

Collington Episcopal Life Care Community  
10450 Lottsford Rd.  
Bowie, MD 20721  
January 28, 2016

Ms. Anne Gilbert  
Maryland DNR Forest Service  
580 Taylor Avenue E-1  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Ms Gilbert,

Your recent letter and enclosures to Collington Episcopal Life Care Community has been referred to the Grounds Committee of the Residents Association. The Committee is pleased to summarize our tree-related work in 2015. Since the last time you heard from Collington was in early 2010, we also take the liberty of describing the current state of our campus.

Collington is a twenty-seven-year-old continuing care retirement community, affiliated with the Kendal system, located on a 125 acre campus and housing some 350 residents in cottages and apartments. The land was formerly a tobacco plantation and subsequently, waste land and dump. At the highest point on the campus is a burial ground containing grave markers of the original owners dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, that Committee members endeavor periodically to clear and maintain.

The perimeter of the campus has for at least the past quarter century become a third-growth woodland which provides some natural habitat. Within this woodland the Committee maintains walking trail of over two miles, that offers mobile residents visual treats of forested areas, meadows, certified wetlands, a lake and a pond, together with various forms of foraging wildlife.

The campus also includes six smaller copses of hardwoods within the built-up areas that also provide habitat and that visually break up and define the various groups of residences.

The center of the campus is planted with ornamental trees set in mowed lawn areas; many of these have died or are in need of replacement. The residents' Grounds Committee has completed the second year of a multi-year planting renovation project, funded to date by donations and grants.

## **Activity in 2015**

### **A. Tree Plantings**

1. With about \$2,500 in monies donated to the Committee by current and former residents, the Committee contracted with Green Landing Nursery of Upper Marlboro for the purchase and planting of eleven native trees around the campus. (Two more white oaks were also planted through an additional donation.) You will note from the attached grant application that 50% of this work was to be funded with matching funds from Prince George's County's "Tree ReLeaf" program. The committee has been willing to finance the entire project, whether or not the County funds are forthcoming. (see attachment #1)
2. A \$15,000 grant from the Collington Foundation enabled the planting of a variety of shrubs, grasses and trees throughout the campus. Work was done by Ruppert Landscape of Forestville, MD. (see attachment #2)
3. Throughout the year, residents may apply for and receive authorization to purchase trees

to be planted in the common areas of the campus. In 2015 there were 21 such plantings. (see attachment #3)

#### **B. Maintenance**

1. Residents who form our Lake and Trails Subcommittee have for the past two winters engaged in reclaiming the woodland canopy from vines that have grown untended for most of Collington's time on the property. Principal vines are bittersweet, wild grape and poison ivy, with lesser amounts of Japanese honeysuckle, Virginia creeper and English ivy. We have also funded services of a chipper to process woody residue along the trails. (see attachment #4)
2. A group of individual residents funded the visit of an arborist, Adirondack Tree Service, to prune six large trees on campus. (see attachment #5)

#### **C. Education**

1. Knowledgeable residents conducted two tree tours for residents and friends around the campus. (see attachment #6)
2. Some 30 trees on campus have been labeled. (see attachment #7)
3. Residents developed a list of desirable native trees to consider planting on the campus and in the woodlands. (see attachment # 8)
4. The Committee applied for and received designation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Federation. Signs are posted at a half-dozen locations throughout the campus. The Committee is presently applying for certification as a Bay-Wise compliant campus.

We were unsure which level of activity our programs would fall under; our activities are somewhat different from those described. We thought perhaps Silver or perhaps even Gold but defer to your judgement.

We look forward to your review of our activities and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Alice Nicolson  
Chair, Grounds Committee  
Collington Residents Association  
10450 Lottsford Rd. #1017  
Bowie, MD 20721  
[a.taxonomy@gmail.com](mailto:a.taxonomy@gmail.com)  
301-925-7216