

McLean Hamlet Citizens, Inc
FINAL Minutes from the Board Meeting
October 1, 2007

Present: Miguel Avila, Charlotte Basset Zimmerman, Rinaldo Campana Dick Coogan, Doug Colvard, Catherine Hollan, Benjamin Leung, Scott Schlegel, Linda Somogyi (by phone), Ralph Ward, and Paul Wieland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the residence of Doug Colvard.

Minutes of the September meeting were accepted without additional edits.

Budget Report: The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Board Membership: Doug Colvard was approved as Secretary and Cathy Hollan was approved as a member on the Board of Directors.

The Fall Picnic was a complete success. Total attendance is unknown. A method to count attendance will be set up next year. Compliments were received on the pony rides. So far, the picnic is under budget, but all receipts are not in. It was recommended that a better effort to keep the entrance clear be undertaken next year and that a reminder that any dogs brought be kept under control be sent with the Picnic announcement(s).

Web Site: Questions were raised about the functionality of a few of the links, so Linda will recheck them. Additional instruction on how to request information will be added for some of the links. www.mcleanhamlet.net is automatically rerouted to www.mcleanhamlet.org. Progress is being made on setting up the real estate section so that Dick can make entries. Public Safety/Report a Crime, will list emergency number. Board Meetings will show at least the last meeting. Opening a Board Meeting Minutes link should open the file in MS Word (on the user's computer). Board member names are being updated. The contact person for Babysitting will be corrected (to Mary Lusk Thompson).

The fall Newsletter was mailed on time and was a great issue, thanks to Paul's editorial contributions. It was discussed and agreed to continue sending the newsletter by mail.

Complaints continue about the Lear Rd property being vacant for several months. The owner spends several long periods out of the country, so continued efforts to promote neighborly relations was recommended. In the meantime, the grass was cut by a nearby neighbor. Complaints continued about an overloaded dumpster on Falstaff Rd. Dick is in contact with the absentee owner, who is having the interior renovated by a local contractor. There is a problem with lawn service contractors (and possibly homeowners) leaving cut grass at the curb until the next yard debris pick-up (which may be almost a week later). The suggestion was made to sending a letter to offending houses suggesting that they reschedule their service for a different day, or cut their grass on different day, or at least don't set their debris at the curb until the pick-up day; however, there is nothing in the Covenants regarding setting refuse/debris at curbside.

Dunsinane: A lot of interest continues about the “teardown house.” The owner is still considering options including expanding existing house (per Betty Grimes). One design being considered would be for a slightly wider house than existing house with a large extension to the rear. The new owner used to live in the Hamlet and wanted to return to a larger house.

Safety: At least one person has taken Dick’s suggestion to use her remote car alarm as a home alarm system when she thought she heard someone outside her house. Two break-ins have been reported recently, one during daylight hours. Both intruders entered through unlocked doors.

Storm Drain Runoff: No progress in the last month, although a detailed map of the Hamlet appears to show widening then narrowing drain diameters from Lewinsville Rd to the Dulles Toll Rd. Attempts continue to make progress through a higher level Fairfax County supervisor.

Membership: 396 of 507 (78%) households have paid, including 19 who paid at the picnic. After allowing two additional weeks, telephone calls will be made to the unpaid households. Charlotte has graciously volunteered to help by making those telephone calls. The Membership chairperson highly recommended mandatory dues. There was discussion about whether non-paying households should get all the benefits of paying households (save the picnic). It was recognized that homeowners have a vested interest, although some householders will remain a lost cause.

Peterson Companies: The Board was hopeful to hear that Peterson is trying to get approval for an exit slip onto Dulles Toll Road for their new building under construction on Lewinsville Rd.

Invasive Vine Management Program: A Hamnet reminder will be sent out calling for additional volunteers for this important program. The next work session at Falstaff Park will be Saturday, Oct. 6 at 10 am-12 noon.

Entrance Care: Keeping the entrance plants well-watered continues to be a problem. It was agreed that in the future, plants that can survive on our natural, but limited, rainfall should be planted.

HAMNET: 48 messages have been sent so far this year.

A Village for the Aging: Interest seems to be building. Ralph has received e-mails from two households that want to be put on the list when the project gets underway. A chairman is needed to research the opportunity.

McLean History Anthology: Two copies are available from Ralph Ward.

Large Item Trash Pick Up: This year’s event is Saturday, Oct. 6, from 8 am to Noon. A HAMNET reminder will be sent out.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizen’s Associations: The main topic of the September meeting was “Emergency Preparedness”, presented by the Chairman of the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council, Office of Emergency Management Emergency Preparedness. Emergency Preparedness

is more than having a preparedness kit. Resources including Ready.gov (a DHS endeavor), www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency, Citizen Corps Council, volunteer opportunities/ lessons learned, and "Pass It On". The "Pass It On?" concept is multi-fold, not to pass on the responsibility to others and to pass on the message.

Lewinsville Coalition: Paul passed along handouts from their September meeting. They are staying active and coordinating with Tyson's tunnel efforts.

MHCI Board Personnel: Everyone is encouraged to start looking for an assistant and recruit them as a back-up volunteer. This will assure continuity when the primary person is not present and offers the opportunity to test and train the backup person as your replacement. In that regard, Anne Mitchell, who was an active Board member previously, called to express her interest in becoming involved again.

The NEXT MEETING will be November 5 at 7:30 pm at Ralph Ward's home at 1309 Oberon Way.