

**Village of Martin's Additions  
Council Meeting  
Minutes from Meeting of October 16, 2014**

In Attendance: Council Members: Arthur Alexander (Chair), Bill Lebovich, Tiffany Cissna. Attorney: Ron Bolt. Village Manager: Jean Sperling; Building Administrator: Alan Beal.

Residents: Keith Allen, Hanne and Frank Correll, Bernice Duvall, Ted Stoddard, Nancy & Craig Ferris, Merritt Groeschel, Mark Schuman, Dave Socolof, Dennis King, Marge Wasson, Barbara Sacks-Singer.

**7:30 PM CALL TO ORDER-ALEXANDER**

**RESIDENTS' CONCERNS AND CONTRIBUTIONS:** Traffic Issues on Select Village Streets

***Brookville Road***

Nancy and Craig Ferris (Quincy St) - concerned about speeds on Brookville Rd, specifically drivers racing between stop signs. Would like to see more enforcement. Emphasized need for all surrounding jurisdictions to work together on Brookville Rd issues.

Merritt Groeschel (Delfield St) – Recounted story of son hit by car on Brookville Rd at Thornapple St. Thankfully, he was not seriously injured. There is no crosswalk there and a sidewalk on only one side. This is the location of bus stops for several schools

***Thornapple Street***

Marc Shuman (Thornapple St), Dave Socolof (Thornapple St), Dennis King (Summit Ave), Barbara Sacks-Singer (Thornapple St) - expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic on Thornapple St. and drivers not stopping at stop signs. Thornapple handles significant cut-through traffic and has many bus stops.

***Other Streets***

King also expressed concern about speed of traffic on Summit Ave, and suggested a speed bump at the stop sign, at Thornapple and Summit. Bernice Duval (Taylor) had additional concerns about stop signs on Taylor, specifically the one at Taylor and Delfield.

**Responses:** Chair Alexander - referenced a study about increasing size of stop signs and improving markings to improve safety at intersections. Street will never be safe place for kids to play. Action is planned for each of these locations-- new crosswalks and stop bars will be painted soon and a larger stop sign will be installed. The Village will bring in our traffic engineer for additional studies if necessary.

Shuman suggested working groups for community engagement.

Hanne Correl (Turner Lane) - congratulated the Council for bringing in Montgomery County Police officers to care for issues in the Village. They are clearly having an impact.

**PUBLIC SPACE USE POLICY (PRIVATE BLOCK PARTIES)**

Chair Alexander introduced the topic for discussion-- whether the Village needs to adopt a formal block party policy and regulations.

**Discussion:** Village Manager Jean Sperling provided copies of policies from surrounding jurisdictions. While the Village has some unwritten rules already in place regarding Block Parties, she recommended that a formal policy be developed particularly in relation to the use of Village streets for private parties. Council member Cissna felt the biggest concern was the use of town streets for private functions—a Village sponsored block party is not a concern in her mind. The policies from surrounding jurisdictions were reviewed. Town Attorney Ron Bolt noted that the Town of Chevy Chase policy, which he authored, includes an indemnity provision. He noted that liability is also limited by the Local Government Tort Claims. Council member Alexander stated that he supports a policy similar to that used by CCVillage, with the addition of a “hold harmless” agreement, and also more-express provisions ensuring emergency vehicle and resident access. Clean up has not been an issue. In general, the Council members supported requiring notification, emergency access, cleaning up, all people being invited, and no exclusive parties for closing the street.

The Village Manager supports an option to bring private party issue to the Council on a case by case basis, not blanket approval. A request was made for Attorney Bolt to draft policy according to the Council’s instructions. Frank Correl (Turner Ln) suggested excluding some narrow streets all together for safety purposes.

**TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE ORDINANCE CHANGES** Attorney Bolt explained the current exemption of Village from select County parking laws and the need to conform to State minimum requirements. A draft ordinance was prepared

to amend Village laws to conform certain provisions of the Village Code to State and County laws, and to remove the existing exemption from certain County laws. This would allow enforcement of certain County laws in the Village. Manager Sperling noted that violations of County parking regulations are a big issue, e.g., cars parked in front of your house for extended periods of time are frustrating residents. Cars on private property, trailers, commercial vehicles, are all addressed by the County in fairly new laws called *Good Neighbor laws*.

