

**Village of Martin's Additions
Council Meeting
7013 B Brookville Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Minutes of Meeting
November 21, 2013**

Council Members Present: Bill Lebovich; Jon Fleming; Josh Bowers.

Village Staff Present: Jean Sperling, Tori Hall. **Village Attorney:** Ron Bolt. **Building Administrator:** Alan Beal. **Residents Present:** Keith Allen, Bill Catherwood, Hanne and Frank Correl, John MacDonald, Ted Stoddard, Lynne Welle.

7:30 PM CALL TO ORDER: Lebovich

Residents' Concerns and Contributions: None offered.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTION 10-13-1 (ORD. 5-13-1):

AMENDMENT OF PERMIT FEES (INTRODUCED: OCTOBER 17, 2013)

The following addition to the permitting fee schedule was proposed in Resolution 10-13-1:

- A/C - GENERATOR - HEAT PUMP \$75.00
- USE OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT \$75.00
- RIGHT-OF-WAY LICENSE AGREEMENT \$100.00

No comments were received or offered by people present on the permit fee resolution.

Motion to Approve Resolution 1013-1 was made by Councilmember Bowers; 2nd: Fleming; Vote: All in favor.

REPORT ON TREE SYMPOSIUM:

On Nov. 20, 2013, Council member Josh Bowers and Assistant Manager Tori Hall attended the *2013 Trees Matter Symposium* organized by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission at the Silver Spring Civic Center. The following summary of the symposium was presented to the Council by Tori Hall.

"Veteran Tree Care: Retrenching Hollow Trees for Life": Notes on presentation by Guy Meilleur, Master Arborist and Utility Specialist.

- Dealing with older trees: determining which trees have lost stability and strength vs. those which are old and imperfect but quite strong is complicated. For example holes in trees do not necessarily result in an unstable tree and in fact "wound wood" can be especially strong. On the other hand, lawn mower damage to a tension root *can* cause tree instability, as can fill damage from construction materials at the roots.
- How Trees Age: "Crown retrenchment" is a term that refers to allowing an older tree to naturally downsize. As the tallest branches start to die off, the tree can be managed in such a way to allow some shoots on the trunk to grow, resulting in the lower, broader shape often seen in extremely old trees.
- Pruning Techniques for preservation: Small changes can make a big difference in tree preservation; for example reducing 5% of the outermost branches in a veteran tree can result in a 30% reduction in load on the branches.
- Finding the right balance: Just as lack of fertilization can harm a tree, so can over-fertilization. If more fertilizer is applied to a tree than the tree can use, the excess nitrogen will encourage fungus and decay in the tree.

"Trees are for the Birds": Notes on presentation by Doug Tallamy, entomologist, Univ. of Delaware.

- Bird population in decline: As a result of more occupied or managed land there is less space for natural areas, with the result that migrating songbirds starve to death.
- Food Source for Birds: While birds eat berries, they do so for only a few weeks a year. Their major and essential food source is insects, mostly caterpillars and spider.

- Native plants and migratory birds. A land area can appear to be quite wooded but if it is not planted with the right kind of plants –generally native plants that attract caterpillars-it does not provide a good source of food. A study found that native plants had 22 times the number of caterpillars as hedgerows with non-native species. Not all native plants are equally good for supporting the caterpillars that are the food for migratory birds.
 - Plants as wildlife habitat. Choosing plants based on goals other than decoration, including wildlife habitat, could make a large difference for birds. Limiting lawn to areas that are actively used (for walking, playing ball, etc.) and then heavily plant everywhere else can expand the opportunity for bird-favored habitat.
- "Trees as Part of the Storm Water Solution". Notes on presentation by Susan Day, Virginia Tech.
- Rate of water falling reduced. Tree crowns and leaves slow down the rate at which water hits the ground. Water is drawn deep into soil by the roots, with each root creating a preferential flow path.
 - Sediment Flow reduced. If water rushes too quickly into a stream, it floods the stream and scours the soil off the banks, carrying sediment to the Chesapeake Bay.
 - Natural opportunities to manage storm water improving. "Green infrastructure" techniques help manage storm water, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality. 50 years ago, storm water was managed with gutters and drain pipes, which created downstream problems. Detention ponds were used to keep water in the same area but this presented its own problems. Rain gardens and bio-retention swales keep water on each property -- but water is still being concentrated in one place on the property.
 - Goal of new storm water management techniques : For every component of a landscape to function at its highest potential for storm water mitigation.
 - Soil quality important in tree planting. Soil quality matters in storm water management and tree health. Poor soil quality and insufficient water can make all the difference in the growth rate of urban trees.
 - Construction a major contributor to soil destruction. Grading unprotected soils contributes to soil destruction, even if that grading was intended to promote storm water management. Loosening or aerating soil is a temporary remedy that does not restore soil structure; it will simply re-compact unless soil quality is improved.
 - Further information on soil rehabilitation for enhanced tree growth can be found at (<http://urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu/SRES/specification.html>).

