

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.  
July 2, 2007  
FINAL Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Sam Agarwal, Miguel Avila, Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Nancy Bavisotto, Dick Coogan, Doug Colvard, Jack Kalish, Jane Kalish, Benjamin Leung, Linda Somogyi, Ralph Ward, and Paul Wieland.

Absent (excused): (Betty has discontinued her attendance at meetings), Catherine Hollan, Scott Schlegel, Wade Smith, Rinaldo Campana.

The new President, Ralph Ward, called the meeting to order at the residence of Paul Wieland.

Minutes of the June meeting were accepted without additional edits. In the absence of Cathy, Doug Colvard took the July minutes.

Annual Picnic: Sam Agarwal attended this month's meeting in order to present plans for this year's Annual Picnic. The date for this year's picnic will be Sept. 16, 4-7 pm, with a rain date of Sept. 30. It was noted that there were a lot more kids last year and that the drinks ran out early (even though more drinks had been bought than in previous years). Thus, an additional pony will be arranged and more (in particular, kid) drinks will be purchased. The activities (and the persons responsible for follow-up arrangements) will be similar to last year:

Charlotte - three ponies, Games People Play, child ID, face painting, large trash bags, trash cans, paper goods, and plastic utensils

Sam - two moon bounces, DJ, charcoal, ice cream truck and grills

Doug - drinks

Miguel - ice

Betty - Membership

Various - coolers (though access to the large Hamlet Pool coolers will be sought by Miguel and Doug)

Tables - Sam can arrange for table rental, but someone with a (pick-up) truck needs to be identified

Local politicians and candidates have been invited.

Set-up went fairly quickly last year, in large part due to additional youth volunteers arranged by Charlotte. In lieu of that help (or in addition to), it was felt that soliciting the help and participation of additional Hamlet residents would be worthwhile. If anyone knows of potential volunteers, they are let Charlotte and/or Sam know.

Treasurer's Report: Ben did email his report to Board and Committee members in advance of the Board meeting, as requested, as well as correcting those items that needed to be from the June Report (per his email of June 22). The end of the 7/06-6/07 fiscal year currently shows a balance of just over \$2,500. As has happened at the end of previous FYs, there was discussion of which FY to allocate expenses incurred, but not paid out, by June 30 (which were known to be considerable for this FY), and whether the final FY balance should show a \$0 balance. It was decided that anyone with outstanding invoices should submit them to Ben now so that they could be included in the "Actual 7/06-6/07 Budget". If actual expenditures should exceed the approved budget on any given

year, then that excess would be drawn from the reserves. Continued monthly distribution of the budget was approved, although formal review at each Board meeting was not deemed necessary, particularly when expenditures were routine or nominal for any given month.

## **Old Business**

Missing Sidewalk Segments in the Hamlet: Board reaffirmed its previous decision to support the “Safe Route to School” program and noted that the Hamlet’s application included language whereby the Board would address each individual situation involving mature plantings if and when the program is approved. A question arose as to whether the Board should obtain majority approval from impacted homeowners. Various opinions were discussed, but the Board voted against seeking homeowner approval. It was also noted that the Board had requested and obtained a signature of support from the principal Spring Hill Elementary School. Arrangements were made for an interested Hamlet homeowner to review the "Sidewalks" application, but the homeowner was not given a copy.

McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) Artificial Turf Plans: The Lewinsville Coalition and the McLean Citizen’s Association have agreed with MYS in principal that they will not oppose conversion by MYS of two grass fields at Spring Hill Park to artificial turf. They will also consider lending their full support provided that MYS does not seek to add lights for 8 years (the expected life of the artificial turf). Both the LC and MCA expect to continue discussing the conversion plans at their next meetings.

Web Site: Since the last Board meeting, Linda unveiled and sought edits from Board members to the significantly improved Hamlet website, whose overhaul she managed and which is now live at “[www.mcleanhamlet.org](http://www.mcleanhamlet.org)”. The initial results were warmly received and welcomed. Additional suggested modifications and updates are being made, including figuring out how best to provide Dick a means to update a Real Estate section, updating Board member lists and contact information, posting more current Board minutes (and limiting those to the last 2-3 years), and others. Suggested edits should continue to be directed to Linda, who contracted with Network Solutions to help manage the website. The hosting package includes 50 email addresses, so it was agreed that some of those could be used for generic Board contact email addresses (e.g., [president@mcleanhamlet.org](mailto:president@mcleanhamlet.org)) that would be automatically redirected to a personal email address.

MHCI Activities: Ralph redistributed his comprehensive list of the activities that the Board deals with on a continuing basis, finding them fairly impressive.

