



P.O. Box 786
Severna Park, MD 21146

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL Meeting Minutes December 11, 2012



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The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Steve Poland. Board members present included Brad Myers, John Norville, Dan Nataf, Ann Jackson, and Kathy Michels.

President Poland welcomed attendees including new delegates Karen Piccoli, Cape Arthur, and Ann A. Dean, West Severna Park. Mr. Poland advised that there was no formal guest speaker tonight, but there is a lot of business to discuss and take care of tonight, and Director John Norville will present the Nominations Committee Report for the 2013 GSPC Board.

Secretary's Minutes – November 13, 2012: Mr. Poland asked whether the delegates received the Minutes for the November 13 meeting before today because he has had trouble sending the Minutes out the last couple of months, and he had a couple people tell him that they have not received the Minutes. He sent the Minutes out again today, and asked if anyone had any comments or corrections.

Comments or Corrections: Maureen Carr York expressed concern that a statement in the Minutes regarding vehicle and pedestrian right of way at crossings of the B&A Trail might be misleading. She will seek clarification from County Police. In the interim, motorists should be aware that in general they must stop for pedestrians already in the crosswalk as the motorist approaches the intersection. Bicyclists must dismount to be afforded pedestrian status.

Motion to Approve the Minutes: Mr. Poland asked Ms. Carr York if she wanted to make a motion. She responded that she would just like the sentence stricken from the Minutes since it would eradicate the problem as far as creating a false impression. She also noted that State law related to this topic is pretty clear, and maybe we can get a statement from the Police Department to clarify the rules which would then be released to the Delegates.

Mr. Poland asked if there was a motion to adopt the Minutes. A motion was made and seconded, and the Minutes were unanimously approved as submitted and filed for the record.

Adoption of Treasurer's Reports: President Poland thanked Brad Myers for taking over as Acting President for the November 13th GSPC Meeting, and noted that his mother in law passed away and he and his family traveled to Kansas.

President Poland explained that he is going to give last month's and this month's Treasurer Reports and provided the following explanations:

(1) Treasurer's Report November 13, 2012

Account Balance as of 10/31/2012:

BB&T checking = \$ 6,754.45
SmithBarney money market = \$ 878.15
SmithBarney CDs (5) = \$25,000.00

Beautification Trust Fund

(closed 10/2011)

BB&T

Dues deposited = \$ 0.00
Two Checks cleared in Oct.: = \$ (24.71) and (375.00 for insurance premiums)
Service Charge = \$ (2.00) paper copy of checks and transactions

Smith Barney

Money Market = \$ 0.00
Interest = \$ 13.79

CDs

--matured = \$
--purchased = \$(5,000.00)

Bank Annapolis (Beautification Trust Fund)

(closed 10/11)

Adoption of Treasurer's Reports - Continued:

(2) Treasurer's Report December 11, 2012

Account Balances as of 11/30/2012: President Poland advised that the only change to the December report is a \$2.00 service charge to the checking account.

Mr. Poland explained that we don't receive regular statements now and only receive a statement from Smith Barney when something happens in our account. There will be month's when he doesn't report any action in the Smith Barney account, and other month's when the CD matures and we will have a report. From now on it will be slightly different and the name may be changing since he believes the Smith Barney name is going out of existence.

Membership Update:

- 53 Communities "in Good Standing"
- Communities no longer eligible to vote in 2012 - Past Due for 2012 (5):
Evergreen, Fair Oaks, Jennings Road, Sheffield Park, Williams Woods

The Treasurer's Reports for November and December, and the Membership Update Report for December are attached. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports for November and December, as submitted, was unanimously approved and filed for the record for audit purposes.

SPEAKER- Director John Norville, Board of Directors Nominating Committee Chair: Mr. Norville thanked Committee members Jack Mason and Charlie Miller for serving on the Committee again this year, and advised that the Committee has met and the following is the slate of candidates that are unanimously proposed, and advised that most are incumbents, except as noted, and thanked them for serving again. He also thanked Ms. Carr York for volunteering to serve as the President, and advised that she previously served as the GSPC President and Vice President, has a great amount of experience and is warmly welcomed back as President.

- 2013 Slate of Candidates

- President: Maureen Carr York [former Board of Directors member]
- Vice-President: *Brad Myers [Also serves as Education Committee Chairman]
- Vice-President Public
- Affairs: *Roy Higgs [Current Director]
- Secretary: * Kathleen J. Michels
- Treasurer: * Steve Poland
- Director Emeritus: * Dan Nataf
- Director: *John Norville [Nominated by Board of Directors]
- Director: *Ann Jackson
- Director: --vacant--
- *Incumbents

Mr. Norville advised delegates that this is the third and final call for candidates and asked if anyone present was interested in nominating themselves or another willing individual as a candidate? Seeing and hearing no nominations, Committee Chair Norville moved to adopt the slate as unanimously submitted. Without objection the slate of candidates noted above were unanimously approved.

