

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.
November 7, 2006
Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Miguel Avila, Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Rinaldo Campana, Doug Colvard, Jane Edmondson, Betty Grimes, Catherine Hollan, Benjamin Leung, Jack Kalish, Jane Kalish, Scott Schlegel, and Paul Wieland. Visiting: Rosemary Ryan, Bill Parks, and John Barrer. Absent: Hugh Neighbour, Dick Coogan, and Linda Somogyi .

President Paul Wieland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the home of Scott Schlegel. Our guests were heard first.

Storm water Runoff: Guest Rosemary Ryan, a staff member from Supervisor Joan DuBois' office, spoke to us about the efforts to check the storm drain system in the Hamlet. She provided a map of the storm drain system to Paul. A robot-camera check within the last 18 months confirmed all drains were open and sound, including the one to the houses that had problems in late June when the 3-day storms measured as a once in "300 years event." A number of basements flooded, and two women had to be rescued from their car that was stranded in a flooded Hamlet street. She will contact the homeowners who responded to our Hamlet notice that requested information about flooding problems, and will try to identify which were due to street-drain blockage and why these areas had problems. She pointed out that trenching for new drains would cause extensive tree-loss, but that adding "box culverts" at strategic places could contain excess runoff while waiting for storm water to subside and drains to cope.

Rosemary Ryan also responded to questions about the "pedestrian refuge" or traffic calming island proposed for Lewinsville Road at Spring Hill School. She said the school had endorsed it, that Mark Johnson (head of the Lewinsville Coalition subcommittee) had requested it, and it was being designed now for FY2008 if VDOT approves it. She said that McLean Bible Church (MBC) had filed in Circuit Court and Federal Court. There was a recent determination that the Circuit Court case will take precedence and will be heard before the Federal case. The Federal suit alleges that MBC's religious freedoms have been abridged by Fairfax County. The County's motion to dismiss the case was to be heard on Sept 22nd; however, the judge told MBC that it had to revisit its claim. MBC will have to amend and resubmit its filing. The County recommends that MBC go through the special exception amendment process that would put a lid on the number of classes and number of students and On the topic of the Winchester Homes rezoning, she told us that Winchester was not going to go forward with the development of the McLean Glen project of 19 homes, due to the market decline for \$2M homes. The problem for owners of existing homes now is that the new zoning requires all homes to be sold as a whole, and there is no other interested developer. Individuals cannot sell individually as now zoned. She said that the homeowners could request that the zoning be withdrawn. Apparently, Winchester requested the change in zoning from R1 to PDH3 on behalf of the homeowners.

Swim Club Expansion: Guests Bill Parks and John Barrer showed architect drawings of the planned expansion of the pool clubhouse that includes a multipurpose room on an added second floor and multiple storage areas on the first floor at the back. Because the expansion would add more than 105% of the existing building space, the club would need to go before the Board of

Zoning Appeals next summer for permission to proceed, hoping to begin building in September, and to be ready to go in 2008. Heating is not being added, so no winter use is possible with this extension, but it could be added in the future along with air conditioning. 56% of members are Hamlet residents. If they draft a message about their proposals, it can be distributed via Hamnet. One issue is how residents, particularly those on Dunsinane, would react to having activities year round at the club.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ben distributed his spreadsheet of activity through October 31; the report was accepted. Dues are ahead of last year with the 39 letters received this month making 429 paid or 85% of 507 homes.

Falstaff Park: Betty reported that Fairfax County will not allow free access to the bulletin board, and has added restrictions—no notices offering services, not even babysitting, no summer rental availability notices—events notices only are allowable. Betty wondered if a second bulletin board should be added that is not under Fairfax County restriction. Considering the little use, is this worth keeping?

Speeding, Police Actions: Dick reported via Paul that the police have agreed to another stealth speed check at a location to be agreed upon, probably on the flats of Falstaff near Macbeth or Titania, rather than at the top of a hill. No date yet.

Website: A committee (Linda, Betty, Scott, Doug and Dick) will convene and report at the next meeting on Linda's recommendation to have Mary Lang update and revamp the website and to identify a desired new look and "identity" for the new website. The committee will also consider alternative vendors.

