



## MEMO

**To:** Parks and Recreation Buildings and Grounds Committee  
**From:** Jon Turkel, Assistant Director *JMT*  
**Subject:** Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting  
**Date:** April 27, 2022

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is scheduled to meet at 10am on Monday May 2, 2022 at the T-Ball Field of Stonewall Park; 235 Hot Run Drive, Stephenson, VA 22656. Agenda includes:

Item Requiring Action:

1. Little Library – Rose Hill Park
  - FCPRD has received a request from the Literacy Volunteers of Winchester to install a ‘Little Library’ at Rose Hill Park. (**Attachment 1**) Staff is seeking a recommendation from the committee.
2. Stonewall Park Improvements
  - Staff has received Stonewall Park feedback suggesting some movement control and the addition of a playground may be beneficial. Staff is recommending the installation of a split rail fence to address the movement control issue and is seeking a recommendation from the committee. For the playground, at this time staff is seeking input for the addition and location. (**Attachment 2**)
3. Trail Connection between Rose Hill Park and KBA’s Sandy Ridge
  - Kernstown Battlefield Association is interested in a trail connection between their Sandy Ridge property and Rose Hill Park. Muesum of the Shenandoah Valley has expressed their support for the concept and staff has identified several potential trail routes. As discussed, the new trail section would be a natural surface hiking trail with installation and maintenance being the responsibility of FCPRD. Staff is seeking a recommendation from the committee. (**Attachment 3**).

Information Items:

1. Bowman Lake Trail Access from Pocono Place

- After addressing the drainage issue on the Bowman Lake Trail and meeting with VDOT to discuss access, it appears a trail connection to Pocono Place is viable. Staff is seeking guidance from the committee on pursuing a design and cost estimate for the connection.

## 2. Other Information Items

- Blue Ridge Volleyball Association / CB Park Volleyball Court improvement discussions.
- Sherando Park Sign Replacement
- Clearbrook Park Cell Tower concept
- VDOT / Sherando Park Bike/Ped Access Improvement Concepts
- Project Updates

## 3. Other Business

## Frederick County Parks and Recreation 2022 Project Proposal

### *Strengthening Community Literacy through Winchester Little Libraries*



#### **Requested by:**

Andy Gail, Executive Director

Literacy Volunteers of Winchester

Athena Michael, Ed, MLIS

Chair Winchester Little Libraries

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## **INTRODUCTION**

## **BACKGROUND**

More than 30 million adults cannot read or write above a third-grade level. To combat this issue, Little Free Library (LFL) is the world's largest book-sharing movement building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all. According to the LFL nonprofit, the LFL neighborhood book exchanges have profoundly increased access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds increasing literacy ([www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)).

In September 2020, during the height of the pandemic, a group of educators created the Winchester Little Libraries (WLL) with the support of The Boy Scouts of America (Winchester Branch) as an Eagle Scout project. Per the request of Athena Michael in September 2020 to the Executive Director Andy Gail, WLL became a Committee of the Literacy Volunteers of Winchester (LVW).

In 2021, WLL documented all existing pocket libraries located in Winchester (See Winchester Little Libraries PPT). With the assistance of Westminster Canterbury, all current structures in disrepair have been reconstructed. This goal was completed by 12/31/21.

Currently, WLL received a grant from the John and Jane Wyatt Foundation to construct 13 little libraries. Winchester Parks and Recreation's Board approved for these structures to be placed in the 13 community parks. Local artists are designing murals on these structures. Inauguration will take place to coincide with the Handley Regional Library's Summer Reading Program. In addition, Winchester Parks and Recreation approved the two structures to be placed at the end of two park StoryWalks.

With regards to book donations and storage, Winchester Little Libraries has a dedicated volunteer who is involved in marketing our events and soliciting donations via social media. LVW has partnered with Randolph-Macon Academy for their students to hold a book drive with the goal of 300 new or lightly used books. All donated books are stamped with the LVW logo but plans to change the logo to include WLL will be created by Shenandoah University Graphic Designer and launched in 2022. LVW has volunteers from Handley High School students who volunteer on a regular basis to sort and stamp books, as well as distribute books. Also, WLL has four dedicated volunteers that distribute book donations once a month to all 25 locations. As we expand the number of WLL, we will increase the number of volunteers for distribution of books that will continue on a monthly basis.

