

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
Town Council Meeting  
November 12, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Deborah Beers, Mayor  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Eve Arber, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember  
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember  
Nicole Fraser, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Matt Stiglitz, Resident  
Donna Cuttone, Acting Site Supervisor of GEP<sup>1</sup> & Clara Barton

NHS

Gloria Levin, Resident  
Tisha Anderson, Resident  
Diana Hudson-Taylor, Resident  
Catherine & Stephen Hathaway, Residents  
Phyllis Fordham, The Echo Editor and resident  
Patricia Sieber, The Echo reporter

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

NPS Ranger Donna Cuttone, temporary Site Manager of GEP, announced that the new Shooting Gallery Display has gone through the compliance process, and that NPS is developing an “app” as part of interpretation for Clara Barton NHS. October 27<sup>th</sup> was the Fall Frolic at GEP. Clara Barton NHS has announced the greeting card workshops. Hurricane “Sandy” passed through uneventfully with one limb down in the park. Ms. Cuttone said that the condition of the Clara Barton House is “pitiful.” Mayor Beers asked if there were any funds forthcoming to help with restoration. Ms. Cuttone responded that NPS funding comes from Congress and is primarily for day-to-day operations with most going to salary; there is not enough remaining for extensive restoration projects.

Clerk/Treasurer Fraser requested that the Oxford Road-GEP parking lot entrance rerouting proposal be submitted to the NPS Project Management Information Service in time for the December deadline as Mr. LaRocca proposed in October. Councilmember Long said that at one point several years ago, when the entrance to the GEP parking lot was under discussion, there was a well-attended public meeting in the Town Hall at which Town residents preferred the entrance to be where it is now. However, there now appears to be a change in the feeling of town residents. Councilmember Long said she hoped that NPS

---

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used in this document include DPS (Department of Permitting Services) FSGW (Folklore Society of Greater Washington), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture), MML (Maryland Municipal League), NHS (National Historic Site), NHP (National Historical Park), NP (National Park), NPS (National Park Service) and Washington Gas (WG).

park management would give the issue due consideration. Mayor Beers said that she would appreciate another opportunity for a public meeting before any final decision is made.

Ms. Long asked if GEPPAC planned to recommend any changes in the language in the agreement document between Montgomery County and the NPS. Ms. Cuttone said that she and Ms. Katey Boerner, Executive Director for GEPPAC, have agreed to meet for a discussion. Mayor Beers requested that NPS GEP be proactive in the meeting with GEPPAC.

### **NATURAL GAS**

Catherine and Stephen Hathaway announced that 40 residents have returned “load letters” indicating interest (or no interest) in bringing natural gas to Glen Echo. Five residents have said “no interest” and 30 have confirmed interest of which 24 have indicated that they plan to include a furnace. Ms. Hathaway requested that all residents return the form even if they have no interest so that they have an accurate count. The goal for the return of the load letter is the end of November to send them on to WG. Matt Stiglitz asked if the load letter is a firm commitment to natural gas conversion and appliances. Ms. Hathaway said no, the letter is a statement of interest only. Councilmember Arber asked if it was likely that WG would be able to get a permit to cross MacArthur Boulevard. Diana Hudson-Taylor said that the WG indicated that while the process was lengthy, they felt assured of eventual approval. Councilmember Matney suggested that it might be more challenging to bring natural gas into Glen Echo than Brookmont as Brookmont has reinforced areas of MacArthur Boulevard. Ms. Hudson-Taylor said that WG is aware that they have more hoops to jump through to bring gas lines to Glen Echo. Mayor Beers pointed out that even if residents are unwilling to make the expenditure to convert to natural gas immediately she believes it would help increase property values. Mr. Stiglitz asked what amount would the Town be able to contribute. Mayor Beers said that Council needed to discuss it. Councilmember Arber said that she knows that some residents feel that the Town shouldn't pay for it all but WG should pay for it. Gloria Levin asked if it was possible that while the gas lines were installed if other utilities could be sunk underground. Mayor Beers said it would be cost prohibitive, and with a few exceptions, Glen Echo's power outages are not caused by fallen lines. Phyllis Fordham said that she had two questions 1) what is the extent of interest in Town and 2) how much would it cost to bring the gas from the meter to the appliances. Mayor Beers said that it was hoped that the Town could get a group contract to defray the individual costs for hook up.

