

Greater Severna Park Council (GSPC) Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2016
Severna Park Library

Meeting called to order at 7:38 p.m. by President Maureen Carr York.

Secretary's Report (Erin O'Neill / Holly Slack)
June's General Meeting minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Poland)

- 1 more community paid their dues.
- \$100 check cleared for National Night Out.
- Interest \$9.30 of CDs.

President's Report (Maureen Carr York)
(Membership Report)

- Kilmarnock and West Severna Park are now members in good standing.
- 51 paid members total.
- There are 4 that paid last year but not this year: Bellevue, Hollywood, North Severna Park, Sullivan's Retreat.
- There are 3 that paid 2 years ago but not in the past 2 years: Magothy Forest, Severn Heights, Woodberry Farms.

Chamber of Commerce Report (not present)

Planning / Zoning / Legislative Committee (Art Timmons)

- **Board of Appeals will hear the appeal of the Sabrina Park, Phase 3 sketch plan approval on Tuesday, August 16, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and Wednesday, August 17, 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Both meetings will be held at the County Council Chambers, Arundel Center, 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis, Md. A packed hearing room will demonstrate the community interest surrounding this project and may influence the decision of the Board. Please set these dates aside and attend if you can.** People can park in Arundel center or Whitmore garage for free and get validated at the door.
 - When a hearing is multiple days, what to expect depends on what happens at each hearing. Applicant presents first, then appealers present second. Chartridge has already appealed and created a YouTube Call to Action video: <https://youtu.be/R11302oDLJE>.
 - Try to be there on both days, because at some point they will ask audience to stand up in favor or not. It will put some weight into the judges making the decision. The more people showing up, the longer the appeal may get extended and it's worth the fight.
 - Board of appeals tends to be made up of people close to the developers, and this one is close with the developer. A lot of things come down to a 4-3 vote.
 - We should get used to this because we'll be doing this November 30, December 6 and December 7 for Cattail Commons.
- There are 15 different projects along the 2 miles of Cattail Creek that have occurred in the past few years, being built now, and under planning. These are relentlessly damaging the creeks and will reach a breaking point. This is a battle we have to fight or Severna Park could end up like Ellicott City.

- Sometimes it feels like we lose more than we win, but we have had some great wins in the past few years: Severn River, Berrywood, and Crain West have all won their respective battles.
- Marsh Landing at 412 Asbury Drive is a 5 lot 4 home subdivision just southwest of Asbury Drive and just southeast of Cattail Creek. This is another small subdivision being planned for the Critical Area. Lot 5 is physically in the Cattail Creek steep slope area and wetlands.
- Why is it a lot? Someone has plans for it. The site is so tight that homeowners might not be able to turn their cars around to drive back onto Asbury Drive. Delivery trucks won't. Berrywood is planning to oppose the plan.
- Robinson's Reserve modifications are still pending.
- The Severn Acres 6 lots becoming 16 lots along St Martins Lane at the bend in the road near the end of the road has modifications pending for specimen tree and forest conservation easements. This site has storm water management facilities on most of the individual lots and room for not much else.
- Two major projects are being considered in the Pasadena Area.
- The former work force housing property is planning to discuss an assisted living facility.
- A new 12.84-acre wooded R-1 site at 30 Wishing Rock Road near Route 100 and Ritchie Hwy is discussing the rezoning of that property from R-1 to R-15. The site is surrounded by commercial and R-10 properties.
- **OPZ hopes to present the revised Cluster Development Bill to the County Council in September.** This proposed bill will be the result of more than a year's input and discussion between the Growth Action Network, and the Maryland Homebuilding Industry Association with guidance from the Office of Planning and Zoning and the Office of Law.
- **Bill 57-16:** This bill apparently reduces the fee-in-lieu of saving or replanting forested land inside a priority funding area to encourage development in priority funding areas and discourage development outside priority areas. It seems to me it also may encourage using the reduced fee-in-lieu over preserving or replanting forest conservation areas. It might be worth some consideration.