Proposed New Multi-Way Stop Signs at Titania and Falstaff: Paul recommended the Board not take a stand yea or nay at this time, but instead arrange to provide the processing information to Nancy Bavisotto, who will lead the effort. Dick recommended that the Board reject the addition of new stop signs at the intersection of Titania and Birnam Wood. If the affected neighbors and the majority of Hamlet residents support the addition of the new stop signs at Falstaff and Birnam Wood, the Board would seek VDOT and county approval. Paul will have Dick follow up with Mrs. Bavisotto and give her the procedural information, which involves a letter to the Supervisor.

Directories: Charlotte reported that the new MHCI directories have been distributed. Betty reported that some 200 residents agreed to share their email addresses (about half the 400 on Hamnet), and these addresses were sent via an e-mail message.

Large Trash Pickup: Following a last minute inquiry, Doug was the only volunteer who agreed to help supervise the Saturday large trash pickup. Next spring we should consider asking in advance for volunteers. Betty noted there was small debris in the grass at the site; Doug said the drivers did clean up but did not rake the grass. Miguel suggested

having a Goodwill truck available to collect serviceable items. The Board can address next year's plans in August or September.

Possible Amendment to Hamlet Covenants: Mrs. Scott's query about an addition of a third garage bay being built in violation of the Hamlet Covenants was discussed. Miguel suggested that everyone now has more cars and that three-car garages are now more common than when the covenants were written. He said that we should consider amending the covenants to allow this. Paul noted that changing the covenants required a majority vote of Hamlet residents, which might be difficult to obtain. Miguel will consider how best to proceed, possibly initiating the effort at the April general membership meeting. Paul asked Board members to review the section of the Hamlet's by-laws that deals with changes to the covenants.

Nominating Committee: Charlotte agreed to chair the nominating committee to offer a slate for the April general membership meeting. The slate would include nominees for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two directors (Jane E. and Betty's seats).

Landscape Committee: Jane K. reported that she has gotten Chinese hollies, which will tolerate draught and that pansies are in for the winter for the entrances. Three plants were lost for lack of watering.

Hamnet: Jack reported that he continues to get about two address changes per message sent. Paul has been asked to send a Hamnet message out about the Turkey Trot Run; Dick will develop a message.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations(FCFCA): Scott reported he was elected treasurer for 2006/7. FCFCA had a joint dinner meeting with the Fairfax Committee of 100. A panel forum "Immigration: Why Should We Care?" with Harris Miller (former president of World Information Technology and Services Alliance and a recent candidate for the Democratic nomination for US Senator) and David Ellis (Fairfax County community building coordinator) gave a pro-immigration view of the net gain to the community. In this area, they maintained that immigrants are not a significant drain on the health system, as in some other areas. The January meeting of the Fairfax Committee of 100 will have members of the Tuskegee Airmen as guests. FCFCA sponsored the October 26 debate on the marriage amendment that will be voted in the November 7 ballot.

Lewinsville Coalition (LC): Jane E. reported that the LC meets on Tuesday, Nov. 14. She noted the \$250 membership to Pleasant Grove is now due and received a check from Treasurer Benjamin Leung following the Board's approval of the donation. Tysons Tunnel Inc. a coalition of business and community leaders, will hold a Town Meeting on Wednesday, November 15. The group is trying to obtain by December 2, 10,000 signatures calling for reconsideration of the tunnel option and competitive bidding for the entire contract for rail to Dulles. A petition sheet was passed for Board members' signatures.

Transportation, Trails: Paul noted that the sidewalk trail under the Dulles Toll Road is complete.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC): Miguel will follow up with getting a vote to change the covenants to permit three-car garages. He and Charlotte will investigate whether ACC approval had been given for an addition to a home identified by Paul.

Safety: Paul gave Dick's report that painters are believed to possibly have committed larceny (stealing without wrongful entry) in the area. Mailbox damage by vandals is reoccurring. Paul noted that Dick needs to contact owners on Touchstone Terrace near the corner of Falstaff; their dumpster needs reflectors for safety at night.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 4 at Dick Coogan's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hollan