### **GEPPAC**

Mayor Beers announced that the proposal to amend GEPPAC bylaws to change the relationship would be subject with the Town is going forward. The bylaws do not take away the Town's vote but subject the Town representative to term limits and would be ineligible to hold office. Councilmember Long said that term limits for the Town representative to GEPPAC does not make sense as the Town is an incorporated local government entity and with GEP lying within Town, the Town's relationship is significantly different from that of a citizens association, like Bannockburn. Ms. Levin

asked if the Town provides land for the activities Washington Folk Festival. Mayor Beers said that the FSGW normally makes a request but they did not this year [*N.B.* – GEPPAC used the Town’s land without explicit permission for the 2012 Folk Festival]. Mayor Beers noted that the Bannockburn and Glen Echo GEPPAC board members are not subject to the “Give or Get” requirement of \$3,000. After discussion, Mayor Beers said that she would vote against the proposed bylaws at the direction of Council and make clear the Town’s opposition.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2012-22** to accept the October 2012 Council Meeting minutes with two changes:

- 1) Under Natural Gas Presentation by WG, first paragraph, last sentence, removal of “how.”
- 2) Under MML Report, point 5 addition of “child care commission, solid waste advisory and pedestrian and traffic advisory.”

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long announced an informational session to be led by C&O Canal National Historical Park superintendent Kevin Brandt, on Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>. He will answer any questions and update upcoming canal projects. Two weeks ago, Mr. Brandt hoped to be ready to announce the completion of repair to the break near the Old Angler’s Inn. Mayor Beers said that it would be helpful if Mr. Brandt could address the trees in the canal, lack of water, growth of algae and overall diminution in wildlife. Councilmember Long noted that the bridge over the canal at Sycamore Island also needed to be addressed.

#### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY ZONING AMENDMENT HEARING**

Mayor Beers noted that the hearing for the zoning text amendment (ZTA 12-16) introduced by County Councilmember Nancy Floreen which would allow that any lot platted before 1928 which is less than 5,000 sq feet may be built on, would take place tomorrow November 13. In Glen Echo, the effect would be that the potential housing density could double or triple and destroy the character of the Town. Mayor Beers met with County Councilmembers Floreen, Leventhal and Elrich as part of the PHED (Planning, Housing & Economic Development) committee. Town Attorney, Norman Knopf drafted the Town’s testimony. The average lot size in Glen Echo is 2500-3500 square feet. In the past, the Town has resisted efforts to build on small lots. For example, the cul-de-sac on Upper Bryn Mawr was first proposed to contain five townhouses. The Town successfully lobbied so that two detached single family homes were built. In Cabin John, a series of seven contiguous small lots have no houses on them and the builder is petitioning the County Council to build on each of these small lots. The builder has created a coalition of other building interests including the builders’ association. At this time, the Town is the only entity opposing the amendment. Mayor Beers discussed this with Roger Berliner and reiterated that this Council district is the only one that will be gravely affected by the ZTA 12-16. Mayor Beers felt that opposing this legislation is vital to keep the current housing density in Town and worth the potential legal fees to fight it.

Mr. Knopf has reached an agreement with the Cabin John builder and his lawyer, Soo Lee-Cho, but the builder's association will not go along with the proposed changes.

Mayor Beers said on a related note, the property at 6100 Princeton received permission from the County to demolish the current home and build the home proposed in the plans presented in March 2012 by Robin Kogelnik. She has both her county and town permits and will proceed. Mr. Knopf and Ms. Kogelnik's lawyer, Soo Lee-Cho, met and discussed the plans. Mr. Knopf has also been in touch with the owners of the accessory structure at 6005 Princeton. Mr. McFarland has agreed to get a county permit and to decrease the height of the structure from 18 to 15 feet to be in compliance with county Code. Mr. Knopf will follow up with DPS on this issue.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

**Motion 2012-23** to approve the purchase of 100 48 gallon recycling bins (referred to as "Toters"). Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stiglitz asked if there was any progress on soliciting landscape contractors in the area. Clerk-Treasurer Fraser had approached Hughes but did not have a figure yet. Council advised her to contact McFall & Berry, John Shorb and Green Gardens as other potential candidates. Councilmember Long noted that some of the plantings provided by Chapel Valley around the Town Hall this year were superior to those of the previous year.

### **COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

Matt Stiglitz reported that the police advisory board met last Tuesday and reviewed crime statistics in various communities. In our area, thefts from automobiles are the most frequent crime. With the holiday season approaching, Mr. Stiglitz asked residents to lock their cars. Several day time burglaries have occurred when residents briefly left their homes unlocked. On the Capital Crescent Trail, three incidents have taken place: a robbery, a sexual assault and a stabbing/assault. As a result, the police are considering a camera in the tunnel on the Capital Crescent Trail and occasional posting of motorcycle policeman at the tunnel entrance.

### **MML REPORT**

Councilmember Matney reported from the latest MML meeting, a joint meeting with Montgomery County Council regarding the state microgrid project. Discussed at the meeting:

- Transportation funds from the State have virtually disappeared; municipalities expressed concern that they might be penalized later if they found non-state funds for transportation projects.
- A new state educational maintenance law requires a set amount of funds per student. At present, Montgomery County spends more per student than the new state law. The County will seek a waiver to the requirement.
- Funds for the Capital Crescent Trail and the Purple Line are under threat.

Town Council Minutes

November 12, 2012

Page 5

- MML is looking for options to address the tax duplication issue. The County views that some of these revenues are optional to share with municipalities.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk

---

Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

---

Date