentiment is good for the community.

Doug Camp (Barne's Spring) asked if it be thrown back to the community for referendum? Chair McNeal stated that it has been put before the BCA Board, but it has not been discussed.

Richard Kury (Cove Ridge) felt that putting it out for referendum would have been the solution but it was not, and now he feels that the Board has pushed this on MPOC where the Board should have taken the leadership role in their decision.

Dick English (Winterberry Ridge) stated there have been issues in the past that have caused issues, such as the pools, but feels it would be in the best interest for Brandermill as a community to move past this issue.

Chair McNeal agrees with English and feels that the BCA Board has somewhat acknowledged that they did not handle the mailbox process properly and is unsure that we can expect anymore further than their asking for help in the implementation.

Richard Kury (Cove Ridge) agrees with English but expressed his disappointment that the BCA Board did not listen to the residents and NRC representatives on the mailbox issue.

Chair McNeal asked for us as a community to move forward. She posed: “Do you feel you need a stronger statement from the BCA Board indicating that they did not handle the processing of the mailboxes correctly? And if we got that statement, could we then move forward?”

There was some murmuring from those in attendance with the consensus saying “yes.”

Doug Camp (Barne’s Spring) stated that he felt that people still would not want to change their mailboxes.

Herb Russakoff (Barne’s Spring) asked what is wrong with two different styles of mailboxes? He suggested the transition happen slowly, perhaps as old mailboxes needed to be replaced and/or when properties were sold. He would not want to see a time limit on the transition.

Jenny Henderson (Arrowood) stated that her neighborhood has zero intent on changing their mailboxes and did not think they can move on. She also suggested a community vote.

Herb Russakoff (Barne’s Spring) commented that he feels the new mailboxes do not have the rustic look that the current mailboxes do.

Kit Kavanagh (Huntsbridge) stated that her neighborhood has been all over the place, but several have gotten the new mailbox specifications and built their own which has saved them money.

Clint McDonald (Poplar Grove) asked what the purpose of changing the mailboxes?

Julane Johndrow (Long Shadow) responded that it was to improve the streetscape. Originally all the signs in Brandermill were brown. It is no longer 1970, and all of the main signage has been changed to green. The mailboxes are the last item from that the prior time period. Just because Brandermill is getting older does not mean it is going away, and the value of the homes have gone down. She feels it is time to try and catch up a little bit. She also suggested a fundraiser for those who truly cannot afford a new mailbox unit.

Laurie Van Cleve (Riverbirch Trace) stated that she polled her neighbors and the consensus was “No, they didn’t want to change their mailbox, but if we have to, we will. But, if the BCA Board does not enforce the covenants, then the same thing is going to happen to the new mailboxes.”

When-Dee Morrison (Huntgate Woods) stated that she never intended to be the face of the mailbox opposition but was outraged that the people were not asked about the new mailboxes, which has been her issue from day one. She feels that to move on the people need to be asked first before money is going to have to come out residents’ pockets. She also does not feel the BCA Board is talking with us but talking at us.

Richard Kury (Cove Ridge) commented that the BCA corporate mailboxes are in disrepair, and the current process does not address Brandermill businesses and condominiums. He observes that the BCA has not enforced the covenants with the businesses either.

MPOC PROJECTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

The projects were approved earlier in 2010 that have already been funded. Chair McNeal is hopeful that the NRC will play a big role in being able to call neighborhood meetings and ask residents what they think. The first big project is the Landing Project. What is being proposed by the Natural Resource Committee is considered Phase 1, and has been funded for \$11,500. This Phase will only affect two areas, and it does not represent all that is described on page 103 of the Master Plan. There will be a community-wide informational meeting on this project at the end of November. There are many questions that need to be answered before moving forward with this project, such as T-rack replacement and possible dredging of a portion of the reservoir for the new docks proposed in the Master Plan.

Doug Camp (Barne’s Spring) stated that the area is filled with hydrilla and is shallow.

Chair McNeal said that is something that needs to be discussed, and that is something that could be brought up at the Community meeting. We don’t want to spend money in Phase 1 only to have it undone in Phases 2 or 3.

NRC 2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair McNeal nominated three people to the Nominating Committee that will come up with a slate of officers for 2011. The election will be held on January 11, and the slate will need to be posted 10 days prior to that meeting. Members of the Nominating Committee are Sandy Schrecengost, Kathy Cantrell, and Chris Glaze. They will be canvassing the membership for new officers. If anyone has any interest in serving as an NRC Officer, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Due to time constraints, Chair McNeal said that she would not be able to serve as an NRC officer in the next year. She has enjoyed being the 2010 Chair and is proud of the NRC Representatives for representing their neighborhoods before the BCA Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McNeal adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Glaze, Secretary
Neighborhood Residents Council

Mamie McNeal, Chair
Neighborhood Residents Council