

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc  
FINAL Minutes from the Board Meeting  
November 5, 2007

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

Absent (excused): Scott Schlegel, Wade Smith

Guests: John Barrer and Bill Parks, Hamlet Swim and Tennis Club

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the residence of Ralph Ward.

Hamlet Swim Club: John and Bill updated the Board on the status of the proposed renovations to the Clubhouse. The public hearing before the Fairfax County BZA to amend their Special Use Permit is scheduled for Dec. 11. Once BZA approval is obtained, the Club members will be polled for their final vote for proceeding. The Club Board of Directors has met several times with residents along Dunsinane Ct (who are opposed to the expansion based on expected additional traffic) in an effort to develop conditions that are acceptable to both parties. The Pool Board now plans to limit use of the meeting room being added to only 12 times per month (3 times per week) during the pool shoulder months of April, May, September and October and no later than 9 pm. Use during the Pool open season (June-August) will not be restricted (with regard to number of uses). The original plan was to enable use of the meeting during the entire year (which would also have necessitated heating the space) and later than 9 pm.

Minutes of the October meeting were accepted with additional editing out of specific addresses.

Budget Report: The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Membership: Memberships have been paid by 421 households. Based on a count of 507 McLean Hamlet addresses, that represents 83% paid.

Paul Rodgers demand letter: Hamlet resident, Paul Rodgers, sent a "demand letter" dated Oct. 11, 2007 alleging copyright infringement with respect to a Hamlet History article that was distributed on behalf of the McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc. Mr. Rodgers demanded an adequate remedy, including monetary damages, for the alleged copyright infringement. Mr. Rodgers sent the demand letter to Ralph Ward, President of McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc. (MHCI), Paul Wieland (MHCI), Rob Jackson, President, McLean Citizens Association (MCA), and Jan Auerbach (MCA). The demand letter alleges copyright infringement with respect to a Hamlet History that was written by Mr. Rodgers and claims that Mr. Rodgers' work was incorporated into a "derivative work" written by Mr. Wieland and included in an MCA Anthology. The letter demands an investigation and an adequate remedy, including monetary damages, the removal of the MCA Anthology and the Hamlet history authored by Mr. Wieland from the MCA and Hamlet websites, and the discontinuance of any further distribution of the publication in printed form. Alternatively, Mr. Rodgers wants \$32,000 for the continued use of the work he alleges

was included in the Anthology. The letter states that if a response suitable to Mr. Rodgers is not received, legal action might be taken. Both the MCA and MHCI are seeking legal advice, and the MHCI insurer was notified. As part of the investigation, all web-based copies of the Anthology and the Hamlet history have been removed and no additional hardcopies will be distributed or sold, pending resolution of the matter.

Roll call voting: A suggestion was made that perhaps it would be worthwhile to record Board meeting voting on a per-person basis. The consensus was that that was not necessary.

Complaints:

- The homeowner on Lear Rd has supposedly returned. A neighbor will try to talk with the owner about what is typically expected for yard maintenance during prolonged owner absences.
- A very small (loose dirt) dam was built in the stream at McLean Park by Hamlet kids which was deemed to be a problem by a nearby resident (due to potential flooding) who complained to the Board and Fairfax Park Authority. In mid-October, Park Authority personnel broke up the “dam.” Regardless, if residents see illegal activity, the police should be contacted first.
- Complaints continue about trash containers (mainly yard debris) being left at the curb for days. Residents should still be encouraged to schedule yard clean-up close(r) to trash service pick-up days and/or keep containers and trash bags out of sight, but it was recognized that disallowing containers being left by the curb for days was not practical. In related matter, the question was raised as to whether the “many” trash trucks servicing the Hamlet could be reduced if Fairfax County was brought in. Several Board members were quite satisfied by their existing service and did not want to change (per email discussions), thus this will not be pursued.
- Door-to-door solicitations by persons without a county license (or approval) are not permitted, much less after dark or during late evenings. However, the Board recognized that some “unauthorized” solicitations are often “ignored”, such as sale of Girl Scout Cookies or “Scouting for Food”. Dick can provide a copy of the code.

Hamlet Directory: The question was raised as to whether the Directory should be copyrighted. Joe Parisi would handle all the paperwork and the \$40 copyright fee would be paid from the budget. Copyrighting it would protect the format of the information presented (i.e., how the names, addresses and phone numbers are listed, but not the names and numbers themselves). Although no one had knowledge of untoward attempts to use the directory listing by others, the consensus was to proceed with copyrighting the Directory.

McLean Hamlet Park: Recent activity at McLean Hamlet Park has brought attention to this major community asset that appears to be underutilized. Surveys of the park suggest that several action programs should be initiated to preserve the forest, increase accessibility, and encourage activities that would bring more residents to the park. The Board was asked to consider endorsing a project of community participation to enhance the awareness of our largest park. Possible enhancements include: 1) requesting that the Park Authority clears the land at the entrance from Dusinane Court and installs “steps” down to the park level, 2) requesting that the Park Authority installs a hard surface path from the Macbeth entrance, connect to the Dusinane

entrance, and terminate at the south parking lot at the pool, 3) creating a section where dogs can run off the leash, and 4) initiating an Invasive Vine Management Program in coordination with the Park Authority. Several months ago, Wade Smith suggested that we make a formal request to the Fairfax County Park Authority for their help in achieving our goal to increase attendance at the park, since the County is looking for projects to enumerate for its next bond referendum. One of the most important first steps is to identify a chairman/project leader who can, for example, develop a volunteer work crew from adjacent residents at the park and the rest of the Hamlet, including boys in Scouting groups. Having that person be a Board member would be best. Ralph also suggested that we could contact (e.g., send a mailing) to those that live adjacent to the park announcing the program and the need for volunteers. The response might provide a guide to determine if sufficient volunteers would be available and one of them could be the project leader. No specific action items were voted on.

8203 Dunsinane: The owners have signed a contract with a building contractor. The house will be completely torn down and rebuilt.

Web Site: The new website continues to look better and a few tweaks here and there are being undertaken. The recommendation was made to keep only two months of Minutes on the website, but the board consensus was that several years should be kept on the website. Links would be made to the older Minutes. The link to the Directory was fine as it is. Linda will verify whether there can be automatic redirection of emails to, for example, [president@mcleanhamlet.org](mailto:president@mcleanhamlet.org) to that person's regular email address. If so, several such email addresses will be created and displayed (exactly which ones was not decided). All adjustments to the web site will be completed by Nov.10.

Peterson Companies: Peterson is still hopeful that they will succeed in getting approval for an exit slip onto Dulles Toll Road for the new building under construction on Lewinsville Rd.

A Village for the Aging: The Fairfax County has a "[50+ Action Plan](#)" website that offers a large amount of assistance and resources for residents age 50+. A chairman is needed to research the opportunity and serve as a leader.

Entrance Care: Keeping the entrance plants well-watered continues to be a problem. It was reconfirmed that plants that can survive on our natural, but limited, rainfall should be planted, in lieu of, for example, annual flowers.

The NEXT MEETING will be December 3 at 7:30 pm at Dick Coogan's house, 1307 Oberon Way.