Airport Noise Committee (Linda Curry)

- Held their June meeting after the article in the Severna Park Voice: 16 more people showed up. Met on 27th and talked about purpose. They also were giving a choice of a permanent noise monitoring device placed at Chartwell Country Club or a school. The committee voted unanimously to have the device placed at the school because of studies impacting noise on children and their brains.
- They are looking into community meetings held by MAA. Communities already invited to do these need to be very knowledgeable about the guidelines. We can go and listen. What's happening at BWI is also happening at Dulles and National Airport. This is everyone's problem. In 2012 the FAA did a reauthorization bill and categorical. You can find a list of legislators that had a hand in it. Essentially, Congress gave the FAA a get out of jail free card. For more information, go to www.nextgennoise.org. It has city after city talking about how aviation flights are impacting them. Not just in the US, but all over the world. The only ones getting attention are those with class action suits (Phoenix) or withholding funds (Minnesota).
- Chicago has been very involved and some paths changed. This illustrates the need to band together.
- Congress finally introduced a bill in 2015 to help citizens: "Community Accountability Act." <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s2761>. No one from Maryland has signed up. Even the delegate from Washington D.C. is on there.

- After a year of writing letters, Howard County Council finally got their meeting. Representatives from Ben Cardin’s office, County Executive Killerman, and a lot of higher up legislators attended the meeting.
- Nothing happens until getting legislators get involved. This isn’t just a Severna Park problem; this is a nation-wide (global) problem. Get OUR county council members involved. Aug 12 meeting was set up for Howard County. We need to be a presence.
- Email and phone calls help, especially in an election year. The committee is talking about getting a webpage so they have the letter on the webpage, put their address in and automatically send an email. Linda has a friend who works with a non-profit that has done this.
- Website [WHICH ONE?] has a place where you can individually request monitors and send them the information. You would have box for a week. There is a waiting list.
- Sound travels differently during seasons. Assume that it will be louder in winter months and more frequent during the holidays, because there is no moisture in the air and it is dryer. This is a national issue. Go to state and federal legislators. Even after a bill goes into law, it will be a year or two until the FAA would do a turnaround. The committee is requesting a website with a domain name bwnoise and have GSPC put in a link. This may impact GSPC’s small budget. Another idea was to have the subcommittee use the GSPC website.

Education Committee (Brad Myers)

- School starts August 22, with Benfield starting a day or two later.
- Community cluster meeting at SPHS on Sept 27 will have “Not my child” presented by county resources on the heroin problem and parenting through it. There will be a presentation and then question and answer session.
- New chairperson for CAC tackling issues this year: equity in schools--are same resources available? Excellence in education--new grading and testing policies? Gifted and talented middle school program is being piloted at Arundel and going county wide next year. CAC should be communication mechanism for us to Board of Ed. They can bring issues to these groups and get feedback. Important to interact with them. If we are not happy with the stadium and traffic problems, we can bring and use resources to get Board of Ed to listen.
- Opening on SPHS is very much on schedule. New building will open during winter break of this year, and then demolition process of old building will begin. Parking will be a particularly thorny issue this year until new lots can be completed. January and February parking will be worse. There will be an additional entrance for buses. Administrative lot is finished and front lot. There are not going to be as many spaces, so they are restricting student parking to people with work study internships, some sports, and carpoolers.
- There will be a meeting on August 22 to discuss plans and strategies for the demolition. If in neighboring community, talk to Carol or Maureen. They will send more info out in the next couple of days. They are looking to leadership from Linda Curry during the next phase since she went through this. She is getting monthly updates: there were 2 complaints concerning workers revving cars and playing radios too loudly; just signed the contract for 8 foot privacy fence; planting season starts in August.
- Pulling into 3rd lane where Evergreen Estates turns is an accident waiting to happen. They might need a light, but that will be a faculty lot so hopefully they will be a little more responsible than student drivers.
- There will be 1,000 bricks on sale. Brad is on the “Brick” committee. It is a fundraiser for the SPHS PTO. They are going to try and avoid shipping bricks.

- They are not terribly worried about parking during events. There is parking in front for the auditorium in front and in the back for the gym. Parking should be segregated for events. Once population out and people are just coming for events, attendance isn't as large.

