



P.O. Box 786

Severna Park, MD 21146

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

General Meeting Minutes

www.gspc.org

September 13, 2016



General Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the Month except in November of election years when they are on the 3rd Tuesday.

President Maureen Carr York opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. She welcomed new community members Cool Pond and Erin Garth. Still a few communities in arrears in dues.

Welcome to Michael Peroutka, County Councilman; Kerry Duffy Doyle, representative from Ed Reilly's office; and expecting Pat Daly, constituent services officer for County Executive.

GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Dan Nataf introduced Guest Speaker James D. Schroll, P.E., Chief, Traffic Engineering, Bureau of Highways, Anne Arundel County.

The Presentation addressed Jim Schroll's 4 Key Projects:

1. SPHS crossings into the new school for the kids, and staff, especially in terms of safety. They are looking to Bd. of Education for guidance. Citizens are particularly with Holland Road being used instead of Evergreen. There have been no discussions until Jim emailed Board of Ed today. He asked about plans for walkways and what entrances kids be allowed in and out of on a regular basis.
2. Sidewalk along Jumpers Hold Road: There is debate whether the sidewalk should be on the Chartwell vs. Chartridge side. It is for safety to School & Kinder Park. The sidewalk on Jumpers Hole Road involves Redford up to just South of Kinder that has not yet been touched. Chartridge does not have a convenient direct route to SPMS or Kinder Park because there are no direct paths. They tried to put together something and it got shot down but it seems interest has spurred again. Hence, the Bureau of Engineering is dusting off old plans and going back out to communities with several options to see if there is support. Dan Anderson is the project manager. President Maureen Carr York reminded Mr. Schroll that GSPC has supported a sidewalk project twice in the past 10 years, most recently this year with a unanimous vote. The problem with the West side is it doesn't do anything for Chartridge. John Norville (Shipley's Choice) suggested that the DPW collaborate with the Dept. of Rec. & Parks to jointly sponsor & fund it, like previous multi-department projects.
3. Shipley's Choice Hiker - Biker Trail Feasibility Study for one on Gov. Stone from Benfield Blvd. to East-West Blvd. When they put in the light they took away the shoulders to make turn lanes. They will create a pedestrian connection from the northbound portion to the southwest corner. They are considering building a separate hiker/biker trail. Planning and Zoning are putting together projects for consideration that are feasibility only. The County has not yet decided whether they want it. Project description and rough estimate being prepared. Affordability review and then will go to County Executive and then County Council will decide whether it should be funded. There are many steps to get into the system as a capital project. Best case is work on the study beginning in about a year. John Norville of Shipley's Choice requested Shipley's Choice be kept in the loop with this project.
4. Evergreen Road Problems: Could they put in sign or chokers to aid traffic? They had proposed putting chokers in to narrow pedestrian crossing distance between Evergreen and Cedar. They have considered blocking cars to avoid access. There is going to be a meeting and they will mail a flyer along Evergreen road homeowners and will send GSPC a courtesy copy.

Questions and Answers:

1. *When the new building opens, will there still be problems with students crossing at Cedar? (Amy Leahy)*

If students need to cross there, they will get rid of bypass people threatening them.

2. *Will proposal for hiker/biker before PAB in early February? (Jim Ferguson, Glen Oven)*

It will be public at the point but won't know if included in the budget. When groups have everything in priority it makes it more seamless.

3. *Are there ways to slow traffic down on Evergreen and Cedar? (Kerry Duffy Doyle, Senator Ed Reilly's office)*

Evergreen gets counted four times a year, but there is less traffic now than there used to be. The communities along Evergreen Road want turn restrictions to get rid of traffic. Benfield is the arterial that comes across and picks up lots of homes. There is no easy way to get rid of volume. County decided to build Robinson but didn't tell drivers who use Evergreen.

Follow-up Question: Could you put in stop sign to make it a hassle?

The problem with unnecessary stop signs is people don't stop. When measuring compliance only 50% stop with unwarranted stop signs, which is even more dangerous.

4. *How much communication or influence does County Public Works have with Board of Ed's transportation planners, specifically for walkers? (Jennifer Davis, Carrollton Manor)*

Les Douglas is now the head and more interested in working with them. Public Works is not equipped to judge the ability of 16-18 year olds so they leave those decisions up to Board of Ed, but they do studies requested by Board of Ed. who then determine acceptable walking routes. There is a capital line item budget for school sidewalks.

Follow-up Question: How much space does a pedestrian command?

Presumably 3 foot paths. It used to be 3, but it is now 5 feet. Lynwood has painted a stripe up the road.

