

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc.
June 4, 2007
Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Miguel Avila, Dick Coogan, Doug Colvard, Jane Edmondson, Betty Grimes, Catherine Hollan, Scott Schlegel, Wade Smith, Ralph Ward, and Paul Wieland.

Absent (excused): Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Nancy Bavisotto, Rinaldo Campana, Jack Kalish, Jane Kalish, Benjamin Leung, and Linda Somogyi.

President Paul Wieland called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the residence of Catherine Hollan.

Minutes of the May meeting were accepted with a late edit by Jane E.

Ben's Treasurer's Report was distributed by Paul and the monthly statement was accepted. There were several questions and recommended changes to the proposed budget: 1) the first three lines of the Community Affairs expenses were pushed up a line, 2) the Lewinsville Coalition contribution should be \$500 (\$250 was a one-time reduction), 3) the last line should be "Balance" rather than "Excess Revenue," 4) how does the Falstaff Park Restoration Fundraising Status note relate to the carryover of \$1,673 for Falstaff Park Expenses? Shouldn't this be reduced by this year's expenses, by another \$28? Also, it would be helpful if Ben could email his report to Board and Committee members in advance of each Board meeting.

Speeding, Police Actions: no news.

Traffic Calming on Lewinsville Road: no news.

Missing Sidewalk Segments in the Hamlet: no news.

Spring Hill Recreation Center Improvements/ McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) Artificial Turf Plans: no news.

Traffic humps at Falstaff and Birnam Wood: Paul suggested that Dick ask Tania Cunha of the Supervisor's staff for a progress report.

24T Bus: Wade reported that recently he saw a Metro bus on Lewinsville Road at 11:30 pm that probably was testing the MHCI-suggested route change.

Hamlet History: 14 neighborhoods submitted histories (7 were expected) with more photos than expected. The editor has requested an increased budget for printing all. Charlotte had given a box of old newsletters to Paul Rodgers to help in the history writing effort. Betty will retrieve the box and pass it along to our current newsletter editor. [Betty has retrieved the newsletters and also letters and historical items from Rufus Porter (MCHI Archivist). Rufus does not want them returned to him. Betty is sorting them before passing them to the current president.]

Web Site: Still no changes on the website or updates. The latest posted minutes are for the Board meeting held in December 2005. The Hamlet street names article is posted.

Paul will talk to Linda about pushing the contractor for expediting progress in transitioning the web site from “dot-net” to “dot-org.”

Tysons Tunnel.org: Ralph reported that the MYAA design group estimates there would be a two year delay if the tunnel were designed and competitively bid. That might miss the FTA deadline of May 18, 2008. The project will be financed by FTA (\$900M), Virginia state (\$51M), and Fairfax County (\$400M); the Dulles Toll Road portion will be \$1.296B. To meet the Dulles Toll Road portion the tolls will be raised from the present average of 60 cents to 85 cents in 2010, 1.10 in 2013, 1.35 in 2016, 1.83 in 2025, and 2.47 by 2035. Dulles Greenway tolls (currently 3.20) will rise to 4.80 by 2012.

Homeland Security Site: Ralph will ask for a concept design and schedule for traffic management on Lewinsville Rd resulting from the many new employees.

Helicopter Noise: Wade and Paul attended an MCA informational meeting May 24 arranged by Congressman Wolf. A group of Federal officials and helicopter pilots explained how they fly in this area. Nighttime flight activity probably involves the Fairfax County Police and Med Evac. TV and other commercial helicopters must stay outside the Beltway. Most routes have a ceiling of 1300 feet, below fixed-wing airplanes, and the helicopter pilots try to stay as high as permitted for noise abatement.

MCA: Paul Wieland reported that he is no longer an MCA Board member or co-chair of the MCA Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee. Wade replaced Paul as the Hamlet’s representative on the MCA Board.

Hamlet Yard Sale was May 19. Helen Charbonnet emailed her report that there were 34 participants (\$340 collected). \$127.96 was spent on ads in the *Washington Post*, *McLean Times*, *Sun Gazette*, and *Connection* newspapers. \$30.03 was spent on photocopying the map with the list of participating houses. The street names were indistinct on some of the maps this year. The Board discussed ways that can be adopted to increase yard sale traffic and also how to make our newspaper ads stand out better.

Complaints: 1) Paul had a complaint that the group-living house on Cawdor Court is not identified as such in the Hamlet Directory. He explained that the entry is the way the owner wants to be listed. 2) Ralph noted that a blue SUV has been parking too close to the corner of Oberon and Falstaff, blocking the view of incoming traffic. Dick will contact the owner. 3) Ralph received a complaint that a non-resident is walking his black poodle on a leash but not cleaning up after him. The dog walker says he does clean up, and he has been seen carrying bags.