The existing exemption likely led to differences in laws. Based on discussions, the Council found that it would be better to opt in to the County traffic and parking laws, in general, and then exempt a few items that are not appropriate for the Village, rather than maintain the existing total exemption. There are many differences between our code and the County code, but many are insignificant or unenforceable. The Village can always chose to opt out of new laws that the County passes if County actions are not well received.

Council member Lebovich made a motion that Attorney Bolt work with Joe Cutro and Manager Sperling to work on new traffic regulations based on County rules with some exemptions.

Second: Council member Cissna; Vote: All in favor.

## **BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: October 16, 2014-Alan Beal**

### **New Permit Requests/Information/Action/Acknowledgement**

- **3505 Raymond Street.** Rear Addition. No Further information or Action
- **3529 Raymond Street.** Screened porch to rear. Denied
- **3521 Raymond Street.** Exterior face lift plans coming.
- **3414 Cummings Lane.** Word on the street that garage will be coming soon. See "on hold" item below from last month.

### **Permitting Process Underway:**

- **Shed on Summit Avenue. All new;** County permit received.

### **Permits Ready/ Issued:**

- **3513 Raymond Street.** 2 inquiries-neighbors to either side. Permit to be issued 10-17-2014

- **3509 Turner Lane-** fence

### **Construction Underway:**

- **3411 Thornapple St** –Rear addition. Construction continues.
- **3404 Thornapple Street-** Front Porch, front yard landscaping. Construction Continues
- **3413 Bradley Ln** – Should be completed soon. No problems at site or on street.
- **3509 Shepherd St** –Rear addition should be ready for final clearance.
- **3510 Bradley Ln** –Construction continues. No problems at site or on street.
- **3514 Bradley-** Construction well underway. No problems at site or on street.
- **7309 Delfield-** Construction started. Continues to be problematic; many complaints; not consistently working.

- **3219 Thornapple Street-**Addition/porch. Construction well underway.

- **7218 Chestnut Street-**Construction well underway. No Problems at site or on street.

- **3511 Raymond Street-**Renovations.

### **On Hold:**

- **3414 Cummings Ln** - Driveway and 4-car garage, accessory building; No further action to date.
- **3507 Raymond** Rear addition. Originally denied. Plans revised. No additional action.

### **Completed:**

- **3511 Turner Ln** –Completed. Bond clearance soon.
- **7210 Delfield St** –As close to be completed as possible. Bond Clearance.
- **3515 Shepherd St** - Completed. Bond needs to be returned
- **3529 Raymond St-** Fence and landscaping complete.
- **3514 Turner Ln.**–Fence. ROW License needed.
- **3518 Bradley Ln** –Bond still held. Possible additional work.

### **Problems:**

- **101 Quincy Street-** Unpermitted driveway work

### **Other Municipal Support: General Management:**

- *General building support:* Ongoing supervision and progress reporting of construction projects. Records of compliance with VMA requirements. (e.g. tree protection) •Monitoring of MC DPS Reports. • Move in and out traffic and parking controls. •Construction parking controls and supervision.
- *Special projects:* •monthly streetlight review and reporting. •Storage unit/equipment management; •Monitor and report on Utility work. • Leaf bag delivery •prepare for street marking project

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS: Fleming**

Financial Report for the Month of September, 2014 prepared by Village Accountant Dan Baden. Motion made to approve all reports: Lebovich; 2nd Alexander; Vote All in favor.

**ACTION ON MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2014** Motion to formally approve Alexander; 2nd Lebovich; Vote: All in favor.

### **MANAGER'S OCTOBER REPORT-Sperling**

**Community Policing Program:** Continues to operate smoothly. Assists with traffic issues; advise on street markings. Meeting with residents. Monitoring speeds using a speed gun in the town. Hope for more data. Suggested we see if we can get the County to bring their mobile speed van down closer to Martin's Additions.

**Sanitation Services:** All in order. A Wider Circle coordination is now running very smoothly. Response better.

#### **Utility Services:**

***WSSC-WATER:*** South end to begin this spring. Tree pruning and removals being reviewed and revised by WSSC's arborist now and State permits being requested. Assisted in securing "Right to Enter" permission from residents.

***SEWER:*** Major disruption on Brookville Road caused havoc; sidewalk access problematic; finally fixed.

***WASHINGTON GAS:*** Gas Line work on Brookville Road Continues. Major traffic disruptions. Gas line break on Chestnut Street.

***PEPCO:*** Notice of additional reliability work received for several locations on north-end feeder. Squirrel Guards; Pepco has promised to help with cable lines and dual poles.