Environmental Committee (Lisa Bender and Paul Spadaro)

- Severn River appealed on an illegally built patio system. They were denied in building permit stage and people built it anyway. Once it was found, SVA pressed the issue. Now the people took patio out. Developers and people are watching. Keep it up!
- Reiterated Youtube Call to Action video: <https://youtu.be/R11302oDLJE>.
- Cattail Creek is the worst it's been in a long time. The bay is not getting better—at least not in Magothy and Severn rivers. We have 27 monitoring stations along the Magothy. The state only has 1 monitoring station in each one of the monitoring rivers, which doesn't capture a lot of information. The county has ZERO monitoring stations. They have no statistics as to whether it's better or not despite their blanket statements to the contrary.
- There are habitat protected areas for colonial birds. Why is this important? There are usually 100 foot buffers except for colonial birds, which have a quarter mile buffer. It can be horizontal or vertical. The law says it can't be disturbed within a quarter mile.
- Going to get a boatload of oysters from bay. Every oyster improves the quality a little bit.
- Good photos with history of Severna Park in the Living History Project with Scott Jay. 3 minute trailer: <https://youtu.be/UfWCipYa-KU> or 13 minute video: <https://youtu.be/skR-vvhJofw>
- While preparing for Cattail Commons, they are working hard with Chesapeake legal group, and studying habitat protected areas.
- Cattail Commons hearings are scheduled for Nov 30, Dec 6, and Dec 7.

Police / Community Relations (Cindi Mitchell)

- Does not meet July and August. They will meet again Sept 21. Usual theft from autos. Lock cars and secure valuables. Do not have agenda for the meeting yet.

Cattail Caucus (Cindi Mitchell)

- They are meeting August 30 to ramp things up and get more letter writing done. Planning to approach legislators. With a habitat protected area, it will be a county-wide situation. Cattail Commons is a much bigger issue than 31 houses, or 15 subdivision projects up through Cattail Creek. Every person in Severna Park will be impacted. The clock is ticking. Need to have from every community in Severna Park supporting this. Is Marsh Landing and Hidden Creek the same? The property is practically in the creek.
- MRA has signed agreement with DNR that they will work with communities to develop series of projects and ask state for funds to buy properties.
- Oxygen was .003 at bottom of the creek. Surface was not much better. Anything less than 4, aquatic life begins to suffer.

Public Works Committee (Dan Nataf)

- He is communicating further with communities on Evergreen and Cedar. A flyer has been submitted and is being reviewed. Someone on the Evergreen committee hasn't heard anything. They are trying to get a consensus: where to put cones; shelters for areas; ways to slow traffic down.

- He tried contact State Highway Administration about the 648 pond near Hoyle Lane and rutted road problems on Ritchie highway, but the person is on vacation. No work is being done, and there are 3 other problem areas. Arnold area left lane hasn't changed.
- Jumpers Hole Road Project: Lucas Frye is going away to UVA on August 20th. He has done great work and GSPC recognized his efforts. Using online mechanism, he estimated the cost for a sidewalk to be \$58,000 total. The transportation planner wants to see a formal "verifiable letter" of support from GSPC. The online petition is at nearly 500 signatories:
<https://www.change.org/p/chartridge-community-association-chartwell-board-of-directors-support-the-construction-of-a-sidewalk-on-jumpers-hole-road-severna-park>

ASPIRE Report (Maureen Carr York)
Quiet during the summer.

National Night Out Wrap Up (Maureen Carr York)

- Police cadets and staff estimated a crowd at 2,500 people.
- Good attendance and police really appreciated it.

New Business

- Kristin Krenos from Cypress Landing: There are a lot of problems crossing B&A trails at Robinson in particular and most other places. This was previously discussed in 2011. PCRC says there is no law or regulation that anyone must stop.

Announcements

- William Everly from Evergreen: Cooper's hawk almost pulled off a pet parrot near Evergreen pool.
- Ben Roberts from Chartridge: There is a Golf outing on Oct 8th. Best ball at Compass Point will be followed by BBQ in recreation area.
- Earleigh Heights Rangers Station: August 20th at 10am there will be a small ceremony / memorial to unveil the new public bike repair stand and pump in memory of Rob. Cyclists are encouraged to plan morning rides to join in the ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Next Meetings

- GSPC Board of Directors: 7:30 p.m. on August 23, 2016 at the Severna Park Library
- GSPC General Meeting: 7:30 p.m. on September 13, 2016 at the Severna Park Library

Minutes respectfully submitted by Holly Slack.