- Electronic Ballot Voting Process: The above final slate of nominees approved for the 2013 GSPC Board of Directors will be emailed to the GSPC delegates and community presidents in good standing by President Poland with the following voting instructions:

- (1) To vote simply reply with a yes or no vote to the email that will be sent by President Poland to GSPC delegates and community presidents
- (2) Voting will be a strictly "up" or "down" vote for the entire slate of candidates approved since additional Nominees will not be accepted
- (3) Dates that Votes must be cast and the date/time that voting will be ended
- (4) Only communities in good standing and Board Members that have not cast a valid vote via the email sent by President Poland may be allowed to vote if present at the January 8, 2013 GSPC General Meeting
- (5) Final results will be announced at the January 8, 2013 GSPC General Meeting

Board of Directors Nominating Committee – 2013 Slate of Candidates – Continued:

- **Zoning and Legislation Committee:** Mr. Norville advised that Roy Higgs has agreed to step in to fill the major position of Vice President of Public Affairs previously held by Al Johnston, and, although you may not see Mr. Higgs at each meeting due to his travel schedule, he is committed to providing reports on zoning and legislation. The Board is considering moving their monthly meetings from Wednesday to Thursday to accommodate his travel schedule, and he has been participating in the meetings.

On Roy's behalf, Mr. Norville also noted that anyone who is interested and willing to assist Roy on the Zoning and Legislation Committee issues and County meetings to let him know.

- **Closing Comments:** Mr. Norville noted that the Nominating Committee wanted to personally and officially thank the following Board Members:

- President Poland for his service as both the GSPC President and Treasurer, and for his decision to stay and continue as Treasurer; and asked attendees to give Steve Poland a round of applause for his outstanding service.
- Maureen Carr York for her willingness to rejoin the GSPC as President, and asked attendees to give her a round of applause.

Mr. Norville also asked President Poland to discuss the voting process, and asked Ms. Carr York to provide comments regarding her goals.

President Poland - Voting Procedures: President Poland asked if anyone in attendance has voted electronically in the past for the elections, and the majority of attendees noted that they have. He advised that he will be sending out an email before the end of the week with the exact instructions stating that the nominations are closed, and will include the date for the closing of the electronic voting which has not yet been determined.

He will then conduct an audit of the votes with a member of the Board and an at large member to determine the number of votes received. At the January 8th general meeting votes can be made by communities in good standing and Board Members that did not cast a valid vote via the electronic voting process.

As of January 8th the election process will be complete and the new officers will be installed.

Maureen Carr York - Comments: Ms. Carr York noted that the GSPC is a great organization and we have lost so many leaders this year, and she thanked Steve Poland for stepping up when Jerry Pesterfield moved suddenly and resigned as President. She is also happy to step in and serve at least for a year, and her goals include the following:

(a) **Full Community Membership:** Her goal this year will be to try and get full membership, which has been tried before. She will be calling on communities and delegates to try and help the GSPC get some of the communities who don't always renew their membership to step up and renew their membership. So delegates may get a call from her asking them to touch base with a couple of communities since she has discovered that sometimes all you have to do is call someone that lives in that community and they say "Oh yes that's right, we forgot about that." It has also happened in her community since things get overlooked because everyone is operating on a volunteer effort. Her goal is to get the membership, community-wise, back up to the highest level.

(b) **Local Issues Survey and Summary Results by Dan Nataf:** Ms. Carr York noted that she really wants to review the survey to look at the directions we might want to go in as an organization, and what we can do that would really take us to where we would want to be as a community. She will be working with Aspire again to try and speed things up a bit, at least for the next year, and will count on community delegates and members for their help.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities: Mr. Ladd advised that there are several items in play that should be of interest and provided the following information:

Stormwater Fee Process: As a result of the State requirement that the County stand up a funded storm water run-off program as part of the Chesapeake Watershed Improvement Program, DPW has worked through a process addressing how to structure this program, how much the fee should be, and consulted the development community, the commercial community, the river keepers and people interested in the environment, and then worked through a solution tied to zoning of one's property. There will basically be a 3-tiered fee structure based on zoning: R10, R15, and R22 for dwellings with less than a fifth of an acre; the second is going to be R2 and R5; the third will be R1, RLD or RA for dwelling on one or more acres. So there will be a small fee, medium fee, and larger fee which roughly aligns with the number of square feet of impervious surface.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities – Stormwater Fee Process - Continued:

- *Implementation of Fees, New Project Terms and Status:* As a side bar in the implementation of this fee structure, in the critical area legislation, you are going to hear a new term: “lot coverage.” In the critical area business they want to talk about how much lot coverage you have from man-made devices, (parking lots, building sheds, etc.). Today that coverage is limited to about 25% and can go as low as 15% in the future. But that percentage can vary based upon a number of other things, and it is too complex to discuss here. You are going to hear the new term “lot coverage” as opposed to impervious surface.

