

Village of Martin's Additions Council Meeting
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Minutes of Meeting, March 17, 2011

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Council Members Present: Richard Krajeck, Arthur Alexander, Jill Filipczyk, Mike Zielinski. Village Manager: Jean Sperling. Attorney: Ron Bolt. Absent: Building Administrator Beal

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Steve Schmal, Deb Schmal, Hanne and Frank Correl, Keith Allen, Lorie Mitchell, Judy Kahn, Karan Capoor, Cary Barnett.

CALL TO ORDER: Richard Krajeck.

Chairman Krajeck alerted attendees that the meeting was being recorded. He asked that persons wishing to speak identify themselves and their address.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Cummings Lane Concerns:

Several residents from Cummings Lane were present to speak to concerns about traffic that was placed on the meeting agenda for Council discussion. The floor was opened to residents who wished to make their views known:

Lorie Mitchell, 3509 Cummings Lane. Ms. Mitchell has lived here for 10 years and noted that the number and speed of cars on Cummings Lane has become an increasing problem. She urged the Council to take action to curb the problem rather than engage in a protracted study. She herself has done some research and found information on a traffic control technique—curb extensions—that may help slow traffic. She felt that the two speed humps on the street were not much of a deterrent to speeding and suggested they should be made steeper. She offered to share her research with the Council. The Council welcomed her information.

She also remarked that illegally parked cars, especially in front of the fire hydrant across from her home were a serious problem. She has not been able to get the County police to ticket those cars.

Karan Capoor, 3507 Cummings Lane. Mr. Capoor has lived in Martin's Additions for 4 ½ years and has a 5 year old child. He too is most concerned about the speed and volume of traffic on Cummings Lane, both for the children and the elderly residents. He urged the Council to not over-study the problem but to take action to tap down the volume and speed of traffic now. He has noted that the traffic is certainly related to the time of day—heavy in the morning heading toward Brookville/Connecticut and the reverse in the evening. He also has concerns about illegal parking and asked that the Council assist with police enforcement. Mr. Capoor has a file of emails he received regarding the traffic issues and he will share them with the Manager. He also noted that a resident of Summit Avenue requested that considerations be given for Summit Ave. traffic as well as Cummings Lane.

Cary Barnett, 3504 Cummings Lane. Ms. Barnett added her voice to the concerns about speed and volume of traffic and the desire for action to be taken to lessen the problems.

Councilman Alexander noted that he was informed that GPS directs traffic to Cummings Lane as a through-street. Councilman Mueller thanked the residents for attending and making their views known and urged the residents to remain at the meeting and listen to the Council deliberations.

Report from Frank Correll, Chairman of the Elections and Ethics Committee:

Mr. Correll reported on the successful Community Forum held on Saturday March 12, 2011 in the Village office. There was lively discussion and interest on a number of topics. Noell Sottile, Elections' Committee member and former Council member, led the discussion and current Council man Alexander and former Council member Steve Schmal sat on the panel at the head table.

Mr. Correll also announced that the Elections Committee has received three nominations for the 2011 Selection to date. Nominations close on April 8, 2011.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Presented by Manager Sperling

Construction

New Permits Issued

- Shepherd Street, 3421 (Browder) : Rear addition. Fees and bond received.
- Chestnut Street, 7216: New Home. Fees received.

Pending:

- Thornapple Street, 3401 (Legarreta): remodeling, rear addition, interior remodeling.
- Bradley, 3503 Tear Down and rebuild (Re-design needed to meet Village regulations)

Ongoing:

- Cummings Lane, 3505 (McManus) Dumpster for driveway rebuild.
- Delfield Street 7315 (Kirsch). Work is progressing

- Other projects receiving supervision in the Village are:
 -3502 Cummings Lane (Patterson), 112 Quincy Street. (Consolvo)
 -7404 Summit Ave. (Brotman), 7300 Summit Ave. (Lazare).
Awaiting confirmation of construction completion and request for bond return.
 112 Quincy Street
Clearance given and Bond returned to 3517 Turner Lane
Clearance given and Bond return in-process at 3508 Taylor Street

Other projects supported by Mid-Atlantic: (See Project Status Report book)

- WSSC restoration of Delfield Street; WSSC water main leaks on Summit Ave. Raymond Street Sewer repair.
- Weekly oversight and documentation of in-village projects.

Continued Examination of Construction Data for Building Fee Revision Considerations

Sperling and Beal were not able to schedule a meeting to discuss further action on building fees but hope to do so by the April meeting. They hope to present a proposal for Council consideration based on the results of that research.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS: Council Treasurer, Arthur Alexander
 Report for the Month of February**

July 2010 - February 2011

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Revenues	\$387,395	383,528
Expenses	245,783	326,318
Net Income	141,612	57,210
Reserve account: \$1,100,337.95		

As of the end of February, the first eight months of the fiscal year, the Village's revenues are close to budget projections. Expenses are running well below budget projections.

