

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.
January 8, 2007
Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Miguel Avila, Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Dick Coogan, Doug Colvard, Betty Grimes, Catherine Hollan, Jack Kalish, Jane Kalish, Maggie Law, Benjamin Leung, Hugh Neighbour, Wade Smith, Linda Somogyi, and Paul Wieland.

Absent (excused): Jane Edmondson and Scott Schlegel.

President Paul Wieland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the home of Miguel Avila.

Minutes: Edits were discussed and the December minutes approved with the changes.

Treasurer's Report: Ben distributed his spreadsheet of activity through December 30; the report was accepted. The certificate of deposit will be renewed at 5.1% for one year; this is the highest rate available in the six-month to three-year certificate yields according to Ben's report.

Lumineria: Charlotte contacted Channel 9 television, which sent a team to cover the Lumineria December 24 for its 11 pm news with interviews with Charlotte and several Hamlet families. She played several minutes of the videotaped segment for the board. Linda will load a segment to our new website. Everyone agreed the lights were wonderful this year!

Speeding, Police Actions: Dick reported we are in the queue for the speed survey.

Traffic Calming on Lewinsville Road is on the top of Joan DuBois' spot improvement list. Rosemary Ryan of Supervisor DuBois' office reported that nothing will happen until the spring. VDOT is examining the issue. Hugh asked if Spring Hill School had sent their letter approving the traffic calming as the follow up to the PTA meeting he had attended; no one knew.[An email later confirmed the principal had not sent a letter, preferring to remain neutral. The PTO of Spring Hill School has gone on record in support of the idea.]

Website: Linda reported she has met with Mary to start revamping the website which should be completed in two to three weeks and under the approved \$1,000. She will include an "Up and Coming Events" (calendar) and an "Items of Interest" section featuring the top five or so items with click-access to other items. Some areas such as updating of email addresses will be password protected for board member access. Pre-2006 information will be archived to still be available without cluttering current and new information.

Proposed New Multi-Way Stop Signs at Birnam Wood and Falstaff: Adding crosswalks (painted paths plus pedestrian crossing signs) at this location was discussed as an added safety feature to the proposed stop signs under consideration. It was decided to go ahead immediately to request crosswalks at the Birnam Wood and Falstaff intersection and at the Lewinsville and Falstaff island (the crossover from the Hunt toward Falstaff Park).

Paul will contact Tania Cunha of Supervisor DuBois' staff, and Dick will contact the police as well as Spring Hill School for their support.

Possible Amendment to Hamlet Covenants: Miguel will circulate to the board the proposed language for the possible garage amendment to the Hamlet Covenants before the next meeting. Paul noted there are already two four-car and one three-car garages in the Hamlet.

Nominating Committee: Charlotte as chair of the nominating committee said Cathy and Ben have agreed to continue in office. President, vice-president, and two directors (Jane E. and Betty's seats) need to be filled. Maggie Law volunteered for a seat. Scott has also agreed to continue on the board.

Tyson's Tunnel.org, a coalition of business and community leaders, continues its work to get the tunnel option for metrorail reconsidered. Buses took citizens to a well-attended Town Meeting on December 4 at the Barns of Wolf Trap. Betty's son took the bus and came back with a tee shirt and packet of information. [Later buses also took people to the Government Center to attend a Board of Supervisors (BoS)' meeting on January 8.] The BoS passed a resolution that supports competitive bidding and the tunnel option. Wade noted that Bill Brynes of the McLean Citizens Association has also developed a resolution endorsing the tunnel and competitive bidding.

MYS and Artificial Turf: McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) has announced an initiative to add artificial turf to 12 playing fields in McLean over a multi-year period. Four fields are targeted for conversion in 2007: the government center "police" field, the Linway Terrace field, and two fields at Spring Hill Park. MYS also proposes to add lights to the police field. MYS officials briefed Lewinsville Coalition (LC) members at the November meeting, but a subsequent letter conflicted in several points; clarification has been requested. LC wrote a letter on December 11 to MYS expressing concerns. Doug commented that MYS' paying for artificial turf on four fields was ambitious and doubtful, given the annual fees and local participation. Paul responded that he was told by MYS that they were seeking outside/worldwide funding from any/all sources.

Author wanted for Hamlet History: As part of the local response to the 2007 Jamestown events, neighborhood histories will be collected by MCA, which will assure they are printed and made widely available. Paul asked if there were any volunteers to write the history of McLean Hamlet? Miguel noted that some video taped histories are filed at the Dolley Madison Library to provide some background of the early years. Paul noted that Paul Rodgers, who recently wrote the article on the origin of Hamlet street names, might be interested. Maggie offered to collaborate with someone. Charlotte has a box of past newsletters stored at her house. [Subsequently on January 9 Paul Rodgers agreed to write the Hamlet history!]