The “fee” bill is coming along. The County Executive will send it down to the Council early in January. The fee has to be in place to go on your property bills as of the July 1 property bill and is first due next September.

He doesn’t know how much the fee is going to be, but the discussion is that there are two possible approaches: (1) could be a small initial fee (\$125-\$150) for the medium group) for 4 or 5 year followed by a higher fee ((\$250+) for 40 years or so; or (2) it may be something on the order of \$225 for at least 45 years. The difference is that we can only spend the money so fast during the first 4 or 5 years. The fact that we ramp up the process reflects the amount of engineering work to be accomplished.

The fee-issue and how we are going to administer is coming along, and will be before us to work out the details in January and February. There is no stopping the fee because it is mandated by State; may be able to make it smaller, but making it go away, there is not a chance. So there will be some sort of a fee come up, and there is a discussion as to whether or not it could be an excise fee or will not go on your property bill. When he looked at it he thinks it may be deductible. But excise fees are not normally deductible, but if it is on your property tax bill it may be deductible.

- *Items and Plans of Importance Funded in the Bill:* One of the important things in the Bill is that they are going to start doing upgrades on the streams and the holding processes where you collect the runoff water.

Today in some communities you have holding ponds. The idea has been to collect all runoff into a pond and eventually it is absorbed or drains out through the installed drain infrastructure.

They are changing the concept from holding ponds to step pools. What they want to do is stretch the holding area out into a string of stream based, small pools to increase the amount of ground area into which the water can percolate. You can see one of older ponds over in Swann Point, where they have a very large one, and DPW wants to take that pond out to include the drain pipe and put in a series of step pools. This is the new best management practices that they are going to build in to this next round of stormwater management.

The plans are being developed today, but we will not have a chance to debate the specifics on how they are going to do it since the best management practices are identified by the State. We will see how the money is going to be allocated starting in FY 2014 as we embark upon the program Ron Bowen is preparing.

- *Cost of Building the Stormwater Management Project throughout the County:* The overall cost of building this whole project throughout the County is something on the order of \$850 to \$900 million to do the dirt work. It will stretch over the next 12 years and be paid for over 30 to 40 years. In terms of the people they are going to be employed and the interest costs, the total costs will be about \$1 billion.

In his opinion, that program is based on the assumption that every other County in the Chesapeake Bay drainage area, and all the other surrounding States, are going to play ball as well. But he can’t tell what happens if other jurisdictions don’t carry the load the way AAC is preparing to. It is something that will have to be watched. We are about to set up the minimum we must do during the next 4-years that we already have a permit and requirement from the Federal Government to do.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities – Stormwater Fee Process - Continued:

Questions:

- *Provisional Grants:* In response to a question from Brad Myers whether all of these projects will be done by the County or will private communities be able to come in and request money to do the projects themselves, or is that even known?, Mr. Ladd advised that there is a provision where grants will be given out of this fee pool to various entities, but he thinks there will be a limit on how much the grants can be. However, if a group, someone other than the County, wants to go in and do a project that is on the list of things that they has to be done, then they could be permitted and funded to do it. They are having a discussion whether that form is called a grant or a non-competitive contract.

Mr. Myers also noted that he is thinking along the lines of a community who wants to do a rain garden project that is on a larger scale in someone's yard, and they want to apply for a grant. Mr. Ladd noted that he thinks the answer is yes, but the discussion that he has heard is that we can take money from this fund as long as it is contributes to the overall stormwater management goals. That provision is there, but the County has a very, very long list of all the projects that need to be done. However, if it is close to that "to do list," and you can justify giving the money away to contribute to that end, then the provisions are there to do it subject to the County Council approval.

- *Publication of Project Lists and Sequence:* In response to a question by Director Ann Jackson whether the list will be published, Mr. Ladd noted that he thinks so. But the program is going to be so large, smaller projects may not be visible. There is no reason that he shouldn't be able to help you find it.

Ms. Jackson also asked if she could go and say she has a project on the list and could they do it first? Mr. Ladd noted that she could go and say that to them. Does he think they will listen to her and consider it? Only if it is already in the list. The problem is that some of the projects have to be done in a certain sequence, and he would argue that if we are going to spend the money earlier, we ought to know the proposed sequence changes and why. Mr. Ladd also noted that the reason is that if we get started and suddenly find that we don't have the funds to get completed by 2025 - (i.e., this thing stretches out) – we ought to make sure that the ones that get up front are the most important or valuable to the County. We will have that discussion.

- *Allocation of Funding:* Another important feature is that the fee money will be allocated to the watershed areas in relationship to their percentage of the total County's watershed. For example, if the Cattail Creek constitutes x percent of the total, and (all the GSPC watersheds go to the Magothy or Severn Rivers), then we will get an x percent share of those funds and the County will then decide what the sequence is to start.

