

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2006

Present: Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Doug Colvard, Dick Coogan, Betty Grimes, Catherine Hollan, Jack Kalish, Jane Kalish, Benjamin Leung, Hugh Neighbour, Scott Schlegel, and Paul Wieland. Absent: Jane Edmondson and Linda Somogyi (both excused).

President Paul Wieland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at Betty Grime's residence.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved with one correction from Jane.

Treasurer's Report distributed by Ben was accepted. The CD has been renewed at 4.5% for one year.

McLean Hamlet Swim Club Expansion: Doug reported the annual meeting of the Swim Club was in December. They will not be doing the larger expansion.

Falstaff Park: Betty reported for the Falstaff Park Committee Co-chairs (Georgie Kronenberg and Lee Muchnikoff) that we can expect the bulletin board and paving in the spring.

Three-Way Stop Sign: Paul submitted the stop sign request letter and Joan DuBois's office approved the request in November and forwarded it to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) for eventual approval by VDOT. Our Safety Coordinator Dick Coogan reported he has actively observed the intersection and will continue to observe after the signs go in. He will submit an article to the school for their weekly *Byline* letter explaining the change to the students and their parents. If necessary, a Patrol Officer will monitor the activity there for a day or two, advising drivers of the applicable ordinance(s).

Bus Stop at Spring Hill Exit Ramp: On January 3, Paul met with VDOT, FCDOT, and other representatives to view the area. The VDOT representative immediately declared he would not approve a bus stop on this high-speed ramp. Alternative locations were considered. A stop at Spring Hill Recreation Center using their circular drive to return to Spring Hill Road is a possibility. Also discussed was the excessive time of the green light for southbound Spring Hill Road traffic at Spring Hill and Jones Branch Roads; subsequently, VDOT discovered a malfunction that forced a default to maximum time; the repair has been ordered and should be completed within a week, weather permitting. Good work, Paul!

Entrances at Falstaff and Lewinsville Roads: Jane Kalish reported that the hedges have been trimmed back effectively from the sidewalk at the house for sale at the western entrance of Falstaff and Lewinsville Roads. However, the hedge at the eastern entrance still blocks the sidewalk, and Jane will try to get the owners to prune it.

Luminaria: Charlotte reported there was no wind on December 24th and candles lasted through the night. There was great participation this year. Thanks to all the captains and to Charlotte for another successful luminaria.

The stormwater run-off complaint against the boundary marker walls at 1319 Macbeth was upheld by the Board of Zoning Appeals, and on December 20 the Zoning Enforcement Officer and engineers recommended changes including a bridge and cut throughs to allow the water to flow under the bridge in places. Stormwater run-off is a hot issue in the County.

Safety Message: There were several emails in December regarding a HamNet message reminding residents to use the sidewalks whenever possible. When walkers or joggers must use the street, the message recommended proceeding against traffic. The message also urged residents to maintain their sidewalks free of ice and snow. Jack has received several positive comments back from this message.

Radon testing is recommended annually for houses in the Great Falls and outer McLean area. Test kits (\$15-20) are available from hardware stores, or contractors can be hired to do more extensive testing. One kit in the basement and another on the first floor should obtain a reasonable reading. More extensive testing can be done if initial tests indicate a need. Radon can be a serious health hazard for people and can lead to lung cancer.

Action: Jack Kalish will send a HamNet notice in mid-January.

Contractor Recommendations: Scott said he is pleased with the work being done in his basement and will add the contractor's name to the informal list being kept by Joe Parisi. Some members asked why recommendations were not

published or broadcast and discussion ensued about an “artisan law” that could allow complaints from other contractors not listed. Paul will try to get clarification on the legality and scope of the “artisan law.” Meanwhile the informal list will continue.

Landscaping: Jane Kalish said this is the quiet time for planting. We’ve had some rain so volunteers did not have to do additional watering.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations: Scott reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to ice.

Lewinsville Coalition: Jane Edmondson sent word that the LC, which now represents thirteen organizations, meets again on Wednesday, January 11, and that there have been no significant developments to report. Our \$500 dues to LC are due.

Action: The Board approved the payment of the \$500 in annual dues to LC.

Transportation and Tysons Corner Study Group: Wade Smith is attending their meeting tonight.

Architectural Control: Paul sent a letter to the residents of a home concerning moving and remodeling boxes, containers, etc. left out in view for an excessive amount of time. He will also be writing to the residents of another home about removing the split tree in the front yard of the house.

Website: Ben reported he has paid for the use of “dot.net” for one year and “dot.org” for two years. Linda needs to forward the Hamlet website content to the dot.org site. Dick will arrange with Linda to update the realtor information on the website.

Membership: Betty reported she continues to receive a few more dues checks; membership is now above 83% of the 507 homes. Betty’s commitment to visiting newcomers and preparing useful welcome packages is certainly paying off.

Safety Committee: Dick reported that the black dog that bit a jogger in November has not been identified, although it may have been seen running loose. The jogger has completed a course of rabies shots. A complaint was received about an excessive number of persons occupying one house. Zoning allows any number if they are related by blood or marital status; Health Department requires 50 square feet of living space for each person and adequate privacy for all. The house in question meets the related-by-blood-and-marriage requirement. Betty commented that at a location in West Virginia, rentals are limited to four persons per bathroom.

Newsletter in March: Prior to the annual meeting in April we will need to get out a newsletter. Joe Parisi will publish again. Paul noted that two board positions need to be filled and asked if Jane Kalish and Doug Colvard would consider accepting the positions they have been filling. Doug agreed to being nominated for a three-year term, and Jack Kalish agreed to his nomination to fill the position being vacated by Jane.

The next MHCI Board meeting will be Monday February 6, at 7:30 pm, at the home of Linda Somogyi.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Hollan, Secretary.