## **New Business**

Invasive Management Area Program: A very few hardy souls helped Jane with the clean-up of Falstaff Park on Saturday, June 30. In hopes of a better turn-out, two more Saturday sessions are planned. Strong interest was expressed to eliminate the poison ivy, but Fairfax County does not permit the use of indiscriminate weed-killers (e.g., Round-up) on County park land.

August and other Meetings: It was agreed that the August meeting would be canceled. Skipping a winter meeting (e.g., Jan or Feb) was proposed. It was decided to postpone that decision until later.

Informal “Neighborhood Watch”: It was proposed that Hamlet residents could serve as an informal “watch” as they are just walking around the neighborhood. Dick agreed to be the point person for cell phone calls for any resident who noticed anything amiss as they stroll the neighborhood. Dick will draft a Hamnet message to be sent out.

McLean Citizens Association’s Anthology of Local Histories: Jan Auerbach distributed two copies of the Anthology to each of the 15 participating neighborhood associations, to the Dranseville Supervisor’s office, three libraries, the two local high schools and two middle schools, the McLean Citizens Association, and the McLean Historical Society. The introduction includes a history and maps of McLean. An electronic copy of the McLean Hamlet’s portion will be posted on the new website.

Complaints: The Board was asked for help by a resident who was having a continuing problem with a neighbor who allowed their two dogs to relieve themselves on his property without bothering to pick up after the dogs. Paul indicated other residents had had problems with the same family a few years ago; thus it was apparent that the family does not abide by normal considerations. No immediate action was deemed useful.

Community Lists: After Hamlet neighbors were not immediately able to contact the Colvards at the time of their house fire in late January, a Hamnet message was disseminated to solicit emergency contact information for anyone in the Hamlet that wished to provide such information. Jack reported that the Board and a couple hundred other families provided such information. A similar type of list was posed for disabled residents who might need assistance in the event of a neighborhood (or regional) emergency. While it was agreed that both lists would be very useful, the logistics of maintaining and accessing the lists were not clear. Jack still has the emergency contact list, but no consensus was reached as to its disposition.

Ralph wondered whether the Childcare List was still active, and it was reported to be working just fine (tyger2x@yahoo.com).

Large Item Pick-up: Trying to have more than one “large item pick-up” day was brought up (as evidenced by the popularity of “donations” to various residents’ roll-off dumpsters during construction). It was generally felt that two or more such services by the County would be quite successful, although Charlotte (and others) doubted that the County would agree to come more than once a year. Arranging for a Hamlet-paid roll-off dumpster was also suggested, but considered not worth the cost at his time.

## **Committee Reports**

Architectural Control Committee (ACC): Miguel reported that the owners of 8203 Dunsinane are deciding between two companies for the tear-down and rebuild.

Membership and Directory: The letters soliciting 2007 dues have been sent out. Given Betty’s absence from the meeting, no report of initial responses was available. Work on production of the 2007-08 Directory can wait until after the September picnic.

Landscape Committee: Anyone willing to help Jane with watering is more than welcome to.

HamNet: At this point, Betty backs up Jack, but there is no one appointed to back up Betty.

Lewinsville Coalition (LC): Nothing to report

Transportation: Ralph passed out information that he obtained on general Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project construction schedules and design and station locations. The fate of congestion management remains unknown. The next phase of the Tysons Corner Study Group will be a series of three Workshops (including one on July 17 at Spring Hill School). Public comment is being sought on its consultants' analysis of test scenarios. The workshops will include a presentation by the consultant group, PB PlaceMaking.

Homeland Security/Peterson Companies Site: Ralph has continued his efforts to convince Supervisor Dubois's office to pressure the Peterson Companies to make traffic improvement plans to prevent the anticipated intolerable congestion along Lewinsville Road, as well as ensure that VDOT is fully aware of the forthcoming impact. Per Supervisor Dubois's office, the Companies were only required to add some right turn lanes in order to obtain the original FAR (floor area ratio). Her office feels that they are walking a fine line with the pressure they are exerting for additional traffic requirements.

Traffic humps and crosswalks at Falstaff and Birnam Wood: Crosswalks have been approved and will be painted as soon as the paint is available. On the other hand, speed humps were not approved by VDOT because the location only met 3 of the 5 required criteria (e.g., the traffic count was below the required 600 per day). Given the unrealistic results obtained from speed assessments by the Fairfax police, there still appears to be little that can be done to slow down traffic. In any event, four bright yellow Watch for Children sign have been installed near Hamlet entrances.

Blocked Line-of-Sight: It was noted that shrubs were trimmed at the corner home at Birnam Wood and Elsinore. It was also noted that the very large boxwood shrubs at the corner of Elsinore and Timon had not been trimmed, although other landscaping work was recently accomplished.

McLean Citizens Association: Paul has forms for individual memberships (\$15/person).

Next Board meeting will be Monday, September 10 at Charlotte Bassett-Zimmerman's house. An interest was expressed for meetings to start and end in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Colvard