Year-to-date revenues are near the pro-rated annual total. Expenditures are running considerably below budget by about 25%. Lower office expenses and roadwork are among the sources of much of the savings; additionally, we have deliberately restrained capital improvements and major maintenance until later in the year when we can assess the final budget situation more accurately. However, we know that tree removal expenses will arise and several bills remain outstanding. Nevertheless, the Village Manager, with support from the Council, is running a tight ship.

Motion to Accept Financial Reports: Councilman Mueller; 2nd Filipczyk; Vote: All in favor.

FY 2012 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Council Chair Krajeck

Krajeck reported that he and Councilman Alexander, along with Manager Sperling and Village Accountant Dan Baden met on Monday March 7, 2011 to review the current FY 2011 budget, and to look at preliminary numbers for a FY 2012 proposed budget. The budget must be presented to the community two weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting and adopted at that meeting on May 12, 2011. In order to meet that schedule, Mr. Krajeck has scheduled a budget working session for March 23 at 7:00 PM. Following the working session, the Council will go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Following that work session, the initial budget proposal agreed to will be circulated to the residents for their review prior to the April 21 Council meeting. Village residents will have an opportunity for comments at that meeting. Following resident comments, the Council can amend the budget; however, the Council needs to introduce the budget at the April 21st meeting in order to give adequate notice before considering the budget for adoption at the May 12, 2011 annual meeting. There is also an opportunity for residents' comments at that meeting--and an opportunity to again make changes to the budget--before final adoption.

The schedule allows for a special hearing to be scheduled for budget review should the Council feel it is necessary after the working session on March 23rd and before the April 21st meeting. April 12th would appear to be a possible date.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011 MEETING

Krajeck noted that the minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved via e-mail to allow for publication in the newsletter. A formal motion was needed for the record.

Motion to approve the Minutes: Councilmen Alexander; 2nd Filipczyk; Vote: All in favor. Mr. Mueller was absent from that meeting and thus did not vote for approval of the minutes.

MANAGING THROUGH-TRAFFIC IN VMA: Discussion of the Council.

Councilman Alexander asked what data already exist on traffic flows in Martin's Additions and when the most recent studies were done. Sperling indicated that data is on file from a number of different studies and she

would have to research the files to give an accurate answer. She felt confident that Summit Ave. had been studied when the Village upgraded its traffic signage a few years ago.

Councilman Mueller noted that Shepherd Street, which parallels Cummings Lane, experiences the same problem with traffic volume and that it should be studied along with Cummings Lane. As Mr. Capoor described earlier, cars race up to the speed bumps, slow down, and then roar away from the bumps. Mr. Mueller and Mr. Capoor both live directly in front of the speed bumps on their respective streets

The Council was in general agreement that new data collection was required before any decisions or action could be considered. In response to the Council's question about the cost for a traffic study, Sperling reported that the Village's traffic engineer, Joseph Cutro, P.E. had given her a previous estimate for a 6-day traffic count for \$650, including data analysis and preparation of a report. Recording on an additional street would add about \$450. These numbers will have to be re-confirmed, but can serve as estimates at this point.

The Council directed Sperling to arrange for a traffic volume and speed study by Joseph Cutro on Cummings Lane, Shepherd Street and Summit Ave. They urged that the study be done as soon as possible to avoid conflict with the Brookville Road repaving project which is scheduled to begin soon.

Krajeck asked that a presentation by Mr. Cutro be included in the project to allow for an opportunity for both residents and the Council to ask questions about the data and analysis, as Mr. Cutro has done so ably in the past on similar Village traffic-related matters.

Mueller asked if the Village might be able to bring in a speed-identification device often seen around the area. He felt it would heighten the awareness of vehicle speed on the street. Sperling said she would investigate available opportunities to do this.

Additional resident comments on this matter:

Chairman Krajeck re-opened the floor for comment from those residents present and asked that residents take another opportunity to ask questions about the Council deliberations and provide additional input.

Steve Schmal, 7317 Summit Ave. Mr. Schmal suggested that the biggest problem on Summit Avenue is the placement and visibility of the Stop sign on Summit and Thornapple. He suggested that a larger Stop sign be considered at that location.

Lorie Mitchell, Cummings Lane. Ms. Mitchell added that she lives right in front of the speed bump and that the hill on Cummings and speed bump create a blind spot for her driveway. She urged the Council to add markings to the no-parking area at the fire hydrant.

Karan Capoor, Cummings Lane. Mr. Capoor offered his driveway as a place to locate any traffic monitoring device. He also suggested that the current 20 MPH limit might still be too fast, and suggested that a limit of 15 MPH be considered; at the least he felt that more 20 MPH speed limit signs should be posted. He also suggested that overall enforcement is needed from the police, both for any speed issues and for enforcement of no-parking areas, such as fire hydrants. He expressed concern that the lack of enforcement capability encourages people to ignore the law.

The Council asked Sperling to contact the Bethesda police to discuss these issues of speeding, traffic monitoring and enforcement of no-parking zones and see if stepped-up attention might be available.

MANAGER'S REPORT MARCH 2011

Street and/or Utility Services:

Water leaks: Leak on Summit Ave. created a major problem; sewer line was at risk; water turned off on street; Follow up work is needed. Restoration of street needed.