Some of these things will be small projects that are going to be measured in thousands of dollars. They will be able to start quickly. However the bigger ones which touch a moving body of water are much more complex, (You have to get the Corp of Engineers and all kinds of different permits), and may contribute great value to overall run-off management, and also include many smaller connectable projects.

- *Use of Money Collected from the Stormwater Fees:* In response to a question whether money collected will go to retrofit or new construction, Mr. Ladd noted that the money will go to both.

The GSPC area has a lot of installed pipe and outfalls, (probably more than in any other District and some of the oldest), that already needs to be repaired.

Right now the County nominally has \$50 million worth of maintenance backlog. We add to that backlog at the rate of \$6 to \$8 million a year. One of the things that he has been told is the plan will take care of all the backlog during the first 4-year phase which would be 2014 through 2017. The good news for us is that when we have stuff in the ground, the maintenance backlog is going to be driven to zero and we should not have any more problems with the backlog.

- *Dredging Requirements:* What the fee doesn't provide for any dredging that may need to be done, and he does not have an answer to that question. Frequently, DPW has dredged the outfall silt on larger stream restorations. They are going to dredge the channel at the end of the Severn (West Benfield) almost to the spot where some of the outfall comes out. A lot of times they will go in and dredge out the outfall sediment that has washed down for decades. We do not have a good resolution on that because the Federal and State dredging money has gotten very tight.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities – Stormwater Fee Process – Questions Continued:

- *Replenishment of Trees Removed During Dredging:* As an example of what Mr. Ladd was talking about, an attendee asked if what is happening at McKinsey and Route 2, where they knocked down hundreds of trees and all of the sediment builds up between those areas and there are no trees to absorb the sediment, is this what will happen when they begin other dredging projects?

In response to the question, Mr. Ladd stated that area is not a dredging project but is a stream restoration using the step pool design concept he mentioned. When all of this is done they will go back and replant in the entire area. There is one example in this District done 3 or 4 years ago replanted with a lot of native plants which replenishes itself very, very quickly.

The attendee also asked that when it occurs will there be sediment deposited in between now over 3 or 5 years, will it fill itself back in? Mr. Ladd responded it probably could happen - the idea is that if you get far enough upstream, the theory is that every drop of water that falls on a piece of property is supposed to absorb there without taking sediment downstream so the buildup rate should be slowed.

What is important is the maintenance aspect. DPW could have to clean out some of the sediment that settles in the step pools, which is one of their functions to catch. There is not enough data to know how rapidly silt will build up, but it is a very real concern. There is recognition of the problem. DPW is embarking upon the latest technology and techniques of how we do the stormwater run-off, and there are only 3 or 4 examples locally. If you ask show an example of what this is going to be, you have to go up to Baltimore County; that has been there for a couple of years. It is agreed that this approach or practice is better than what we have been doing in the past.

- *Allocation of Funds for the Watershed Project:* In response to a question about the allocation of funds and is it going into the general fund, Mr. Ladd noted that this money is being directly deposited into a separate “enterprise” fund to a separate account (by State law) only for the Stormwater Program. Expenditures will go through the budget on the outbound obligation side of the budget. So we will see the series of projects that they propose to do. We should see the first projects in the County’s 2014 Budget, which the County staff will start building any day now the fees which will be on your bills due in September.

- *Ben Oaks Project:* A question was asked about a barge that has appeared in their dock area and is this part of a dredging project. Mr. Ladd noted “yes” that it is part of a Severn River head water dredging project, but he has been unable to get them to go over to the east where the runoff water comes out near the sand pool. They will clean everything in the channel for people to get out but they won’t clear from the end of the channel to individual docks. He is not aware that they are dredging up to any marinas, since this is strictly clearing the channel to get out.

Library Recapitalization: Mr. Ladd noted that one other thing he is very pleased to say is the Library Leadership have proposed a recapitalization program for the County’s library system. That proposal is being well received. We are fourth in line to get renovated: the first one is Annapolis, the second is Glen Burnie, the third will be in Pasadena where they are going to pull together two or three very small satellite locations, and we are the fourth.

He thinks there will be programmatic commitment to redo the libraries at something like \$5 to \$6 million a year but over a very long period of time. This is the first time we are going to see substantive programmatic capital commitment by the County for our libraries. It will be 10 or more years before the Severna Park Library is renovated or replaced.

In response to Director John Norville’s question whether it will be a replacement or renovation, Mr. Ladd noted that it is proposed for replacement but that remains to be approved. The Severna Park Library is small compared to usage and that you will be seeing a much bigger building. Where it goes is open to discussion.