5. *Crossing guards? What about additional crossing guards for SPHS? Requesting crossing guard at Holland. People are not doing 35mph. (Linda Curry, Severna Forest)*

It is very unusual to have crossing guards at High schools. They are usually there for traffic control rather than student control.

6. *Lynwood—concept they might install new sidewalks in Chartwell? (Brad Myers, Tam Glade)*

Apparently, there was a fairly ugly meeting awhile back and after that meeting they asked for help. Then there was a sit down with people opposing it. What is actively happening is work on another public outreach meeting in a different fashion where everyone can view the plans. That will probably be towards end of October. They will send a notice to Chartwell and those who live along section that will be impacted.

7. *Reviewing new developments and they all seem to have private road on plans. Does Public Works have input? (Adrienne Croll from Berrywood)*

As a rule, Public Works does not see proposals until the design is set. Unless Planning and Zoning says there is an issue, Public Works does not see it. Public Works would prefer there not be private roads. Building to county standards is more expensive. In Crofton, Board of Ed has said buses will not run on private roads. Private roads also do not get paving or plowing. Street name sign with blue background means it is a private road.

8. *Could you bring bring Rec and Parks and DPW together to benefit Jumpers Hole Road project, since Kinder Park would benefit from project? (John Norville, Shipley's Choice)*

"This pot doesn't need more chefs stirring it." County law is that the homeowner is responsible for sidewalk in front of house, and the same goes for a trail.

9. *Why is Truckhouse Road stopping at unnecessary times? It is causing a huge backup on Benfield. (Holly Slack, Bendale)*

This sounds like a defective detector. Call the County when there are problems like stop signs not functioning, yield signs, etc. Daytime hours: 410.222.1940. After hours: 410.222.8400.

We received this follow-up a few days later:

"The problem at this intersection is a malfunctioning pedestrian push button. We have had problems across the County with a particular brand of push button and have changed manufacturers because of the problem. The new manufacturer is unable to keep up with the demand for buttons (we're not the only ones experiencing the problem with the old manufacturer), so we are awaiting deliveries of product. In the meantime, since this is an important pedestrian crossing, the signal is operating as if there is always a pedestrian call. The intersection is scheduled for repair as soon as we receive the next shipment of buttons."

10. Is Anne Arundel County getting any more money to re-pave roads for maintenance? (Amy Leahy, Olde Severna Park)

Regardless of where the money comes from, it goes into the county budget. The total is still roughly the same as it's been the past couple years. The figure hasn't gone down, and is approximately \$17-20 million. It is mostly funded by local taxes.

11. Why is there so much congestion on Evergreen? (Julie Krauss, Colchester)

Benfield used to run straight into Evergreen, which created gaps. When Benfield to Robinson was made the through route, a few years later right turn on red to Evergreen so people ignored route on Robinson. That's why there is a no turn on ride from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

12. We are not an HOA, but is there any way to make a neighbor control their shrubbery? We are an improvement association. (Jennifer Davis from Carrollton Manor)

Nobody can enforce shrubbery. If there is a sight distance problem at an intersection caused by vegetation, the County will work with homeowner to remove it. However, it is always better to work with the neighbor before coming to the County.

13. Closing West Benfield? (Anne DeMagistre, Ben Oaks)

There is a dam in the southern part of Shipley's Choice, so the road will have to be closed sometime in the next year.

14. Has there been any consideration given to Sycamore and Holland? (William Everly from Evergreen)

There are nationally and state accepted warrants for signals. There are exceptions for schools.

****President Maureen Carr York presented Mr. Schroll with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his years of hard work and partnership with the Greater Severna Park Council.****

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary's Report (Holly Slack)

August Minutes correction: Cattail Caucus information should have 31 homes (not 21). Minutes approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Poland)

Account Balances as of 8/31//16:

BB&T checking = \$4,077.36

SmithBarney money market = \$6,251.54

SmithBarney CDs (4) = \$20,000.00

Account activity in BB&T = Dues deposited \$70. Interest \$9.60

President's Report (Maureen Carr York)

A few communities have not sent in dues. See attached sheet for details.

Audit Committee Report (Anne DeMajistre)

John Norville requested information about tax records be put in minutes:

1. The Personal Property Return (Form 1), required by the State of Maryland – Department of Assessments and Taxation is due annually. The GSPC By-Laws Article IV, Section 3, d. require that, “the Treasurer maintains the record file of such reports”, and this has been done. The web site for the MD Dept. of Assessments and Taxation, Taxpayer Services Div. <https://certificate.dat.maryland.gov/> lists the GSPC “Dept. ID # D00112672” and states (as viewed on June 28, 2016) that “This entity is in Good Standing”. The Committee considers this page as positive evidence of the successful filing of all required paperwork as of that date.
2. The IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) is due annually. To do this, *Exempt Organizations Select Check* is a search tool on the IRS website that allows users to search for and select an exempt organization and check certain information about its federal tax status and filings. The URL is <http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check>
3. GSPC is included in the list of organizations that filed Form 990-N for tax year 2015 (as viewed on June 28, 2016). The Committee deems this as positive evidence of the successful filing of Form 990-N for 2015.