Recently, the Sales and Marketing Manager of Winchester Cold Storage and Logistics has contacted us to donate storage space to store book donations. A library will be created for the

books. Currently, LVW is storing book donations in limited space where classrooms were held prior to Covid. We plan to remove all books from this location in January to this facility. All book donations are stamped with LVW logo. This storage unit will allow WLL to centralize book donations and distribution allowing for a more definitive method to track data and the impact of book donations. Plans are to create a centralized database to track incoming and outgoing book distributions.

## **MISSION**

To advance and strengthen literacy throughout the Shenandoah Valley region.

## **PARTNERS**

### **City of Winchester**

- David Smith, Mayor
- Jason Brown, Assistant Director of Winchester Parks and Recreation

### **Frederick County Public Schools**

- Danielle Snapp, Art Teacher, James Wood High School

### **Handley Regional Library**

- Katie Moss, Children's Librarian

### **Literacy Volunteers of Winchester**

- Andy Gail, Executive Director/Co-Chair Winchester Little Libraries
- Athena Michael, Co-Chair, Winchester Little Libraries

### **Shenandoah University**

- Colby Smith, Graphic Designer/Communications Department

### **Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum**

- Dawn Devine, Executive Director

### **Westminster Canterbury**

- Jimmy Harp, Construction
- Herb Mast, Construction

## **PROPOSAL**

WLL is requesting to install a little library at the end of the StoryWalk trail at Rosehill. WLL is seeking support from Frederick County Parks and Recreation to installation the WLL.

## **BUDGET**

No funds are required from Frederick County Parks and Recreation. Funds have been procured from a grant through Civitan International. ICAN2 and Westminster Canterbury will construction the WLL. At present, WLL will find a local artist to design a mural.

## **COMPLETION**

This proposal will be completed by Labor Day 2022.

## **MARKETING STRATEGY**

Winchester Little Libraries will be featured on the LVW website.

A plaque that will feature the Literacy Volunteers of Winchester Area, WLL, ICAN2, and Westminster Canterbury..

A film/documentary will be created regarding the process of the project to show on websites and at conferences.

Completion of the project will be advertised in local media such as *The Winchester Star* and radio stations and social media outlets

## **REFERENCES**

**Unsolicited Testimonial sent to Andy Gail, Executive Director**

**On Tue, Dec 14, 2021 at 12:46 PM Herman Mast**

**<[buoyeveryday1@gmail.com](mailto:buoyeveryday1@gmail.com)> wrote:**

G'day all,

On behalf of Jimmy Harp and myself (Herm Mast), who are currently the Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury Woodshop principals, I am pleased

to report on this past year's efforts to upgrade/restore Little Free Libraries in and around Winchester. In the last few months, we've rebuilt completely libraries at Fremont Pre-School, Highland Church, Timbrook Park, Belle Grove Plantation, and Christianson Familyland (next to Jim Barnett Park) On each project we've averaged 20.5 hours per---for an estimated total of 102.5 hours. We also plan to upgrade forthwith one more little library, which is near the entrance to the Activity Center in Jim Barnett park.

We are committed to Athena Michael's inspiring efforts to expand Little Free library coverage in Winchester, and we support all that she stands for. Furthermore, we pledge to construct more units beginning shortly after the New Year. Thus we urge favorable consideration of Athena's pending grant applications, the funding of which will yield near-term results.

Jimmy Harp and I embrace an opportunity to deliver a greater volume of reading materials to local children.