Economic Revitalization: The County Council had a work session today and were discussing economic revitalization and changing some of the words on the tax side for tax credit for revitalization in economic communities. They are trying to make a bigger incentive available for a longer period of time to try to encourage revitalization. It will be for any area that is in an economic revitalization zone.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities – Economic Revitalization – Continued:

He has talked to the Severna Park Chamber and also with ASPIRE to consider where in the Severna Park area we would like to see that start, if at all. The idea goes back to the village concept in the Severna Park Small Area Plan. We will hopefully have an opportunity in the spring to re-identify where any economic revitalization zone should be established in Severna Park.

The conversations he has had so far suggest we start over at Dawson's, go along B&A Blvd. up to "malfunction junction" as an example. We will be open to hearing what that might be. What this does is put incentives out there for businesses to go in and change the appearances, maybe change their parking, and do things to make it easier to shop here.

Mr. Ladd also noted that it is a tax incentive to allow existing businesses to upgrade and change the appearance. They get tax credit for 10-years to cover the cost of any investment they make by not taxing any increase property assessment.

B&A Trail: Mr. Ladd advised that he asked Park and Recreation to go through all the places in Severna Park where the trail crosses roads and trim trees to clear sight lines, changed some signs'- look at the intersection at Evergreen traffic flow for possible improvements.

Critical Area Legislation: The legislation to implement the State Critical Area Committee regulations is before the County Council. It makes any violation in the buffer area, which is 100 feet from the waterfront, (many GSPC communities are in that situation), automatically a Class A violation. It raised the fine from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and after that it can go to \$10,000 a day. The Critical Area Commission is really trying to get people's attention about this. What they say in the fine print is that the fine is not automatically \$10,000, and there is an opportunity to have it adjusted for certain things. But they are seriously getting to the point where they don't want anything done in the buffer area without having to get a plan or approved program.

- **Buffer Management Plan:** In the extreme, what it means that without an approved buffer management plan you don't take a shovel or saw inside that 100 foot line because if you get caught you may be paying tens of thousands of dollars. The other thing that has changed, that the river keepers are very pleased to hear, is that in the appeals process non-adjointing residents have standing in any case or appeal or decision pertaining to what happens in the buffer area or critical area. For the areas in Severna Park, where you have a lot of smaller homes within the 1,000 feet Critical Area, informed caution is advised.

It is a very hard piece of legislation to read and follow. He is trying to find a document which a non-lawyer, non-detailed person can read and understand - it is not easy. In a lot of places you have to get an attorney just to read and work your way through it.

- **Document Access:** In response to a question whether there is a website that can be accessed, Mr. Ladd advised that you can go to the County website and check on pending legislation and you will see Bill 93-12, or go directly to link: <http://www.aacounty.org/CountyCouncil/Resources/2012/93-12.pdf>.

You could also go to the Planning Office and see the staff who drafted the legislation. There are some books coming out; today he picked up a so called "green book," that has examples of the various plans that you can submit. He has heard the frustration that average citizens have in trying to get something approved and within a timeframe measured in weeks and not months. The County needs to find a way where if one wants to get something approved, you can go to the office in one day, get the right people to look at it and tell you what needs to be revised, and get an appointment to come back for approval.

- **Size of Waterways:** An attendee asked when Mr. Ladd says waterways is there a size, since they have a creek that runs through that is 18 feet wide, and are you talking about rivers? Mr. Ladd noted that one ought to presume that you have a waterway when water there is running or is tidal water involved. There is a map that shows where the critical areas are, and on either sides of Route 2.

Dick Ladd, Councilman – Update of Legislation and Activities – Continued:

Closing Remarks: President Poland thanked Mr. Ladd for his presentation and advised attendees if they have any other questions or need advice to contact Mr. Ladd who regularly attends the GSPC meetings.

Contact Information:

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Public Works Committee – Dan Nataf, Director Emeritus: Mr. Nataf advised that he didn't have any breaking news on the public works front in general, but he does have the following project that he would like a little help with.

Problematic Intersections Identified by Homeowner's: Inspired in part by the restriping on Whites Road, he started looking for other areas where the restriping was poor. He noticed that on Leelyn Drive as it comes up to Ritchie Highway it is almost impossible to see the no left-hand turn sign other than the one on the turn signal. His question to the attendees is would they go out and identify intersections, crosswalks and the like that might need restriping and then he could come up with a list that would be submitted to Mr. Ladd.

He also mentioned that in the Capital this morning pedestrian fatalities were discussed which is a serious issue. He thinks in part that due to lagging infrastructure he did notice that there is a pretty fresh sidewalk on Ritchie Highway on the East side, but there are so many areas in the County where this was an old Maryland County Road and there wasn't much development or density, and then development happened and the road stayed almost identical except in the area where new development was built and they put in a side walk almost as wide as the development. You see this over and over again so pedestrians have a pretty hard task to try to get to one place to another in a safe way. So that's why he says there is an infrastructure kind of gap that exists at that level and might be very hard to overcome.