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT-BEAL

New Permit

Requests/Confirmations/Acknowledgements

- 7203 Summit Ave- room addition; garage rebuilt; mud room add on (Crahan)
- 3510 Bradley Ln – Confirmation of teardown
- 3511 Turner Lane – Utility disconnect and tear down.
- 3515 Shepherd St – Potential addition. Info requested.
- 7203 Summit Avenue – Side or rear addition.
- 3414 Cummings Lane- driveway and 4-car garage, accessory building; Pool
- 7210 Delfield- teardown
- 7309 Delfield-teardown
- 3504 Bradley- request for porch-denied
- Other Teardown/Major construction possibilities: 3513 Raymond, 3514 Bradley. Alan commented that informational meetings between the builder and the neighbors are typically held in these cases, and

will be scheduled for these properties as plans become more definitive.

Underway:

- 3405 Shepherd St – Driveway/ path. Nearing completion.
- 3408 Raymond St – Deck / Screened porch in process
- 205 Oxford Street – Rear/side addition. Nearing completion
- 3509 Shepherd Street – Demolition and Rear addition. Nearing completion
- 3414 Shepherd St - Rear addition. Nearing completion
- 3410 Cummings Ln – Pool excavation complete. Concrete being poured.
- 3518 Bradley – Front deck/Patio restoration.
- 3515 Taylor St - Dumpster and shed.
- 3418 Turner Ln - Shed.

Construction Completed:

- 124 Quincy Street – Front yard gate and fence in ROW. Note: ROW permit needed.
- 3414 Cummings Lane- Final clearance. Bond returned.
- 3504 Cummings: Driveway Resurfacing; deck extension; additional screening.

Other Municipal Support --

- Ongoing supervision and progress reporting of construction projects.
- Clearance of projects; driveway apron check; tree protection check
- Move in / out parking control.
- Storage unit/equipment management/ Recycling bin swaps

- Assistance with set up/cleanup of Halloween Event
- Replace Village signs as needed/review parking issues.
- Inventory and report on restoration of street and ROW
- Confirm Street repairs.
- End of Street Barricade evaluation (Raymond Bradley and Quincy) and ROW tilling
- Established Building Line (E.B.L.) calculation for proposed projects as needed.
- Evaluation of Quincy/Oxford Street boulder “controls”
- Garbage and recycling issues.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: Jonathan Fleming, Council Treasurer

July 2013 - October 2013

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenues	\$124,875	\$311,588
Expenses	135,510	200,908
Net Income	-10,635	110,680

Reserve account (less designated allocations): \$762,941.

The Reserve Account is equal to total current assets of \$1,662,941 less \$900,000 designated for replacement of street lighting and repaving upon completion of major utility work on Village streets.

Motion to approve all financial reports: Lebovich. **2nd:** Bowers. **Vote:** All in favor.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2013

Motion to Approve: Bowers. **2nd:** Lebovich. **Vote:** All in favor.

