

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Willem Polak, Mayor
Dia Costello, Councilmember
Dan Spealman, Councilmember
Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Susan Ladani Clerk - Treasurer

VISITORS: Alex Boyar
Debbie Beers
Leah Hertz
Jan Shaut
Blair Anderson
Holly Shimizu
Aaron Hirsch
Gloria Levin
Emily Parsons
Mary Parsons
Renny Springuel
Edie Springuel
Raya Bodnarchuk

Mayor Polak called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2018 - 2 Was made by Councilmember Matt Stiglitz to approve the January 8, 2017 Town Council Minutes as amended. The following edits were made to the minutes, "Councilmember Stiglitz clarified that the second sentence of Motion 2018 -1 should be struck" the remainder of the Motion shall stand. "Councilmember Stiglitz clarified that the GEPPAC annual gift budget of \$2,000.00 was unanimously approved". "Councilmember Spealman clarified that non-profit organizations seeking to use the Town Hall for movie night need to complete an application to be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if the Town Hall fee will be waived". Councilmember Stiglitz voted in favor and Councilmember Costello seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

31 WELLESLEY CIRCLE

Mr. Alex Boyar indicated that the 31 Wellesley will be changed to 6004 Cornell. Status of permits: Right of Way permit issued, application for building permit will be submitted next week along with the required bond form in the amount of \$2,500.00. To further clarify, Mr. Boyar stated the bond would be in the form of a check made out to The Town of Glen Echo and held until completion of construction. In addition, site setbacks were confirmed to be 25'. The Mayor asked Mr. Boyar if he intended to occupy the home upon completion, Mr. Boyar indicated yes, he does.

NPS MATTERS - AARON LARocca

The Park Service representative Mr. LaRocca was unable to attend the meeting.

Broken Pipe - A 6" - 8" pipe on Oxford Rd. burst last week, flooding & requiring portions of Clara Barton Parkway to be shut down for a few hours due to safety concerns. In addition, The Mayor's residence sustained \$3,600.00 of damage. WSSC shut off the water and made the necessary repairs to the pipe.

Alarm System - When triggered signals a central station who in turn contacts the Fire department and Police. There is a redundant alarm "buzzer" on the outside of the house which notifies the neighbors within a few blocks.

The Mayor asked to have this "buzzer" removed or disabled since the alarm system has already contacted the proper authorities it should not be the responsibility of The Town residents to contact them.

Boulders' Status - Renovation work is incomplete at this time. Fencing and safety barricades have fallen down and need to be addressed.

The Glen Echo Partnership Agreement is due for renewal in June 2018 and is currently being discussed / negotiated between The Park Service and Montgomery County.

Misc. issues - Previous Mayor - Debbie Beers indicated that there are substantially large "potholes" on Clara Barton Parkway that create a safety issue to motorists. Mayor Polak will notify Mr. Romero of the issue, however, he stated that Mr. Romero is most likely already aware of the problem and is working on a solution.

RIGHT OF WAY STATUS - RON BOLT

Mr. Bolt reported the licenses have been signed by the three lot owners on Wellesley Circle to use portions of the Wellesley Right of Way. Mr. Bolt will have the approvals recorded in Land records this week.

TOWN HALL MATTERS

Termites - Termites have been discovered in the wood paneling, cabinets, walls and floors in the council chambers and will need to be exterminated. Treatment will be performed on affected areas only. All chemicals to be used are non-toxic.

Air Duct Cleaning - In addition to cleaning the air ducts “black mold” was discovered which will need to be remediated as well - Clerk Treasurer is soliciting additional bids for this work.

Storage Space for Files Pre- 2011- The cost to move files to an off-site storage facility is approximately \$200.00 per month. Councilmember Costello questioned if tax records prior to 2011 are required to be stored. Councilmember Matt Stiglitz indicated that records must be maintained / destroyed in accordance with the document retention schedule approved by the state archivist and Maryland law data security policy. Councilmember Stiglitz requested this issue be tabled for further discussion.

Laptop - On hold for future discussion.

ORDINANCE MATTER - ARTICLE 2, ANIMAL CONTROL

Chickens at Anderson Residence - The Mayor stated there is a standing ordinance prohibiting the housing of Chickens in The Town. However, we have a situation where a resident is housing chickens on their property and a decision must be made for how to deal with them.

Councilmember Dia Costello indicated she has received several complaints from neighbors regarding unsanitary conditions related to the housing of chickens within a residential area such as attracting rats and vermin. Additional considerations are noise, and unpleasant smells produced by the chickens.

Blair Anderson was informed of the ordinance prohibiting the housing of chickens in The Town via email in 2016. In addition, they were cited in 2016 by Montgomery County. Ron Bolt indicated that the citation was initially withdrawn by the inspector if Blair installed wheels on the coop. The Town challenged this decision and instructed the County to continue with prompt action.