The goal for the project is to ask members of the community to identify the intersections and crosswalks that need restriping, and then the GSPC can come up with a list.

- **Sidewalk Funding, Problems Crossing Route 2 and Other Problems:** Mr. Ladd advised that the sidewalks that you see going in here comes out of State highway funds since the sidewalks are being done on State roads. The County does not put sidewalks in, that's something the developers do, and we have a small amount of money for that. He also noted that someone has called their attention to the problem of crossing Route 2 at McKinsey, and they went to the Police Department to ask them to look at what is going on there because the problems you see at McKinsey coming across Rt. 2 you see at other locations including Robinson Rd., etc. They are definitely going to look at that, and they have looked at some other problems along the road. Mr. Nataf also noted that the exception to the rule is that schools can put in sidewalks if it's related to a school crossing, and Mr. Ladd stated that it is school funds not County funds.

Mr. Nataf commented that he is just curious as to whether the County would think this is a good idea or not or would think it is a low priority due to funding. Mr. Ladd responded that he thinks the answer is the County recognizes the situation, but of all the other things that the County has to spend money on it doesn't peak right now. Mr. Nataf also noted that one of the other problems reported on is having the trails and sidewalks in a safe manner. It is something the County should ponder, and he will talk about it again in February.

- **Overall Recommendations** – In closing, Mr. Nataf stated that overall he would like the GSPC communities to think about this project in terms of crosswalks and sidewalks that you think are appropriate for reporting. He will not be at the January meeting, but will be back in February and will discuss again.

- **Transportation Functional Master Plan:** In response to Mr. Nataf's discussion, Ms. Carr York advised that there is some provision underway in the Transportation Functional Master Plan which is still being developed. It is not established yet, but they completed the road part specifically adjacent to road ways and separate from them. Hopefully that is in development, and Mr. Ladd's office can probably put you in touch with whoever our nearest representative is on that part of the Committee. You can express what you see as an opportunity to create bike lanes. Columbia has those, and right now they do have the Broadneck bicycle trail plan which is just being developed.

Public Works Committee - Problematic Intersections Identified by Homeowner's – Continued:

- Transportation Functional Master Plan - Continued:

Ms. Carr York stated that she agrees that what is being suggested is a great idea, and everyone should be on bikes more and the kids should be on bikes more. However, the problem that they pointed out when they were doing the GSMP is they are simultaneously talking about making Benfield faster, and putting bike lanes on it for kids and adults, but she doesn't believe you can do both. If you have a lot of right away like you do on East-West Blvd. it's doable, but you can't do it on Benfield very well.

- **Leelyn Drive:** In response to a question whether they were going to make Leelyn Drive one way, Mr. Nataf noted that he hasn't heard about it. Mr. Ladd commented that he has heard some discussions, but there is nothing officially working that he can tell. There may be some discussions on it that has to do with parking that they want to get along the east side of Rt. 2 for restaurants, and they are trying to find a way to get parking for all of that but there are no official proposals. He also noted in response to the question that if they do change it to be one way that people have called asking if there couldn't be a sidewalk up 648 on Berrywood. So there is a lot of discussion about sidewalks, and they are aware of the interest and concerns about it.

- **State Study on Sidewalks:** Mr. Ladd advised that there is a two volume study done by the State looking at sidewalks that could be put on Route 2 and 648 almost to Glen Burnie, and all the way to Annapolis. If you are interested in seeing that he will try to provide the link.

The whole concept is that they want to get you from where you are commuting on the B&A Trail and use the B&A Trail as the north-south portion of it as an alternative to putting more cement right beside Rt. 2, and they view that as being a viable alternative. He has talked with Cathy Vitale and it sounds like they have got more access to money than we have in the County right now. The money that's available for these kinds of things, in their terms capital budget, are dedicated to the East College Parkway. So there is some money there but it is pretty well spoken for.

Education Committee – Brad Myers, Director:

- **Budget Cycle:** Mr. Myers noted that Anne Arundel County schools will adopt their budget in the middle of January, and public hearings for adoption will be held January 8 and 10 at Olde Mill High School. The biggest items on that budget for our area right now are Capital Projects for the High School and Benfield Elementary. If it is funded there will be no construction activity until January-February 2014.

- **Curriculum Implementation and School Start Times:** One of the big things that is still at hand with the Citizens Advisory Council Committee is looking at curriculum implementation at schools since there has been a lot of curriculum changes over the last two years. There are a lot of people in the County concerned about the start time for schools and they do not want schools to start before 8:00 am, and a County petition is being circulated.

- **Graduation Locations:** The school system is trying to push to try to find a larger location or get someone to develop a larger arena location for the school systems to do graduations in the County. Apparently now all of the schools travel out of the County to do their graduations which doesn't seem right, but bottom line there isn't a sufficient facility in the County right now. There are people trying to see if there is a way to come up with funds to hold graduations at Fort Meade and are also looking at other options.