Unidentified Contractor to paint house numbers on curbs: Betty thought the firm should have been identified on their flyer. Others thought the price was fair and were glad to have the work done. The Board agreed that no action was needed.

Blocked Line-of-Sight: Owners of two corner homes at Birnam Wood and Elsinore need to be contacted because of line-of-sight problems caused by their shrubbery. Dick will contact the owners.

Unoccupied House on Cawdor Court: A house has not been occupied since the owner died last year. The heirs are disagreeing about whether to keep or sell. Meanwhile, a neighbor complained that the yard is a mess. Paul inspected the house and found that it was in excellent condition; he will continue to monitor it.

LC to Adopt-a-Highway: Jane E. discussed Irb Auerbach's inquiry to members of the Lewinsville Coalition (LC) about taking over the maintenance (trash pickup) of Spring Hill Road between Lewinsville and Old Dominion. Ralph commented that the four times a year clean up was for rural roads and that this stretch might need weekly crews. Betty noted that only one non-Board member joined the Falstaff Park Cleanup this spring. Cathy noted that only Board members are cleaning our trouble spot on Lewinsville Road at Swinks Mill Road. Paul moved and the Board voted to support the LC initiative, but with the caveat that we could not guarantee the manpower to regularly participate. Jane noted that there are fourteen LC associations to provide manpower.

Local roads blocked for funeral motorcade: Paul had complained to the Dranesville Supervisor that traffic was completely stopped on local roads for the funeral motorcade for a victim of the Virginia Tech shootings. His complaint produced a letter from the Supervisor that was surprisingly critical of the two complaints she had received, both from McLean Hamlet. Paul had received a number of calls from Hamlet residents, one of whom was the other person who had complained. Paul had learned that the traffic shut-down by the police at the intersection of Lewinsville Road and Rt-123 for 25 minutes was the result of poor planning and a lack of publicizing the planned shutdown. Only the president of the McLean Estates HOA was informed in advance of the potential problems on the morning of the funeral because it was located across the street from the funeral church. Signs posted along local roads a day or two before the funeral would have helped along with coordination with local communities. Paul learned that the only planning meeting by the Police took place the morning of the motorcade.

Landscape Committee: Jane K is away. Betty reported she and Jane deadheaded daffodils and weeded in the Falstaff island. Paul reported the good citizen renter of the home with tall hedges at the corner of the western Falstaff entrance was seen watering the plants at the Hamlet entrance wall on both sides of the street.

HamNet: no messages while Jack is away this week.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations: Scott reported the guest speakers at the May "Report from Richmond" meeting included Senator Jeanne Marie Devolites-Davis (R, 34th District), Delegate Tim Hugo (R, 40th District), and Delegate Dave Marsden (D, 41st District). June 21 will be the last meeting of the year. FCFCA membership has been declining; last year there were 38 civic associations, this year 28, from a high of 200-plus in the early-to-mid 1990s.

Lewinsville Coalition (LC): no news.

Transportation, Trails, & Tysons Corner Study Group: Wade reported that the group will be writing the final Tysons plan soon. In two weeks the consultant will analyze the numbers.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC): 1) Miguel reported that the split level at 8203 Dunsinane will be torn down and a new 3,000-4,000 sq. ft house built. The new owner has plans from seventeen builders and wants the architectural style to be consistent with the neighborhood. 2) A house on Touchstone Terrace has again left boards and trash in the street for an extended period; Cathy said all but some boards had been taken by AAA; Miguel will call about removing the eyesore.

Safety: Dick received a call from an owner who complained that her neighbor was cutting off her pine tree branches which hung over his property. Dick explained to the owner and the neighbor that the neighbor was allowed to do that as long as her tree was not materially harmed. As a result, the owner is happy in that no more cutting has taken place.

Membership: Betty said it has been a slow real estate year with few new residents. She will be sending out the annual dues letter in mid-June.

Board Directors leaving: Hugh Neighbor has resigned because of an overseas assignment. This is the last meeting for Jane E. and for Betty (who will continue as Membership Chairman). At the July meeting Paul will turn the president's gavel over to Ralph.

List: Ralph distributed a list of topics, organizational affiliations, committees, and projects undertaken by the MCHI. He asked that he be informed if anything needs to be added.

Next Board meeting will be Monday, July 2 at Paul Wieland's house.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Hollan