Sanitary Sewer Repairs:

Delfield Street repairs to sewer line are complete. Serious restoration work is needed in multiple locations. We have coordinated with WSSC; Mid-Atlantic Inspections helped document needed repairs. Sperling has met with WSSC inspector and provided photo documentation of the needed repairs (provided by Mid-Atlantic Inspections) in an effort to expedite restorations.

Raymond Street sewer line repairs have been seriously hampered by a number of complications with sanitary sewer manholes on private property and the non-cooperation of property owners to allow WSSC access to the sanitary sewers. The need for crews to be pulled off for other emergency jobs was an added complication. The project seems to be back on track. Work was to be completed by March 18th.

Brookville Road Repaving. Patching, milling and repaving of the entire length of Brookville Road are slated for this spring. WSSC is doing work first to repair leaks at Bradley Lane and Brookville.

Brookville Road sidewalk construction is complete.

PEPCO-Related Matters:

- **Wind Storm.** No outages were recorded in the last wind storm in the north end of Martin's Additions, setting a record for no outages during all three wind storms.
- **Tree Removals:** 14 trees are to be removed from Thornapple & Summit by PEPCO's subcontractor to clear the power lines. Sperling met with Matt Young, PEPCO's Arborist, Dan Gardner, the Village Tree

Supervisor, Paul Wolfe, the Village's arborist to review the trees Pepco has tagged for removal. All residents along those streets have been notified.

- **Tree Pruning.** All trees in the north end will be pruned by Pepco in an effort to meet its new "Blue Sky" policy. The Village Office has also received notice about all new poles being installed on Cummings Lane and extensive tree trimming on private trees on Cummings. All residents have been notified.
- **New Poles** being installed: PEPCO is conducting extensive tree pruning and new pole installation along **Connecticut Ave, Bradley Lane** from Connecticut Avenue across to Brookville, and then up **Brookville** to the end of Martin's Additions. All poles on **Cummings Lane** are also scheduled to be replaced.

Maintenance and Services

- **Tree Report:** Integrated Plant Care completed the stump-grinding for the PEPCO trees removed earlier this winter. The work has been extensive and will likely exceed the budget by the time all tree work is completed.
- **Storm Damage/Tree Report:** Integrated Plant Care brought a chipper truck through the Community for the village trees that were damaged in the February storm and then for residents to assist with their disposal of damaged trees on private property. There was a tremendous amount of debris collected.
- **Yard waste** pick-up has resumed as of March 14th. The numerous attempts and avenues used to inform people about the resumption of yard waste service seemed futile; many people put the yard waste out well in advance of the service-resumption date.
- **Street Cleaning** was scheduled for this week, but an additional week of dry weather is needed to reduce the weight of the debris.
- **Sand buckets** will be picked up soon.

Administrative Work/ Broader Issues

- Council members Alexander and Krajeck and Manager Sperling met with **LGIT** (the Local Government Insurance Trust) to review the Village's insurance and prepare a recommendation for services. Many other jurisdictions use LGIT and there may be good opportunities for cost reductions from the current premiums paid to the Montgomery County Insurance Pool. The Village is awaiting a quote from LGIT.
- A **new copier contract** has been signed will reduce monthly costs by at least \$100 per month. The new copier is expected to be delivered on Monday March 21.
- The Village Office is looking at **new space for the storage unit** with the hopes of saving \$100 per month on the rental fee. A lot of clean-up work is needed on the existing rental unit.
- The **Project Status book** is being kept updated weekly if council members or residents want a weekly review, it is always available.
- **Connecticut Avenue Corridor Committee Meeting (CACC)** on February 24, 2011 in the Town of Chevy Chase was attended by Councilmember Zielinski.
- **VMA Community Forum Meeting** on March 12 was well attended.
- **CC Lake Planning Meeting** on March 12th at the Chevy Chase Library was attended by Sperling, Schmal and Council member Filipczyk.
- **Census Reporting and the American Fact Finder** information session at the MD Park & Planning Commission was attended by Sperling and Schmal. The workshop provided instruction on accessing the Census data and using the American Community Survey.
- The usual communications were sustained this month: Election Newsflash, Newsletter, minutes, email, phone, list serv and website.

Up and Coming Work/Project awaiting completion

- **Quincy Street** sump pump hook-ups are still to be solved.
- **Class in Road Surface Management** on March 31st at UMD—Sperling plans on attending the class and asked if there was any interest on the part of Council members. Alexander said he was interested and would confirm his ability to attend the meeting with Sperling as soon as possible,

STORM WATER DISCUSSION

The Council hoped that water engineer Bill Bissell would be present for discussions of the regulations affecting storm water control devices that reduce water-run off from private property. Mr. Bissell was not able to attend this meeting. The Council agreed that Bissell should be invited to the April meeting. Zielinski remarked that while the County will enforce storm water management regulations, the Village should give consideration to adopting the authority to review the condition of these devices and assure that they are being properly maintained. Zielinski also noted that the article provided in the last newsletter by Storm Water Task Force member Barbara Bares was well received and expressed the hope that she would continue to write a monthly column for the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.