

Conservation Montgomery, Inc.

Working together to enhance our quality of life

TESTIMONY

On Historic Designation of Greenwich Forest

Delivered by Ginny Barnes
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Conservation Montgomery was founded to highlight and promote the vital link between environmental health and our quality of life. With the crisis of climate change has come an appreciation of the role trees and forest play in cooling the earth, mitigating stormwater and removing pollutants. One of the unique elements of Greenwich Forest is the vision it fostered in the first half of the 20th Century. Building around preservation of large trees is not only environmentally sound but fosters an incentive for stewardship in residents of the community.

Historic preservation is fluid. It can and should be applied whenever the passing of time proves that the value of a place, a period or a vision has left an indelible mark on humanity. Montgomery County sorely needs living community models of environmentally sensitive site design and good architectural planning. We are known nationwide for our attention to General and Master Plans to guide growth. But architectural control is not within the mandate of the Planning Commission. In the early 20th Century we did not have the environmental literacy we are just starting to practice now. Greenwich Forest is an inspiration as well as a vivid example of a remarkably wise development pattern. Developer Morris Caffritz should continue to receive recognition for his post Depression-era vision and achievement. Seventy years later it deserves to be recognized in total. Conservation Montgomery fully supports historic designation for this special neighborhood.

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