MANAGER’S REPORT-SPERLING

Sanitation Services/Street Cleaning

- Recycling bins- We are now able to purchase bins in any quantity. This will be big help by allowing us to buy only what we need. We will need to develop a deployment plan for additional bins.
- Waste Management personnel policies: Have requested a statement from WM based on the problems reported in the press that Potomac and Unity are having with their contracts; VMA did build a cost of living clause into the contract each year of the 3 year contract.
- Street-leaf sweeping will start next week (11-25). 2nd round may be necessary in early December. The goal is to make sure all the leaves have been picked up before the first snow.

Winter Services

- Snow Removal Contract with Peyton Services for snow plowing and Brookville Road sidewalk shoveling is attached. For the first time since 2007 Peyton anticipates the need for a \$10 per hour increase per truck (about a 5.5% increase) to \$190 and an increase in the hourly rate for shoveling assistance from \$40 to \$50.
- The yellow sand bins will be filled and placed by Peyton at the locations he believes are the most problematic.
- VMA MOS will post snow emergency “No Parking” reminders in the key locations to assure clearance for the plows (Raymond Street hill, select corners, Quincy Street Dead end).
- VMA MOS will be prepared to post one-side of the street parking as needed as we move into snow season.
- Sidewalk care reminders will be published in the newsletter.

Utility Services and Road Repair:

WSSC

- Project in the south end still awaiting agreements from all homeowners. No progress on start date. Select residents on Pinehurst Circle maintain that VMA is responsible for their rear yard water problems. We have VMA MOS on the case, keeping an eye on any storm drain overflow at the dead end of Raymond.
- Water main break at Beach Drive between Leland and Woodbine affected water supply to VMA last weekend. Old pipes and faulty old valves are the culprits. It is the season for frequent breaks—changes in temperatures are rough on the water mains.
- Complaints about smelly water on Taylor Street being investigated by WSSC.

WASHINGTON GAS:

- Gas line replacement for all of Quincy Street has at least now completed the drawing board phase. We have fulfilled the permit request and are awaiting a schedule for the project. Once again it will be a challenge since the entire street is scheduled for new gas lines.
- Oxford is also going to be upgraded.

PEPCO:

- All utility poles were checked for rot at the base and treated with insecticide by Pepco contractors.
- Presentation on December 5 at TOCC Hall at 7 PM about undergrounding of power lines for anyone who is interested. I will attend. Pepco, Maryland Energy Administration and the Edison Electric Institute will be there. All Council members are invited.

ROAD REPAIRS/ TRAFFIC ISSUES:

- All street repairs are scheduled to begin Monday November 25th. It should take 2 to 3 days. We will be monitoring
- Consultation with VMA MOS (Wayne) determined that the boulders at Quincy and Oxford were serving the purpose they were intended to serve—keeping traffic off the sidewalk and protecting the right of way—and that therefore no changes were advised in the current configuration. In fact we will consider adding cement to keep them in place.

Other Village Services.

COMMUNICATION & SURVEY UPDATE:

- Website update round one is complete. We need to review and reply. Hope to do it next week
- Survey update is still in process.

TREE WORK

- More than 50 trees were pruned to keep Village trees interfering with cable and power lines and to open up the area around street lights.
- Fall planting complete—20 trees.
- ROW clean up at Cummings & Brookville started.
- End of Quincy vegetation cleanup initiated.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS:

- Community event- Halloween Dinner, Parade-Turner Lane Big success!
- Consider winter event to welcome newcomers and recognize volunteers.
- New tote bags-- opinions sought from council members based on samples.
- Old computer cleaned off—now officially surplus property that can be disposed of. Recommend that we have it to a disabled vets program.
- Yet to be done-Street lights, Recycling Toters
- Snow Removal Contract for Winter 2013-2014:

Increase of \$10 per hour for plow truck. First increase since 2007-\$190 per hour

Increase to \$50 per hour for shoveling.

Motion to Approve Contract: Fleming. 2nd: Bowers. **Vote:** All in favor.

Discussion: Winter Community Event. Council member Lebovich asked Jean to look into arranging a winter community event. He noted that there has been strong support among attendees for the idea of resurrecting an event similar to the past Winter Celebrations at La Ferme

Adjournment: 8:50 pm