Motion made by Art Timmons to accept the Audit report. Seconded by Berrywood representative.

Council voted to accept the report unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce Report (Liz Callahan/Stanbeck). Severn School is hosting an event on Thursday night. The Annual Chamber Golf Tournament is Monday, September 19. There is also a general membership luncheon on Thursday.

Planning/ Zoning/ Legislative Committee (Art Timmons)

Hoping public works speaking out about private roads will go for stormwater management as well.

- Sabrina Park, Phase 3 Hearings: The petitioner for Sabrina Park, Phase 3 has presented ten hours of evidence at five hearings of the Board of Appeals and the Board has visited the site. The protestant, Chartridge, has cross-examined, but has not presented yet. The county will present its evidence third followed by comments from interested citizens who are not parties to the case. The petitioner may then present rebuttal. Lastly, the petitioner, the protestant, and the county may present closing statements in that order.
- Ben Roberts from Chartridge: They are trying to add more dates between September and December.
- There are at least 2 more planned hearings for Sabrina Park, phase 3. They are Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 PM and Wednesday, December 14 at 3:30 PM. There may be more. All meetings will be at or near the County Council Chambers at the Arundel Center, 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Maryland. Parking is free with verification of attendance.
- Note that the Cattail Commons Hearings begin before the Sabrina Park hearings end. We will do our best to let you know which meetings will include public input for both projects and when your attendance may count most toward a favorable decision.
- Bill 57-16 concerning forest conservation Fee in lieu passed. Additionally, they lowered the fee???
- Resolution 55-16 concerning surplus property at 8148 Jumpers Hole Rd was introduced.
- Current subdivision watches:
 - The Severn Acres 6 lots becoming 16 lots: Modifications still pending.
 - Severn Acres, New. 542 St Martins Lane: This Community Meeting was September 7 at 6:00 PM at the library. Only three people present. I was one of them. They will retain the house facing Benfield Rd and build 3 more behind it facing St Martins Lane. This will leave only one 1-acre lot remaining along St Martins Lane with no road improvements.
 - Marsh Landing (might be the same as Hidden Creek) at 412 Asbury Drive: No application yet. Berrywood plans to oppose.
 - Robinson’s Reserve: Modifications are still pending. 19 lots on 7.75 lots.
 - Two major projects are being considered in the Pasadena Area: Nothing New.

Councilman Peroutka expressed frustration with 57-16. He would have appreciated Art’s insight, and would like to coordinate more with Art in the future. Why is there a buyoff? Everyone in the room wants tree removal regulations

tightened -- not loosened! After the rules are set up, there become so many exceptions that the rules don't make sense anymore.

Pat Lynch from Arnold spoke about how the Governor approved money to study where to put a new Chesapeake bridge. It needs to be 8 lanes. Councilman Peroutka helped with Sandy Point.

County Executive Constituent Officer Update (Pat Daly)

October 3rd will be good neighbor meeting at SPHS media center with Oak Construction, school construction, and staff to talk about SPHS demolition phase. Requested all plans available be distributed well in advance of the meeting. September 29 is "Not my Child" at SPMS.

Airport Noise Committee (Linda Curry)

FAA meeting cancelled yesterday and postponed until end of October. Anne Arundel County gets landing noise. Houses are shaking at midnight. We need more elected officials involved, like Howard County. www.nextgennoise.org has the list. The committee is drafting a petition to put on www.change.org. Once it is drafted, it will be sent around. They are trying to build relationship with Howard County. Councilman Peroutka said this needs a governor involved. Pat Daly said the claim is that by flying low they save \$160 billion dollars in fuel, but does not know what factors they used to arrive at the figure.

Education Committee (Brad Myers)

The AA county system is struggling with how to change the Governor mandated school calendar. The Superintendent submitted capital budget -- nothing significant except boiler at elementary school. They are starting to put forth what to do with breaking up Old Mill and Crofton. If they build smaller schools there might be redistricting. Still discussing start times in next year regarding whether there will be a 13 minute or 18 minute slide. The County is also eliminating the valedictorian and salutarian for a cum laude system.

Ben Roberts from Chartridge: Kenny Elbert, Severna Park's biggest fan, was promised he would be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Severna Park High School. Make sure Principal Bathras knows about this. Tours of the old building are being scheduled before it's ripped down. They are finishing last hallway at Benfield. Oak Hill is reaching capacity and Folger McKinsey had 5 kindergarten classes enrolled this year. There may soon be questions about redistricting.

