

**ELMS PROPERTY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
10:30 A.M. OCTOBER 21, 2009  
Minutes**

Members present were Derick Berlage, Phil Rollins, Steve Riley, Dave Heilmeier, Gayle Moreland on behalf of Pete Dunbar, Kim Howe on behalf of Brad Clements, Marianne Chapman, and David Gailey.

Members absent were Dr. Robert Paul.

Others present were Margarita Rochow, Elms Environmental Center.

Mr. Berlage called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes – 7/15/09**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 7/15/09 as amended. The motion passed without opposition.

**II. New Business**

**a. Approve 2010 Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Chapman recommended the Advisory Committee meet on an as needed basis. Ms. Chapman stated she feels the Advisory Committee has done their job by setting up the programs that currently exist and she sees no reason to continue meeting to discuss day to day operations. Ms. Stuckert stated the Elms Management Plan states on page ES-2 "Day-to-day control will be shared by the St. Mary's County Public Schools and the Department of Recreation and Parks.", also that "The Committee will meet as needed to ensure that development and management of the Elms is consistent with the management goals set out in this Management Plan."

The Committee discussed meeting once annually in May to prepare for the Annual Report to the County Commissioners and special meetings may be called by the Chairman and/or a majority of the members. Ms. Stuckert recommended setting an approximate date for the meetings in May. It was decided to try and schedule each annual meeting on the third Thursday in May.

**b. Update Regarding the Possibility of Hunting on the 85 Acre Site**

Mr. Riley stated Paul Peditto, DNR's Director of Wildlife and Heritage Services, clarified the letter that the Committee interpreted incorrectly back in July by saying DNR will not manage the 85 acre site however the Secretary of DNR will in fact allow the County to manage hunting in the 85 acres.

Mr. Rollins stated he was instructed by the County Administrator to explore options on how the County could manage hunting on the 85 acre site. Mr. Rollins indicated he has spoken with Brian Malpasso of the Mattaponi Bow and Black Powder Hunt Club. The Club has offered to help manage the 85 acre site for bow hunting which runs from September 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Mr. Rollins state he is now looking into how to manage the following items:

- Reservations for hunters
- Number of hunters on the site at one time
- Marking of the bow hunting boundary line
- Monitoring of the hunter sign-in sheets

Mr. Rollins stated this will all have to be done on a volunteer basis put forth in a Memorandum of Understanding with members of the Black Powder Hunt Club. Mr. Rollins stated nothing has been decided at this time but discussions are taking place. Mr. Rollins stated that he was asked to draft a management proposal for the 85 acres for the County Administrator.

Mr. Gailey stated he is in favor of the County taking over this portion of the land. Ms. Chapman stated she is opposed and feels the Committee should not even be discussing the issue. Ms. Howe stated she is concerned with many aspects of this, one being who to contact when there is a violation on the 85 acres.

Mr. Rolling stated he would have to discuss this with the Sheriff as DNR will not deal with violations that are not related to hunting violations. Ms. Howe stated she feel this will be very confusing to hunters. Mr. Gailey stated the 85 acres would have to be marked in a color other than yellow. Mr. Rollins stated he would let the Black Powder Club know this.

***Mr. Gailey made a motion to neither endorse or oppose the idea of County managed hunting on the 85 acre site until more research on the liability for the County is further examined, however if this is going to happen the Committee hopes their concerns would be resolved and Mr. Rollins seconded. The motion passed by an 8-0 vote.***

### **III. Unfinished Business**

#### **a. Update DNR Posting of the Property**

Mr. Heilmeier stated the entire property boundary recovery is tentatively scheduled for this winter.

#### **b. Update on County Commissioner Actions**

As covered in II.b

#### **c. Draft By-Law Review**

The Committee reviewed the by-laws. It was the consensus of the Committee to vote on the by-laws at the May meeting for approval by the County Commissioners sometime in June.

#### **d. Update on Razing of Abandoned Houses**

Ms. Moreland stated DNR is on schedule to raze the abandoned houses in the spring.

### **IV. Additional Business**

Ms. Howe stated the new septic system has been installed and is working at the Elms thanks to PPRP.

Ms. Moreland stated there is still an active interest in the Elms property for power plant usage however she cannot discuss the details of this at this time.

### **V. Next Steps**

Annual Report  
By-Laws

### **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at the Elms Education Center beginning at 10:30 a.m.