

SENECA VALLEY SUGARLOAFERS VOLKSMARCH CLUB

MEETING MINUTES – Final

Monthly Meeting, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Gaithersburg Library, Room #3, 18330 Montgomery Village Ave, Gaithersburg MD 20879

- ❖ Call to Order – Anthony Laing, President, 6:30p.m.

- ❖ Attendees: Tony Laing, Darla Fera, Alison Andrews, Carolyn Thurber, Yvonne Pennington, Dave Pennington, Pat Astill, Alice Filemyr, Jeff Giddings, Molly Hayward-Koert, Pat King, Kelly Tilton, Dave & Nancy Fenster, Maribeth Evans

- ❖ Introduction of Guests: No new guests attended.

- ❖ Minutes of the October monthly meeting (prepared by Molly Hayward-Koert): Amended and Approved.

- ❖ Treasurer's Reports (Alice Filemyr): October 2023. Submitted.

- ❖ Membership Report (Darla Fera): no new members, no drops, remain at 136 current members. Request that the membership report add a "status" column and increase the font size.

- ❖ Publicity (Diane White): All 5 walks for 2023 have been completed.

- ❖ Sales Report (Kelly Tilton): No activity to report. Books and coupons on hand.

- ❖ Wednesday 5km Walks (Pat King & Nancy Fenster): 767 walkers so far in 2023. November schedule is out. For the Nov 8 Cabin John walk there were 20 walkers. Looking for additional surfaces to walk on. Very nice turnout for Missional BBQ lunch on 11/1.

- ❖ Club Group Walks (pending):
 - Darla organized Patuxent Refuge event, Saturday, 11/4. There were 7 walkers.
 - Alison to organize a walk for Sunday, 11/26, 1:00pm at Montgomery Village North loop. Info to be sent.

Old Business

- ❖ Newsletter: Deadline is December 15 (for the January 2024 newsletter). Darla to send out a note for items.

- ❖ Status of Airport Special Program (Mike & Carolyn): 114 books sold; 40 finished, due 12/31/2023.

- ❖ US Freedom Walk – October 20-22: Jeff commented that there were approx. 250 in attendance on Saturday and Sunday. 2024 dates are October 18-20.
- ❖ Atlantic Region Conference (Jeff Giddings): Dover, Delaware April 5-7, 2024. Registration will open at the end of November. A link will be on our website. Hotel (Hilton Garden Inn) is now taking reservations, ask for Front Desk, Webfooters rooms.
- ❖ Walk 20 in 2023 Club Special Program Book (Carolyn Thurber): 17 books have been completed.
- ❖ Walk 24 in 2024 Club Special Program Book (Darla Fera): Darla to send out an email in December with program information.

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❖ **Old Business, continued**

- ❖ Fredericksburg Walk – Saturday, December 16. 12 people so far. POC sent Alison the walk directions to be walked anytime that day. Official walk is available 3-8pm. Check train times.
- ❖ Status of the storage shed – No information from new owners. No invoice yet.
- ❖ Discussion of Group Walk Quarterly Reporting – No new discussions.
- ❖ Annual Meeting – Sunday, March 10, 2024: Asbury Village has changed management. Beginning in 2024, fees are increasing to \$70 for room and \$75 for a bartender, if more than 25 people, the event must be catered, reservations can be made beginning Nov 15. Library cost is \$60 for 1-4pm. Possibility of the meeting being held at Seneca Creek State Park, the club is a corporate member.
- ❖ Other – Laytonsville YRE is sanctioned but not on OSB yet. Jeff to upload OSB PDF.

New Business

- ❖ November Checkpoint: For 2024, the walk fee will increase to \$4, first increase in 20 years. AVA will keep \$2. Club members at the 11/9 meeting have approved that all club walks will have the new fee of \$4. 50th anniversary of AVA coming up in 2026.
- ❖ Review Master Calendar: Potentially Sunday 3/10/24 for Annual Meeting.
- ❖ Other –
 - Coupons – 12 per sheet, cost will be \$40 as of 1/1/24, remains 10 + 2 free. Tony to send info via email.
 - OSB Challenge coupons – .50 coupons, 1 sheet valued at \$4.
 - Dave F. recommends Ijamsville as a group walk in Spring 2024.

- Carolyn recommends the Pathfinders walk in Williamsport on 12/8, 5:00 pm for the holiday lights.
- Reminder: Annapolis Lighted Boat parade walk on 12/9, Eastport, Noon
- Reminder: Alexandria holiday walks 12/2 and 12/3.
- Reminder: Kensington Holiday lights walk in December.

2023 Sanctioned Events

- ❖ Kentlands East & West Halloween Walk — Saturday, October 21 — (Gary & Mary Katherine Jeffers) — Last walk of the year, 65 total walkers (which includes the Wednesday walkers)

2024 Sanctioned Events (Tentative)

- ❖ April 13 – Lake Frank & Meadowsides-last walked in 2017- (Maribeth Evans, Darla Fera). Sanctioned, 5k & 10k.
- ❖ June 1 (new date) – Traville Gateway (Tony Laing, Tom Peto) – 2, 5k loops.
- ❖ September 28 – Frederick Oktoberfest – (Ellen McAdams, Alison Andrews) - same route as last year? Or new?
- ❖ November 16 – Moonlight Walk – (Tony Laing) – Seneca Creek State Park, Moon rises at 5:16pm
- ❖ Possible Kentlands, Dawsons in Rockville, other, etc... No Kentlands for 2024, possibly Dawson's Market on 5/18/2024. Gary & Mary, Jeff & Alice. Keep routes as past walks.
- ❖ NOTE: Have brochures ready for April, June, Sept, Nov walks ready by 12/31/23 for distribution at the New Years Savage Mills walks.

- ❖ November/December **Dinner**, Tuesday, December 5, El Porto, 245 Muddy Branch Road, Gaithersburg, 20878.
- ❖ Door Prize & Adjournment (7:50 p.m.) Next Meeting: Thursday, 12/14. Bring refreshments to share.