Missing Sidewalk Segments: Betty has mapped where there are "missing" sidewalks in the Hamlet and has drafted a letter requesting they be completed [her map was emailed to all January 9]. Dick commented that for ten or more years the movement has been for

sidewalks on only one side of a street. Wade commented the new movement is for sidewalks on both sides, so this may be a good time to request completion of Hamlet sidewalks. If VDOT does not own the sidewalk strip, obtaining easements from affected property owners could be a stumbling block. Betty noted there is a “Safe Routes to School” program for K-8th grades that she may tap into; our school routes are for 1st – 6th grades. Wade pointed out that the Transportation Bond has \$15M for trails and sidewalks, so this is an excellent time to get our request to Rosemary Ryan of Supervisor DuBois’s office.

Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force: Of 35 task force members, Wade is one of four Dranesville home-owner association representatives; other members are large employers and landowners from a broadly based representation. The phase for briefings made to the task force is now ending and they will begin to make the hard decisions on the planning and urban design for the future. On January 23 the task force will meet with leaders of home owner associations. Paul asked if Hugh and Doug could also attend the January 23 meeting, 7-9 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School. Wade noted that it is important to be positive but to look out for our interests, particularly the transportation and traffic issues. The Task Force Web site is www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner. It was noted that planning for additional building at Tysons Corner Center under the old 1992 Comprehensive Plan for Tysons is currently underway and close to approval. Although this effort did not wait for the new task force plan, it is in the spirit of the Task Force’s goals.

Landscape Committee: Jane K. asked if a HamNet message could be sent that we will be contracting for tree work and if anyone wants to get an estimate from the contractor to call Jane. Perhaps we can all get a better price for professional work. The board agreed to the message.

HamNet: 1) Jack noted changes in internet services have identified his 400-name list as likely to be spam and stopped transmission. He may have to break his list into groups of 20-40 to get them through, not a good end-user solution. So far his internet provider has not been reachable to discuss the problem. Miguel noted that if an AOL node sees the message originated from a large-address string, it refuses delivery as a spam-blocking feature; this should stop just the AOL addresses. 2) Maggie expressed frustration not being able to stop the *Examiner* newspaper from being delivered to her house. Several board members said their papers were stopped after calling. Jack will send another HamNet message with the phone number to call to stop delivery. 3) It was agreed the *Dranesville Dispatch* is too large to be sent as a HamNet message and will be available as a link on the new website instead. 4) Charlotte asked that a HamNet message be sent to remind residents to please clear leaves from street gutters so rain and melted snow can flow smoothly and so that leaves do not build blockage in the drain and sewage lines.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations(FCFCA): Scott forwarded his report that at the December 14 meeting Dana Kauffman, Lee District Supervisor, spoke about Metro, which is the second largest rail system (second only to New York City) and sixth largest bus system in the country. Its \$1.3B budget is 76% for operating expenses (\$972

or 56% from revenues and 44% which is non-Federally funded) and 24% capital expenses (\$314 or 51% Federally funded and 49% non-Federally funded). The cost per trip has dropped 40% over the last ten years primarily due to divestments and less new capital improvement funding. Failure rates are increasing, however. New Metro cars (in 7 years) will have more standing room, fewer seats.

Lewinsville Coalition (LC): See topics above.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC): Paul asked Miguel to survey the Hamlet for instances where branches or other foliage protrudes onto sidewalks and would force people to walk in the street; letters could then be sent to individual homeowners to remedy the problem. Maggie noted there is a large tree trunk leaning precariously near Lewinsville Road that needs to be cleared; it is probably on a VDOT area; Paul suggested that Dick should call VDOT as a safety issue,

Membership: Betty introduced Maggie Law, who will be helping her with membership duties. Welcome, Maggie!

Safety: 1) Dick noted that on December 20 a HamNet message was sent on vandalism including written obscenities and egging a house and quickly six residents replied identifying other unreported and unrelated events. Miguel noted that Great Falls has also experienced vandalism and some car theft. 2) Dick reported a man was discovered by a woman in her house on Dartford Street located in the rental complex on Magarity Road.

MCA: Paul reported that at the last meeting the MCA discussed later starting hours for high schools,, but that a problem exists because elementary schools start early. MCA continues to track aircraft noise. A letter sent to Representatives Moran and Wolf asking for flight information brought responsive letters.

Library Expansion Plans to include Government Center: Joan DuBois invited Paul to attend a meeting Thursday January 11 at the Dolley Madison Library meeting room on the planned expansion and revision of the building which will allow the Supervisor's offices to relocate from the Count Government building at Balls Hill Road. The police would then take over the entire building. Paul asked if anyone was available to attend.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 5 at Betty Grimes' house. Please note that Cathy will be away. Who will take notes in February?

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hollan