

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
December 13, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Eve Arber, Councilmember  
Dan Macy, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember  
Cathie Polak, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Phyllis Daen, Resident  
D.P. Kirchner, Resident  
Mike Reidy, Viridian Energy  
Tom Glenn, Viridian Energy  
Tom Helf, Echo  
Ray Bodnarchuk, Resident  
Kathleen O’Hearn, Architect for 6000 Harvard Ave

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8 p.m.

**GLEN ECHO PARK (GEP)**

Mayor Beers reported from Polly Angelakis’ email:

- Winter’s Eve event, held on December 11, was very successful.
- Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS) held several Victorian greeting card workshops at the end November and early December; the workshops were well attended.
- Malcolm Willoughby has accepted a promotion to work at the National Park Service’s Harper’s Ferry Design Center in West Virginia. Phyllis Plater will be the interim maintenance supervisor until the position is filled.
- Aaron LaRocca has been hired as the supervisory Ranger and will be responsible for interpretation and visitor services; he begins the first week of January 2011.
- Eastern Mennonite University interns will begin working on the Glen Echo Park Oral History Project in January 2011.

Mayor Beers inquired about the Winters Eve event. Councilmember Long noted that there was no posted information about the event in the Park; she noted further that Park visitors constitute the principal constituency of supporters for the park and should receive program information on the park.

Councilmember Matney cited a letter and booklet delivered to homeowners whose property borders the George Washington Memorial Parkway reminding homeowners that it is illegal to remove trees from Park property. Discussion followed about what prompted the delivery; Councilmember Long will inquire at the Park for further information.

**VARIANCE – 6000 Harvard Ave.**

Resident Phyllis Daen explained to Council that she plans to build an addition to the rear of her home at 6000 Harvard Avenue. Kathleen O’Hearn, Architect for Ms. Daen, explained that a variance is required because the addition has two bay windows, one of which extends over the side lot line set back. Ms. O’Hearn noted that Montgomery County requires the homeowner to apply for an additional variance to cover the previous construction, which already extends over the side lot line set back (on the side overlooking the GWM Parkway). Ms. Daen requested that the Town write a letter in support of the variance.

Mayor Beers explained to Ms. Daen that the Town expects to be informed of variance applications prior to submission to the County. Mayor Beers asked if Council would propose a motion in support of the variance. There was no response from Council, except Councilmember Long stated that, if a vote were taken, she would recuse herself because she owns property contiguous to Ms. Daen’s property. She also registered concern for the potential for damage to the root system of her sycamore tree near the property line. Mayor Beers indicated that the Town will not take a position on the request at this time. Mayor Beers invited Ms. Daen to renew her request for a letter of support should it appear that Montgomery County approval was in question.

Ms. O’Hearn noted that a building permit application has been granted from Montgomery County for the addition without the second bay window. If the variance is approved, an amended building permit application will be filed.

**VIRIDIAN ENERGY**

Mike Reidy and Tim Glenn made a presentation, and answered questions about their company, Viridian, which recently began providing green energy in Maryland.

Discussion and comments:

- Viridian provides electricity to commercial and residential users, currently approximately 140,000 customers in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut.
- Viridian provides an energy cost savings of about 12% over a year’s time; 4.4% in winter, 8% during summer.
- Municipalities that sign up for Viridian’s service receive a credit of \$2.00 per month per individual end user. Mayor Beers asked what other towns in Maryland use Viridian. Edmonston and Laurel was the response.
- Viridian requires no contract or additional fees to switch from PEPCO. Customers would see a separate line item on PEPCO’s bill denoting the amount of electricity provided by Viridian.
- Viridian is an electricity contractor only, if there is a problem with delivery, Viridian users must still go through PEPCO for repair.
- Councilmember Long asked why Viridian is less costly as their representatives have stated. Viridian buys power on the open market and combines wind energy with dirty energy (coal, oil, nuclear). Viridian also has lower overhead costs to pass on to their users.

Mayor Beers suggested Viridian contact the Town office to arrange a date to Town present their proposal to residents and nearby communities.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2011-01** to approve as presented the November 8, 2010, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

### **TOWN HALL USE**

The annual Holiday Breakfast was a huge success with about 100 residents attending.

Council members Matney and Macy reported that the December movie was well attended. No movie is scheduled for January.

Councilmember Long noted an increase in requests from Town residents for lunch and dinner company holiday parties in December.

The month of January is well booked, particularly with continuous uses on January 14 thru 17.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

C/T Polak reported that the fall leaf collection is complete. Mayor Beers asked that, in the future, Peyton's Tree Service honor the final pick up date since several residents were rushing to get leaves to the curb by the advertised date.

Off-duty Montgomery County Police have been hired to monitor the stop sign at Oxford Road and University Avenue. They will be there on a random schedule from Thursday through Sunday evenings at a total cost of about \$1000/month. C/T Polak will provide stop sign camera information at the January council meeting.

### **GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH ANNEX**

Mayor Beers noted that the Town has not yet received an email from Bill Cannon concerning the sale of the Glen Echo Baptist Church Annex. Mr. Canon told Mayor Beers that the Church as had an offer of \$3-400,000 for the Annex and that the Church would like the Town to have a chance to make a higher bid. The Mayor will call Mr. Canon. Councilmember Macy asked if the property has been listed with a realtor; Mayor Beers did not know.

### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

1. Suspicious person in town: Council members inquired if there was a follow-up on the suspicious person seen near the Baptist Church. (See December 2010 "Echo.") There were none.
2. Canal Towns: Councilmember Long made copies of a brochure, "Canal Towns" along the C&O Canal towpath, which is now part of the Great Allegheny Passage. (see attached). C/T Polak inquired if Glen Echo is considered a Canal Town; Councilmember Long said it is not.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.