

RFCA General Membership Meeting

March 24, 2011

Minutes

Introduction

The March General Membership Meeting was held at Ravensworth Elementary School. Marty Robinson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. The February 3, 2011, General Membership minutes were approved. (The scheduled January 27, 2011, General Membership Meeting was held February 3, 2011, due to a snow storm and school closing on January 27, 2011).

Announcements

Ellen Eggerton, 1st Vice President, advised the membership that the association had invited the communities of North Springfield, Springfield and Danberry Forest to attend the evening's Wildlife Presentation. No members of those communities attended.

Ellen advised that the May 2011 General Membership Meeting will elect members of the Board and asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. No one volunteered. Ellen stated that all current members of the Board are willing to stand for re-election.

Ellen introduced the Free Rain Barrel Project. She explained that black top roadways built for the HOT lanes will cause additional run-off into our local lakes and streams. Fifty 55 gallon rain barrels, made of recycled pickle and olive barrels will be available, free, to Ravensworth residents to recycle rain water. Using the barrels to recycle rain water will reduce runoff to Lake Accotink and will promote healthy ecosystems in our streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Kevin Joyce, Corresponding Secretary, distributed a flyer that advises residents how to pre-register for the free rain barrels and the May Rain Barrel Assembly Workshop to be held in conjunction with the May General Membership Meeting. The workshop is sponsored by the Fairfax County Storm water Planning Division. Each family is limited to one barrel; if there are leftover barrels, residents may request additional barrels.

Since the May General Membership Meeting will include the Rain Barrel Assembly Workshop and the business meeting, it will begin at 6:00 PM and end at 9:00 PM.

Budget Update

Richmun Tun reviewed the current budget as of March 24, 2011. He also requested volunteers for the Neighborhood Watch Committee and the Neighborhood Picnic Committee. No one volunteered. The current balance is \$49,506, which includes both savings and checking accounts.

Committee Updates

The annual Hayride is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2011, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Green Committee

Jim Hickey advised that on Saturday, April 9, 2011, from 9:00 A.M – Noon, a Clean-up for Lake Accotink will be held. Community Service credit will be awarded and those eligible for the credit should bring along slips that need to be signed. He also advised that the RF Community Clean-up day went well and that the Cardboard Regatta will return to Lake Accotink this summer. He mentioned the lunch usually given volunteers who come to the Lake Accotink Clean-up day will not be given this year due to cost. Richmon Tun asked Jim to let him know how much it would cost to provide the lunches. Jim will let him know and the Board will discuss donating funds at the next Board of Directors meeting on March 30.

Wildlife Presentation

Unfortunately, Vicky Monroe, Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist, was unable to attend and make the presentation due to unforeseen circumstances.

In her absence, the floor was opened for questions:

Wildlife in the Ravensworth Farm area

What wildlife has been seen in Ravensworth Farm and area? Members mentioned they have seen coyotes, bald eagles, deer, bart (?) owls, woodpeckers, and foxes.

Rain barrels

- How do you prevent mosquitoes? The barrel comes with a removable screen covering the top of the barrel.
- What do you do in the winter? Dismantle. If you have a diverter, you can flip the switch to divert the water from going into the barrel to running through the downspout.
- What is a diverter valve? An additional accessory, which does not come with the kit, can be attached to the downspout to divert water to the downspout or the barrel.
- How does the barrel work? Connect the downspout to the barrel and attach a hose to the barrel. The hose can then be used to water gardens, wash cars, etc. It works best if the barrel is elevated higher than ground level, perhaps on several cinder blocks.

Tree Purchase

Ellen said she had received much interest in the tree project, most requesting dogwoods and crepe myrtles. She will be ordering them within the next week. The Board has approved \$220 for their purchase. If anyone else is interested in having a tree, they can call or e-mail Ellen.

Ravensworth Elementary School Trees

A member mentioned that Fairfax County has been called regarding the pine trees surrounding the school. Fairfax advised that the school was at the top of their list for tree removal.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.