Environmental Committee Report: Submitted by Ann Jackson & Ed Krause, Watershed Stewards. Director Jackson advised attendees of the following meeting to be held by the Severn Meeting Association next Tuesday, December 18th, at 7:30 pm:

- Living Shorelines vs. Bulkheads – Severn River Association

The Severn River Association (SRA) Monthly Meeting at 7 PM on Tues December 18, 2012

Will feature a presentation by John Flood entitled "Living Shorelines vs. Bulkheads." The talk will highlight actual restoration projects in the watershed and why Living Shorelines are important and help the Severn River Watershed. *John Flood* is a former Board member of the Severn River Association and South River Federation.

Free and open to all interested in Severn River Watershed issues. Meeting will be held at

[Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville, MD 21108](#)

Police-Community Relations Report: Julie Krause – Chair, advised that there have been burglaries occurring in Severna Park and what happens is they go to the front door and if no one answers the door they go to the back of the house and break in. It's important to lock all your doors including back doors. There have also been reported thefts from autos in Severndale. Police advise to always lock your car and do not leave items in your car, e.g., packages and cell-phones. The number to call is 911 to report any incidents.

Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Tim Hall, Chamber Board Member, noted that the Homestead Garden's holiday Taste & Sip event was very well attended and very successful. Their new officers will be members in 2013.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda and Actions: Roy Higgs, Acting Vice President for Public Affairs, was absent, and no report was submitted.

New Business - GSPC Website:

- **Purpose and Goals for Updating Current Website:** Vice President Myers informed attendees that the Board has been looking to redevelop the GSPC website with the goal of making it easier to use, something that could be more easily updated in terms of some of the technology that are available today from an access standpoint. We haven't had any volunteers come forward from the Council that would take on that type of effort so we have been looking at vendors to potentially do the work for us, and we have gotten a full range of what it will potentially cost.

- **Vendor Identified and Estimated Costs:** We have identified a company located in Severna Park that has offered to do it for a relatively small cost. Tonight we will make a motion for approval to hire the company to provide services. The two main things we are looking for is something that is simple but easy to update, and also potentially this company can provide update service for us. In other words, we will send information to them to update.

Mr. Myers explained that the Board didn't want to make a decision in terms of selecting a vendor without the approval of the Delegates.

Right now we are looking at an expenditure of about \$700 for the redevelopment of the site. We currently pay for hosting of our site now but it is relatively minimal and is with an old provider who has just kept the location going for us so we would also do our hosting vendor and incur anywhere from \$150 to \$300 a year in costs in terms of hosting. But the higher number would actually involve doing regular development for us through the course of the year.

All of these are very inexpensive costs in terms of what we might pay for this professionally, and is with the one company we are working with is the Chesapeake Technology Group which is actually a local company, and the owner lives in Chartwell, and does this work for a lot of small businesses. And this is what we will be making a motion for tonight.

- **Questions:** In response to a question asking what is wrong with the current website, Mr. Myers explained that the current website is very difficult to update and make changes to because it was built in technologies that are much older. If you go to the site now it is not really up to date, and is difficult to navigate. So basically it is not used to a certain degree, and we want something that will be more usable and incorporated with this will be the ability to update where we are managing our email communication lists and those type of things that will be easier.

In response to a question asking if the \$700 plus \$300=\$1,000 would be the term cost that he proposed, Mr. Myers noted that the \$700 is a one- time redevelopment cost and it would be approximately \$300 a year in hosting and maintenance costs.

A question was asked about the possibility of going to the High School since there are very smart, technically knowledgeable kids there, and Mr. Myers noted that there is a lot of potential for other people to do this type of effort, but it still needs to be managed and actually to go find people to do that it takes someone stepping up to run the function. President Poland noted that it was actually part of the Board's discussions and it was considered.

Mr. Myers also explained that we are at the stage now where we feel it is important enough, and we have the funding to do it since we don't spend money on a lot of things in the operations. In comparison, we had other companies quote things that were several thousand dollars or more depending on what they would do, but they were beyond what we wanted to accomplish. That possibility is still there but we don't have anyone that has stepped up to take that under, and the person that is potentially going to do this is very reasonable, someone local, and would be very reliable. He also noted that we could get him to come here and talk to us.

Director Norville also advised attendees that Mr. Myers owns a company that is in the software business and he is an expert and very knowledgeable about all these issues and he wanted everyone to know since Mr. Myers wouldn't say this.

- **Motion for Approval:** Motion for approval by the Council Delegates for the Board to consider and move forward to finalize a contract with Chesapeake Technology Group, the vendor selected by the Board, for the \$1,000 estimate was seconded and approved by the Council Delegates present.

Old/Unfinished Business: No report.