Every good wish,

Herm Mast III,  
SVWC, Winchester Hal 430,  
Winchester, VA> 22603 (Cell: 401-486-0586)l

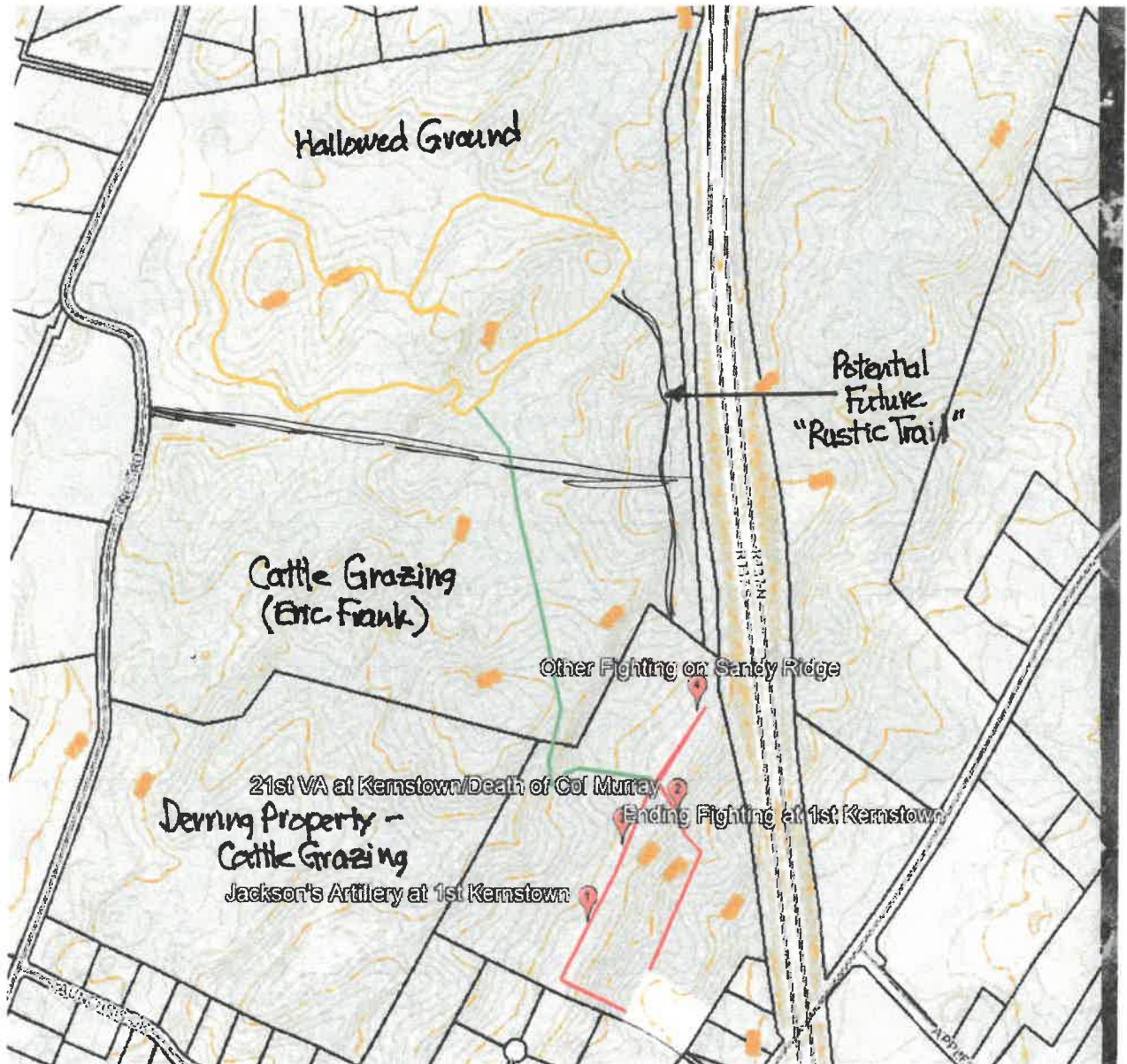


Consideration areas for Split Rail Fence in Blue – Playground in Red





**MAP: SANDY RIDGE and ROSE HILL**  
**Battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Kernstown**  
**March 23, 1862**



03/03/2022 with Dana Hand-Evans and Perry Matthews, MSV