

## Meeting Minutes

The Wicomico County Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee (NRCAC) met Tuesday February 12, 2019 at the Government Office Building at 3pm

**Committee:** Judith Stribling Matt Hurd John Groutt Aaron Cooper Alyssa Massey  
Jared Parks Doug Stevens Bill McCain

**County Staff:** Tyler Walston, Environmental Planner

**Guests:** Will Dyer, MD Forest Service Ryan Eisman, MD Dept. of Transportation Doug Draper, City of Salisbury

The group voted to approve the February minutes.

### **Invasive Species Initiative**

Mr. Draper was invited to the meeting to discuss the removal of the English ivy at the City Park. Mr. Draper stated that the City would be willing to allow a volunteer invasive removal project, provided that no overhead vines would be pulled as that would be a liability/safety hazard. The group asked Mr. Dyer about the appropriate removal strategy for the infestation. He advised that it would likely need to be sprayed with herbicide and a volunteer project may not be the best approach. Mr. Draper advised that the City could begin spraying the invasive ivy. Ms. Massey said that she would follow up with the City about beginning the invasive removal at the park.

Mr. Dyer updated the group on the plan for addressing the invasive wisteria at Pemberton Park. Mr. Dyer met Mr. Walston and Mr. Hurd at the park previously to discuss what would be needed to remove the vines. Mr. Dyer said it would take approximately one to two weeks to mulch the existing wisteria vines and the area would need to be treated with herbicide twice a year for at least five years before the area could be replanted with trees. Ongoing maintenance would be required because this plant doesn't give up.

Plans: Mr. Walston will ask Steve Miller whether Recreation and Parks has a maintenance budget that could be used. Area should be put on a mowing regime.

Mr. Walson and Mr. Dyer will work with Ryan Eisman to put together an RFP.

Mr. Stephens will take photos for "before" illustration

The group discussed the letter to Bob Culver from the group asking that the funding for the invasive initiative be continued in the next fiscal year. The group agreed to send the letter without any additional edits.

Ms. Stribling updated the group on the meeting with Southern Maryland RC&D and said ultimately it may be better for the group to let the Lower Shore Land Trust administer the program. Ms. Stribling met with LSLT staff and they suggested paying \$2,000 for signage, \$8,000 to hire a grant writer and \$15,000 for the invasive removal. The group discussed whether the County would have to go through the bidding process for the removal contract. Mr. Walston said he would contact purchasing to determine what would be appropriate.

### **Pirates Wharf Update**

Mr. Parks provided an update on the history presentation that was given to the public about the Pirate's Wharf property.

Ms. Stribling provided updates on the status of the plan to build a boat ramp on the property.

### **NRCAC Structure and Reappointments**

The group discussed adding Mr. Dyer to the NRCAC. Mr. Walston asked members with expiring terms if they wished to continue on the committee. All members up for reappointment stated they wished to continue.