

November 24, 2008

## MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Dairy Farm Master Plan Meeting

Date of Meeting: November 19, 2008 / Meeting #7

Location: Chesapeake Meeting Room, Heritage Complex

### **Attendees:**

#### **Committee Members:**

Ms. Christina Aist  
Mr. Rick Berger  
Ms. Joan Berry  
Mr. Jack Boeve  
Ms. D'Alex Childers  
Mr. Russell DeHart  
Mr. Tom Dorr  
Mr. Vernon Hustead  
Ms. JoeAnn Kuhn  
Ms. Janet Mackey  
Marilyn Taylor  
Ms. Mary Tobin  
Ms. Gail Yeiser

#### **Ex. Officio Members:**

Ms. Karyn Molines  
Mark Kramer

#### **Consultants:**

John Rohde, Human & Rohde, Inc.  
Sally Malena, Human & Rohde, Inc.

### **Other Attendees:**

Marian Fry, Maryland Sunrise Farm (MSF)  
Mr. Fred Bowen

Karyn Molines opened the seventh meeting of the Hammond's Connection at the Dairy Farm Advisory Committee. Concerning the minutes of the previous meeting; D'Alex Childers wanted it stated that we would devote a meeting to discussion of the Village Area. There were no other changes to the minutes.

An article was provided by Rick Berger on the Hammonds and the Hammond Manor House.

Sally Malena then reviewed the updated plan with the committee and told of the meetings Human & Rohde, Inc. & Karyn Molines had with Ex. Officio Members Janet Norman of U.S. Fish and Wildlife and David Myers of University of Maryland Cooperative Extension and also Keith Underwood who specializes in Ecological Restoration, a Member at Large. The Preliminary Master Plan has been digitized and a key added. A parking area on the north side of Dairy Farm Road has been added with a trail showing a connection to a possible trail system in the Odenton Natural Area. This parking area would be primarily for people using the Odenton trail system.

The Hike / Bike connection to the future South Shore Trail is shown on the southeast side of Dairy Lane. The trail would be off-set from the road to Hammond's Connection by 10 to 15'. A fence would separate the trail from the working farm area.

The existing entrance to the farm from Dairy Farm Road is shown improved with 2 lanes exiting the farm and one lane entering. The parking area at the Village picked up a few spaces with a redesign to accommodate the reconfigured entrance and road system.

Other updates to the plan include:

1. The parking area below the sled run was pulled back so it will not interfere with the sled run.
2. The Hike / Bike Trail was realigned so as not to stay atop the sewer easement as previously shown.
3. The Hike / Bike Trail was connected to all the parking areas and the loop trails
4. A demonstration water quality system is shown that consists of constructing weirs along the swale from the large parking area that empties into a marshy area that connects into Towser's Branch.
5. Additional landscaping was shown.
6. Sally neglected to show the playground and apiary.

General Information about the plan

1. Hike / Bike Trail will be about 10' wide
2. Roadway would be 22'-24' wide, final width will be determined by Department of Public Works
3. Community Gardens will have 96 plots.
4. Orchard may be too large—also may not be allowed by Navy. Karyn has requested guidance.
5. Stormwater run-off will be controlled by bio-retention (rain gardens) in parking areas, as well as a restored stream. See Comments from Keith Underwood below.
6. Picnic Pavilions accommodate approximately 100 people

Things that need to be shown on the plan include:

1. The Apiary, fenced in, near driveway.
2. The Playground
3. A small Picnic Pavilion and a small cul-de-sac at the Community Garden Area.

Comments that should be included in the report include:

1. Benches and storyboards should be placed along the trail.
2. Picnic tables should be located around the site other than at the pavilions.
3. One garden theme should be "Victory Gardens" as the Cooperative Extension Service has a new program promoting home-based produce gardening.

Some of the comments and suggestions made by Janet Norman include:

1. The Meadow Area should be between 15 and 25 acres.
2. Pollination gardens, bio-fuel gardens, wind farm, crop gardens, legumes, should be demonstrated on site.
3. The composition of the reforestation areas should include stands of evergreens as well as mixed hardwoods.
4. The structures on site should have solar panels and or green roofs.

Comments from David Myers included:

1. The area the Community Garden is shown in has a spring head and will have to be dealt with. Also, the area to the east of the Community Garden is very rocky.

2. The entire site is much devoid of topsoil as it has been under cultivation for 300 years. All garden areas will have to have topsoil added.
3. The slope below the mid-level picnic pavilion is an old dump site.
4. He suggested the view shed from the homestead looking to the west be kept open.
5. The "Orchard" should probably be only ½ an acre in size for maintenance reasons. He suggested sour cherries, Asian pears, beach plums crabapples and walnut trees as crops. No apples as the deer would destroy the trees.
6. The berry patches should include fall bearing raspberries and black berries.
7. Small portable passive greenhouses may be an added feature.

Comments from Keith Underwood:

1. The goal should be to slow water from leaving the site by creating weirs in the swale or water way to slow the flow allowing water to soak into the soil. Towser's Branch should be restored into a broad stream as Anne Arundel County streams were originally.

At this point in the meeting Karyn asked if the Committee Members were ready to vote on accepting the plan as shown (including the above items). The Committee voted unanimously to accept the plan.

The next topic on the agenda was the issue of allowing musical events at Hammond's Connection. The Committee decided that musical events would be acceptable if there is no amplification, the groups are small and performances are between dawn and dusk with exception no music before 1:00 on Sundays. The size of the crowd attending a performance should be limited to no more than 250 and the performance should only last a couple of hours.

**The next meeting will be December 17th in the Chesapeake Meeting Room at the Heritage Office Complex at 7:00 P.M.** Come prepared to discuss the Village Area and comments that you would like included in the Master Plan Report.

Sincerely,

Sally Malena  
Human & Rohde Inc.

Cc. Attendees  
Committee Members