

# MAGOTHY RIVER ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Andrea Germain, Editor

## Little Dobbins Island Update

After 13 years of litigation, Daryl Wagner, owner of Little Dobbins Island, will be forced to remove 3,325 square feet of excess impervious surface. According to an article in the Capital Gazette, Wagner must remove patios, pools, etc., put in a new septic area, and new wetlands by July 22. Wagner is also required to replant with a 3-to-1 ratio, which equates to replanting 9, 975 square feet. The house, which is in the critical area, was built without permits.

The Magothy River Association was heavily involved with the case and is happy that the courts and the county are enforcing the critical area. We believe that it is crucial for the MRA to pursue legal action against violators of the critical area laws when necessary. Although Little Island has been inexorably changed, the MRA's perseverance has sent a message that we will not allow flagrant violations of the critical area laws to be put into effect without legal ramifications. It is our mission to preserve and protect the Magothy for future generations.

The link to the Capital article is <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/ac-cn-little-dobbins-0618-story.html>.

## West Haven Update

In the West Haven community, the developer of a waterfront lot along Old Man Creek has agreed to the construction of a smaller home in lieu of much more extensive plans. Rather than spend years battling in court, the developer has agreed to plans which limit the amount of new impervious surface on its lot, and which are more appropriate for that community.

About 1 ½ years ago, the residents of West Haven approached the MRA with their concerns about the development of a waterfront property on which there was a small home in their community. The residents were concerned about the developer's plans to take down large trees and build a much larger home on the property. The MRA enlisted the help of Attorney Ryan Kennedy, who reached an agreement with the developer to build a much smaller home than was originally proposed.

The MRA's experience with West Haven demonstrates our determination to do whatever we can to preserve the Magothy.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEER LEADERS

The MRA is looking for 2 leaders for the following projects:

1. **Maryland Grows Oysters (MGO) program.** We need a volunteer leader for the North Shore area of the Magothy River who can coordinate the distribution of oyster spat from Eagle Cove School to volunteer growers, who will then take the cages to their homes and submerge them by their docks. The distribution normally takes place over 2 weekends, September 14-15 and September 21-22, for 2-3 hours, either on a Saturday or Sunday. The volunteer leader is responsible for pulling the spat bags/cages out of the water to give to the growers and then checking off the names from the roster, as the growers come to pick up their oysters. Total time required of the coordinator is approximately 4 hours per weekend for this activity. Carl Treff, MRA member, will post the email and Facebook announcements regarding the oysters, and he will order the correct number of cages and spat bags, as he has done in the past.
2. **Dive Master.** We need a volunteer leader who can carry on Dick Carey's legacy (we can never replace him!) and organize a number of monitoring dive trips with a few other divers. The task is to survey 5 oyster bars in the Magothy. Each oyster bar needs to be surveyed at least once a year to check growth and mortality rates. This is a high-profile position.

Anyone who is interested in either of these leadership roles should contact Paul Spadaro at [president@magothyriver.org](mailto:president@magothyriver.org).

## MRA ANNUAL PICNIC – OCTOBER 6, 2019. SAVE THE DATE!

The MRA Member Picnic will be held at Twin Harbors Community Pavilion at 12:00-2:00 pm on Sunday, October 6, 2019. As always, MRA will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, and members are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. More information is forthcoming.

## VISIONING SURVEY

MRA members are encouraged to complete the new online survey from AA County Long Range Planning Department, which expands on issues voiced by citizens for participated in the Small Area Visioning meetings. Topics include transportation priorities, targeted development policies, and local development needs. All citizens are urged to complete the survey to provide more specific information. It is especially important to provide your general location information, so that your data can be associated with your local community. This survey can have an impact on the new General Development Plan. Please use the following link:

<https://aacounty-plan2040.metroquest.com>

## TOWN HALL WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE PITTMAN AND NEW DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING

There will be a town hall meeting at 6 pm, Thursday, August 1, 2019, at the Severna Park High School. This will be an opportunity to hear from the new director of Planning and Zoning, Steve Kaii-Ziegler.

## MARSH LANDING HEARING – AUGUST 28. SAVE THE DATE!

This Board of Appeals hearing will be held at Arundel Center, Room 160, 3:30-7:30 pm, under the name Virgil Keith. The hearing is regarding the Board's decision to rescind permission to build Marsh Landing, because of code violations. The owner is appealing the decision. Please attend!

## LIVING HISTORY PROJECTS: WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

The MRA is looking for more candidates for our Living History Project. We are looking for people who have lived in this area for a long time, and preferably have old photos. We will interview you and compose a short video of your life on the Magothy! Again, if interested, please contact Andrea Germain at [a3germain@gmail.com](mailto:a3germain@gmail.com).

Examples:



USGS Matchless that surveyed the Magothy River 1896

Log cabin camp along the shores of Cattail Creek 1920s



## WATER TRAIL EXPANSION

As part of the Magothy River Water Trail project, Charles Germain has recently made videos of Cockeys Creek, Cypress Creek, Mill Creek, and Dividing Creek. These will be added to the other 18 videos that are already part of the project. We are looking for any old photos that you may have of the creeks or historical points of interest. These will be part of the Living History Project.

## AA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

County Executive Steuart Pittman has formed an Environmental Commission that will be made up of representatives from each watershed plus some NGOs. MRA VP Sally Hornor will serve as the Magothy representative. The first meeting will be on July 25. The reps have been asked to bring key topics that they would like the commission to tackle. Sally plans to focus on the importance of restricting additional impervious surface and to encourage redevelopment. She will emphasize more protective stormwater regulations that will require wider buffers and vegetation.

We are hopeful that this commission will put some teeth into existing regulations and expand buffers.

## FISH STOCKING AND OUR INTERN, RYAN RICHARDSON

Our summer intern, Ryan Richardson, will monitor Lake Waterford to measure dissolved oxygen and temperatures, and also do a depth survey to determine which fish species has the best chance of survival in the lake. Ryan was raised in Pasadena, MD, and attended Chesapeake High School as well as Anne Arundel Community College. He spent a semester at Southern Vermont College and will attend Franklin Pierce University in the Fall, 2019, where he will study environmental studies. “The Magothy River Association has been an eye-opening experience and has allowed me to gain much knowledge from people who care about the quality of the water,” said Ryan.



## CONSTRUCTION SITE MONITORING

MRA's Construction Site Monitoring Program has grown considerably over the last year. The Stormwater committee, headed by Randy Bruns, has volunteers covering areas from the Broadneck peninsula and Severna Park to Pasadena. Each month, the volunteers research and survey active grading sites to verify that contractors are adhering to required protective measures. If violations are found, the volunteers contact the appropriate County inspectors, who have responded positively. Former Chief of Field Inspections, John Peacock, has been an invaluable resource.