

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING: Colvin Run Mill Historic Site Master Plan Revision
Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site Barn,
10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

MEETING SUMMARY

Elected Officials and Staff Attendance:

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

John Foust, Dranesville District

FCPA BOARD MEMBERS: Kevin Fay, Dranesville District; George E. Lovelace, at-large member; Ken Quincy, Providence District; Frank Vajda, Mason District; Marie Reinsdorf, at large member.

FCPA STAFF: John Dargle, Director, FCPA; Cindy Messenger, COO; Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Dave Bowden, Director Planning & Development Division; Sandy Stallman, Manager Planning Branch, Planning & Development Division; Andy Galusha, Project Manager; Scott Sizer, Senior Planner, Planning & Development Division; Mike Henry, Manager Colvin Run Mill Historic Site;

The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Judy Pedersen. Following introductions of Park Authority Board Members and Supervisor Foust, Ms. Pedersen explained the purpose for the meeting and introduced Mr. Andy Galusha to present the Master Plan Revision that will update the Plan approved in 1973. After the presentation, Ms. Pedersen explained the process for public comment and then the floor was opened to citizens to speak.

Mike Pahner-

- **COMMENT:** I live across the road from Colvin Run Mill and a member of FOCRM. Mike Henry and the staff have done excellent work at Colvin Run Mill over the years.
- I am very concerned with the speed of vehicles along Colvin Run Road. Colvin Run Road is a Virginia Scenic Byway, and the VA Scenic Byway laws assist with speed enforcement. There have been fatalities at the intersection with Route 7 and I do not want any more fatalities. The road is used for school buses and they are in danger due to the speed of other vehicles.
- The Route 7 intersection with Colvin Run needs to be improved, for both vehicular and pedestrian safety.

Sharon Henderson-

- **COMMENT:** I live in the Capers Farm community. Most members of the community are alright if the parking lot is 2-3 spaces as currently exists along Carpers Farm Way. We would feel more comfortable if this size was specified in the MPR so there would not be a concern that a larger lot may come along in the future. We are concerned that since this is the only entry / exit for our development, that a large parking lot would make it more difficult to get in and out.
- Trails and trail entrances next to residential properties are also a concern for us. This may provide access to strangers by these trails. Kids play near the trails. How will these trails impact residential uses?

Judy asked if there was anyone else from the floor that would like to come to the podium and make a statement for the record.

Joyce Beene-

- **COMMENT:** I am a long time member and current President of the Northern Virginia Carvers (NVC). Northern Virginia Carvers has a strong commitment to Colvin Run Mill and have been teaching woodcarving at the Mill during the summer for over 30 years. The Mill is such a wonderful atmosphere for this activity. In 1984, the members of NVC carved the six large reliefs depicting typical turn-of-the-century scenes descriptive of the history of the mill. These reliefs were presented to Colvin Run Mill and are now displayed in the Barn, Store, and Mill.
- The Mill provides the Carvers a place to provide a public service by exposing children and adults to an age old craft which is disappearing from American culture. In addition, we sometimes gain new members, as in my case. We benefit the Mill by offering an activity representative of the historical period of the Mill that attracts members of the public to the Mill who might not come otherwise.
- Our request is that in the planning the proposed visitors center, the need be addressed for a large area where the Carvers can continue to hold their summer Sunday classes. We also need adequate storage space to keep our blanks and tools. Right now, we use the shelving in the back closet for our wood blanks and a locked metal storage cabinet for our tools.
- Northern Virginia Carvers are looking for a permanent home. We meet every Thursday to carve, teach each other, and hold meetings. We have been shuffled from high school to high school as the woodworking shops in schools have been converted to computer classrooms. Our last school, charged us over \$100 each time we met, which we simply could not afford, so we moved to Woodcraft Supplies, in Springfield. We would be interested in pursuing a stronger relationship with Colvin Mill, which might develop, into a mutual sponsorship of each organization and permanent home for the Northern Virginia Carvers.
- The Northern Virginia Carvers, and I, love Colvin Run Mill.

Bob Lundegard-

- **COMMENT:** I am a member of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill and would like to second many of the comments we have heard here.
- Traffic calming along Colvin Run Road is really needed as Mike [Pahner] has stated.
- I want to highlight the use of the facility by community groups is very important. In particular, for the Northern Virginia Carvers; various scout groups; and the Dulcimer band. In addition, Colvin Run Mill's main function as a historic site and museum is Education. Its most important educational function is for the various groups of schoolchildren that visit on a daily basis.
- I want to make sure that the site is user friendly, especially for the many kids who visit. There should be made more explicit by including possibly a playground, picnic tables, and other uses.
- There needs to be a system of interpretive signs throughout the site. I would like to see more detail within the master plan on the creation, design, and placement of signs throughout the site. This is in particularly related to the mill, but would also include the other historic features, vegetation along the trails across Route 7, etc.

Ruth Glen-

- **COMMENT:** I live across Route 7 in Carper's Farm. I am very excited about the master plan. I love Colvin Run Mill, and the events they have here.
- I would like to see interpretive signs on trails, specifically mentioning the plants. Maybe there could be identification tags for the trees and other plants. Maybe signs for the other features and recourses
- I would like to see a loop trail within the southern portion of the site allowing for shorter walks within the park. This could be near or around the wetland just south of Route 7.
- I also would like improvements to the trail surfaces, not pavement, but perhaps woodchips or gravel. I tripped on some tree roots before, and also tried riding my bike but hit some tree roots and took a spill down the hill.
- Would like another stream crossing, bridge or fair-weather crossing to help facilitate the loop trail.
- I am also concerned with new trails creating an opportunity for strangers to have access to our residential neighborhood.

After the last question, Judy explained again about the public comment process and gave the addresses for written comment to be submitted. She then thanked all who came and closed the meeting.