Environmental Committee (Paul Spadaro/Lisa Bender)

Magothy River Association is celebrating 70 years with Crab Feast at Cape St. Claire. \$50. There are Youtube videos of the water trail: search "MRA spriggs farm" and "MRA cooleys pond on Gibson island." These can only be reached by kayak. The water trail will also have game like Chutes and Ladders and to move around you must answer historical questions. A mileage chart will show how far it is from Spriggs Farm to Beachwood Park. The Living History project: Stories of Severna Park by Scott Jay has over 2,000 hits already.

?? DO YOU WANT TO POST PAUL'S PRESENTATION IN THE MINUTES? I THINK AMY TOOK A VIDEO...??

The Severn River Association is distributing oysters. On Sept 17 there is a Paddlefest in Eastport, and on Oct 1st at St. Luke's Church there will be the Blue and Green Festival and blessing of the animals.

Police / Community Relations (Cindi Mitchell)

Thefts from vehicles continue to be a problem. Very early this morning, there was an incident in Berrywood that was thwarted by an alert resident. A vehicle was broken into in Stewart's Landing around the same time that resulted in a smashed window and stolen wallet. There were thefts from cars and houses in Chartwell last week. Please, please lock your cars and do not leave anything in your car that could be of value -- not just the obvious things (wallets, purses, laptops, etc.) but also loose change, cd's, power cords. The police believe most of these incidents are drug related. PACT (Police and Community Together) unit still exists in Eastern District. A detective is assigned to meet with communities or individuals to address community issues and concerns. Unfortunately, due to current staffing issues, Eastern District's position is vacant. Lt. Crosse hopes to have someone to fill the slot sometime in October or November. Once that person is in place, he/she will be available to meet with communities to help address their concerns.

Next PCRC meeting is Wednesday, September 21, at 7:30. I don't have an agenda yet, so don't know who the speaker will be. Once I receive notice of the speaker, I will forward it to Maureen who will then send it out to everyone on the GSPC

distribution list. If you ever see anything unusual, you can call Eastern district, but they prefer you call 911. This is also how the count complaints about traffic. Councilman Peroutka and Pat from Broadneck have no record of drivers calling and complaining about traffic. If you register complaint with 911, that's how they monitor traffic problems.

Cattail Caucus (Cindi Mitchell)

As you probably know, the caucus was formed originally to address the Cattail Commons project. That remains our primary concern. However, there are additional areas of proposed development throughout Severna Park that are also of concern and potentially affect the health of the creek and should be of concern to everyone in Severna Park. The creek continues under Asbury Dr. up to and under Route 2. This is the Wolf Pit branch which doesn't stop at the county-owned natural area but extends all the way to Chartridge. This means the Chartridge flooding issue likely affects everyone downstream. There are other branches of the creek that meander throughout Severna Park between Benfield and Route 2. This means that most stormwater from Severna Park eventually ends up going through the Cattail Creek Natural area, under Route 2 and into the main part of the creek. We need the help and support of every community in Severna Park to effect changes to the way OPZ approves projects. Their granting of modifications is destroying a fragile creek. It would be wonderful if at least one representative from each community throughout SP would join us and attend our meetings. A letter writing campaign to *The Capital*, *The Washington Post*, the *Severna Park Voice*, *The Baltimore Sun*, our representatives in the County Council, the State legislature, even in Congress would let the powers that be know we are serious and want action. You can get on our email list by sending an email to cccaucus@outlook.com.

Public Works Committee (Dan Nataf)

Should wait until entire intersection is finalized??

Amy Leahy spoke about B & A Boulevard where water is becoming a problem. It seems the water is coming from surrounding properties.

ASPIRE Report (Maureen Carr York)

None.

SPHS Demo Committee (George Foote/Carol Boudman)

20 people attended the pre-meeting representing 10 communities in the immediate or surrounding are of the Phase 2 SPHS demolition. A meeting room will soon be announced and who the attendees will be. The committee has 6 areas of focus. Seismic monitors will be placed in front of the school. Homes in the immediate area will be offered inspections; it is still to be determined who is doing the inspecting. They are reviewing how the demolition is going to happen. The committee thanked Maureen for firm, strong guidance and Pat Daly as facilitative community representative. The timeline for demolition is potentially 2 years. The final phase is at least a year and a half or two.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Meeting closed at 10:01 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

General: 10/11/2016, Severna Park Library at 7:30pm

Board of Directors: 9/27/2016, Severna Park Library at 7:30pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Holly Slack.