Explanation of Budget Surplus – President Poland: Mr. Poland noted that during these discussions we got into the budget a little bit, and he advised that we have been running about a \$1,000-\$1,300 surplus for the last several years because we haven't had any major legislative problems that we had to take to court or had to hire an attorney. The one we did get involved with was Berrywood, and we supported with \$500, and got the money back because they won their judgment. So we do have the money in the budget for next year.

- **Actual costs from last year:**

Budgeted \$100 and spent \$90 for printing, post office box has increased from \$70 to \$86, domain registration was \$30 and will change with the new procedure, insurance premiums increased from \$325 to \$375, Citigroup custodial fee is around \$100, and we spent \$150 on the Aspire dinner. These expenditures from last year left us with a \$1,030 balance in dues, and if we project 53 communities again this year we would have \$1,855. With the projected costs similar to last year, except for the Website project, we would end up with a surplus of about \$50 in the budget. This information will be formally presented at the January 8th General Meeting.

Mr. Poland advised that this is a summation to support the Board's request to spend \$1,000 on the Website project to get the website functional and usable which is of high value to the GSPC and communities since the current website is not.

Due Date for 2013 Dues: In response to a question, President Poland advised that communities will be getting a bill shortly after January 1st.

Aspire Leadership Award: Ms. Carr York asked if the GSPC has nominated anyone for the Aspire Leadership Award, and President Poland noted that they have not. Ms. Carr York suggested that perhaps we could ask for nominations from the membership. Mr. Poland agreed it would be beneficial, and the Board will solicit nominations via email. He also advised attendees to look for the email requesting nominations, and they should be submitted before the next Board meeting scheduled for January 24th.

Next GSPC Meeting Dates:

- General Meeting: **Tuesday, January 8, 2013 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**
Final Election Results for the 2013 GSPC Board of Directors
- Board Meeting: **Wednesday, January 23, 2013 - 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Very Respectfully Submitted:



Kathleen J. Michels, GSPC Secretary – December 28, 2012

GSPC General Meeting

November 13, 2012

(for presentation at December 11, 2012 General Meeting)

Treasurer's Report

Account balances (as of 10/31/2012)

BB&T checking	= \$	6,754.45
SmithBarney money market	= \$	878.15
SmithBarney CDs (5)	= \$	25,000.00

Beautification Trust Fund

(closed 10/2011)

Account activity in October

BB&T

Dues Deposited	= \$	0.00
Checks cleared		
--2194	= \$	(24.71)
--2195	= \$	(375.00)
Service charge	= \$	(2.00)

SmithBarney

Money Market	= \$ \$	0.00
Interest	= \$ \$	13.79
CDs		
--matured	= \$	0.00
--purchased	= \$	(5,000.00)

BankAnnapolis (Beautification Fund)

(closed 10/2011)

GSPC General Meeting

December 11, 2012

Treasurer's Report

Account balances (as of 11/30/2012)

BB&T checking	= \$	6,752.45
SmithBarney money market	= \$	878.15
SmithBarney CDs (5)	= \$	25,000.00

Beautification Trust Fund

(closed 10/2011)

Account activity in November

BB&T

Dues Deposited	= \$	0.00
Checks cleared		
--none	= \$	0.00
Service charge	= \$	(2.00)

SmithBarney

Money Market	= \$	0.00
Interest	= \$	0.00
CDs		
--matured	= \$	0.00
--purchased	= \$	0.00

BankAnnapolis (Beautification Fund)

(closed 10/2011)

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

Membership UPDATE

December 11, 2012

Greater Severna Park Council communities and their membership status.

53 Communities “in Good Standing”

Paid 2012 dues (53) ytd

Arnold Preservation Council, Belleview Estates, Ben Oaks, Bendale, Berrywood, Berrywood South, Bluff Point, Brittingham, Cape Arthur, Carrollton Manor, Cattail Passage, Chartridge, Chartwell, Chartwood, Colchester, County Crusaders, Crain West, Cypress Improvement, Cypress Landing, Fairwinds, Glen Oban, Harlequin, Hollywood, Kensington, Kilmarnock, Lakeland II, Lake Waterford, Linstead, Lower Magothy, Magothy Forest, Manhattan Beach, North Cape Arthur, North Severna Park, Oakleigh Forest, Olde Severna Park, Point Field Landing, Pointfield West, Round Bay, Severna Enclave, Severna Forest, Severndale, Shipley's Choice Community, Shipley's Choice Homeowners, Shipley's Retreat Homeowners, Swann Point, Tam Glade, Twin Harbors, West Severna Park, Westridge, Whitehurst, Whitney's Landing, Woodberry Farms, Woodbridge Forest.

Communities **no longer eligible to vote** in 2012

Past due for 2012 (5)

Evergreen, Fair Oaks, Jennings Road, Sheffield Park, Williams Woods.