***PERMITTING ISSUANCES:*** Multiple utility permit requests processed for new construction.

***UTILITY ROAD REPAIRS:*** Caused major disruptions at our intersections with Brookville Road. Other location in town are months away from permit repairs, although we do get notice of them every week.

#### **Trees:**

***WSSC Tree pruning*** and removal list received and cleared to the State Forester.

***Routine Care continues*** Tree bags and watering as needed; Stump removals.

***Fall Planting plans*** completed and notice sent. Dan Gardner and Paul Wolfe worked together. 13 new trees are to be planted: 8 large canopy trees (Delfield Summit, Turner, Bradley, Quincy); 4 small trees (Thornapple, Raymond); 1 medium tree (Shepherd).

***Butterfly Garden*** to receive additional plantings at the direction of and with the assistance of Bernice Duvall and Paul Wolfe.

#### **Streets Road repairs/ traffic issues:**

***Leaf bags delivered.*** Tried a different approach, used a rental truck. Recommend a different approach next year--it's too much work. Leaf clean up of streets will begin likely in late October.

***Road Markings:*** Contract for street markings signed with Chamberlain; work to be done on November 3 and 4th, state contract was proving too difficult to track down.

***Re-aligning Traffic Codes:*** As recommended at the last meeting, Attorney Bolt has tackled creating consistency with Montgomery County traffic code and VMA code. Joe Cutro consulted; additional review will be conducted, as noted above.

***State Highway Meeting:*** Need to plan a meeting with State Highway regarding Brookville Road. We now have new District Representatives. We face 2 Issues, intersection of Taylor and visibility and crossing safety at Thornapple.

#### **Street light update:**

- Scott Watson our lighting engineer is working on a lantern from Holophane that looks exactly like we have mounted in our mock-up (the one with the shield) but lights the streets more evenly, still using our layout for the induction lights. We assumed that the LED model would do the same thing as the Induction version with the same labeled lighting distribution, because we didn't have any evidence to the contrary, but through the mock-up and their latest photometric data, we have learned that this is not the case.
- The requested modifications are intended to give us more-even lighting using the form factor that you like. As soon as Scott get the final fixture specs information from Holophane he'll write the report.
- We are assuming that PEPCO will be purchasing the lights and installing them (and removing the mock-up fixtures at that time, to send back to Holophane). They'll give us a proposal for the fixtures and the installation and the monthly tariff, once they have the final fixture specs and the final layout. We waiting for Holophane to tell me how to specify the modification we want, so PEPCO will know what to buy.

#### **Water Issues: Oxford Street**

- Awaiting a water report from Mark Shull.
- County required declaration of Covenants has been completed--necessary because of changes to pipes that are emptying into the storm drain.

- VMA to issue ROW permit for work at end of month; Ron advising on matter.
- VMA Assistant attend FEMA meeting on streams and floodplains; met several possible contacts that need to be followed up. FEMA wants the data from us and yet can't tell us where to get it--Catch 22.
- Councilmember Lebovich attended a class on water flows at the UMD in an attempt to gather more information.

***Community Events and Wellbeing:***

- *A Wider Circle*: Prepared for November pick up--blankets, winter coats, children's books.
- A Halloween event planned for Sunday October 26; goodies purchased including safety lights. Hope our officers can attend.
- Community Services Week begins next week. Dick and Linda Kirschten working on it. October 25 will be special day at Supermarket and *Manna* will benefit; *Doctors without Borders* also.
- Not completed: Community Suggestion: VMA "Library": yet to be done.

**Administrative Matters**

- *Survey Update*: 1st Training session with AMT completed. Additional staff time is needed for understanding before the 2nd training session.
- Risk Policy still needs our changes; additional surety bond needs to be issued.
- Attended Emergency Preparedness review session at the Montgomery County EOC. New Alert Montgomery System being put in place. National Weather Service apps and new links have been developed, many that should help us with snow plowing and winter services.
- Maryland Municipal League Executive Board has agreed to include all the Montgomery County Chapter municipalities in a "coalition" that we did not agree to or vote to join related to the topic of Utility 2.0 and the merger of Pepco and Excelon. The local managers will be discussing this topic at our quarterly meeting in Garrett Park in October. An email with more information on this will be circulated to Council members, but at this point, without significant details and procedures being added to this notion on Coalition membership, it will be my recommendation that Martins Additions does not want to be represented as a member of this coalition.

**CONCLUDING COMMENTS: None**

**Adjournment**