



Mill Brook Study Group Meeting Summary - DRAFT

Date: Friday, March 8, 2019
Time: 8:30am
Location: Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room
Attendees: Erin Zwirko, Charlotte Milan, Emily Sullivan, Stacey Mulroy, Ann LeRoy, Wendy Richter, Kelly Lynema, Beth Melofchik

Introductions

After a welcome and a round of introductions, Kelly reviewed the items that were updated in the draft plan, noting that all revisions were based on the list from the February 4 meeting summary. Ann pointed out a missing item under the Placemaking category, which was determined to have made it into the plan revisions but not on the meeting notes.

Draft Report Review

Charlotte asked if the topic of invasive species made it into the final plan and who would be the responsible party for managing invasive species removal. Emily said that this would generally fall under the purview of the Open Space Plan and Committee, although the committee cannot force anyone to manage invasives better. The plan serves as a reminder that removing invasives is a priority of the town. Charlotte asked if the town needs a separate study or working group to look at what is going on in regard to invasives in the community. Emily said this was a good idea, although she wasn't sure the town needs to establish a full working group on the topic.

Emily said she wants to offer a course on invasive species identification and management to clear up misconceptions, instruct people on how to dispose of them, and how to label waste bags, etc. Charlotte asked if it was okay for any resident to pick a part of town and do their own clean-up; Ann pointed out that Beth Melofchik has done this work extensively at Cooke's Hollow and asked Beth to describe what she has done. Beth has been pulling knotweed from Cooke's Hollow since 2017, and described for the group how it has to be dealt with. Since 2017, she has cleared ½ of slope by the police department and put in native plants and trees to address erosion. Charlotte said that this is the kind of informed energy and actions that the town should support.

The group decided to expand the discussion of invasive species in the plan recommendations, and discussed opportunities for engaging residents and community groups in invasive removal. Potential constituencies include undergraduate and graduate study groups in need of field research opportunities, Friends groups, neighborhood groups, scouts, the Garden Club, local churches, and high school students.

Promotion Discussion

The group discussed ways to promote the final plan. In general, it was decided that inserting a discussion of the plan into existing programming or an event series would reach a broader

audience than if the plan was presented in a standalone public forum. Ideas for promotion included:

- Holding an event as part of EcoWeek: Charlotte will share schedule.
- Participating in the Fox Library's "What's Up Arlington?" series on Wednesdays.
- Publishing the final version of the plan on website and share with other groups: the Mill Brook Corridor Study Group is a subcommittee of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, which is a little more difficult to find on the website. Erin said that once the report is up on the website, we can work with Joan Roman to publicize a news article about it, provide direct links to committees, MyWRA, post notes in the Advocate, post on social media, etc. to promote the plan and advertise public talks around its promotion.
- Sharing the plan at the Old Schwamb Mill exhibit and/or when the panels are up in Town Hall in winter, 2019-2020.
- Presentations in the schools:
 - o Charlotte will get in touch with Ellen Cohen about educational programs.
 - o There is a new environmental science teacher at the high school who may be able to connect us with after school clubs.
- Signage: Ann mentioned that prioritizing historic signage or developing a signage system for town-owned properties on the corridor would help promote the plan.
- Promoting the plan at related public or committee meetings, such as the Open Space Committee and the upcoming Wellington Park public meeting.
- News story for ACMi
- Inclusion in a topical survey or the next town-wide survey

Charlotte asked if the town could accept donations from GoFundMe or other similar programs. Erin said she would look into it. The group could also consider applying for CPA funding to implement elements of the plan.

Next Steps:

Kelly and Erin will look into getting on the EcoWeek and/or the Fox Library's "What's Up in Arlington" schedule; Ann will share images with DPCD should the group decide to add more visuals to the report.

Emily motioned to approve the minutes from the 2/4/19 meeting; Stacey seconded.

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