There was significant discussion by members of the public who spoke both in favor of allowing chickens as well as against. Those against cited potential problems with rats/vermin, unpleasant odors, noise, chickens who escape into neighbors' yards, and unsanitary conditions. Several citizens commented that regardless of whether

people think that chickens should be allowed, as long as the current ordinance prohibits them, the ordinance should be followed and the chickens removed.

Mayor Polak informed Mr. Anderson that three weeks from today he needs to find sanctuary for the chickens, remove them from the property and comply with the current ordinance. Mr. Anderson agreed to do so.

Mayor Polak stated the issue will be reviewed further considering similar ordinances from surrounding communities we will also discuss the issue with The Town residence to determine if there is any interest in revising the current ordinance.

Mr. Ron Bolt indicated no fines will be imposed at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE - COUNCILMEMBER SPEILMAN

Traffic Studies - Dan asked for any traffic studies performed in the past to be shared with the committee. Mayor Polak will look for any studies that may have been performed for The Town and share them with the committee at the next Council meeting.

Crosswalk signal at MacArthur and Princeton - Councilmember Stiglitz provided an update concerning the proposed crosswalk. Currently in discussion with County engineer regarding type of crosswalk and signaling mechanism to be installed, given withdrawal by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation of certification of the the original version that was planned by the county DOT.

Stop Sign at University- This item to be included on future agendas for discussion.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

HOLLY SHIMUZU The Town is now registered with Sustainable Maryland. The next step is to become certified which typically takes 2-3 years. A few things to consider which came up during the registration process, as recommendations:

1. Would the Town like to develop a green purchasing policy and purchase recycled products?

- a. Councilmember Costello indicated that she would like to see the average monthly cost of paper products prior to deciding to purchase recycled products. The Mayor said we can talk to Stacey and have her pull up the cost for the past few months.
 - b. The scope of recycled products which meet the intent of the Green initiative is not published, it is more of a philosophy which grows and develops with the changing needs of The Town. Holly to provide samples of similar purchasing policies at the next Council meeting.
2. Does the Town have resources / money to commit to projects such as rain gardens?
 3. Would the Town be willing to commit to planting native plants right of way?
 - a. It was agreed that The Town would like to move forward with Native plantings especially in the Right of Way area.

Holly asked if there is a contact person she can work with to publish information on the website letting the residents know how they can get involved with green initiatives such as the rain gardens, composting and other things people have expressed interest in. Susan Ladani Clerk - Treasure stated any information we want to publish to The Town website needs to be given to the Webmaster in an acceptable format and as complete as possible. The Webmaster will review the information and let us know the cost involved prior to proceeding.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – GLORIA LEVIN

The Glen Echo Fire Department located on Massachusetts and Sangamore is a hybrid Fire Department comprised of volunteer and career Firemen to provide 24-hour service 7 days a week.

The Town is the only municipality in the area covered by the Fire Department all other all others are neighborhood associations.

The Fire Department will be holding a “Leaders Meeting” which will include key people from the surrounding neighborhood associations to inform them about the Fire Department and generate financial support.

It was agreed raising money for the Fire Department is a good cause and should be investigated further.

A bit of history regarding the establishment of the Glen Echo Fire Department. Apparently, the Department was formed in 1933 following the Moxley fire in 1930 which took the lives of Mr. Moxley's wife and five children. It is believed that the site of the fire is now occupied by the Inn at Glen Echo. The Glen Echo Fire Department has indicated they would like to hold a commemoration ceremony and present a plaque to be hung in the Inn recognizing the site and circumstances that precipitated the formation of the Glen Echo Fire Department. They have spoken with the Inn and they are willing to accept the plaque and hang it in a prominent area visible to the public.

LIVABLE TOWN COMMITTEE/SURVEY

Councilman Spealman distributed copies of the results of a survey which had been distributed to residents of the town.

The committee received 78 responses out of which 30 included contact information which indicates a strong response.

Survey highlights of the sorts of ideas that attracted votes from those polled:

- Composting received a lot of votes
- Assistance for the Elder residents
- Registry of people that need their sidewalks cleared
- Town entrance signs
- Park swing
- Affordable housing
- Additional classes in Town Hall
- Trash cans and dog bags
- Recommendation for municipal broadband

In addition, the survey provides feedback on 18 specific questions that were asked. Looking at the graph strong support is indicated if rising to the right and less support if rising to the left, a bell curve indicates significant ambivalence, a flat line indicates divided opinions and a dip indicates opposing opinions.

Most popular votes - sorted top to bottom:

- Block parties
- Kids movies

- Volunteer days
- Better access to the canal
- Town Hall improvements
- Additional business and services to The Town
- Lights festival
- Community garden
- Rain garden

The Committee suggested focusing on the areas with the highest level of support such as holding additional block parties starting this spring.

In terms of kid's movies, the first kids movie night had a significant turn out. The committee would like to recommend this on a quarterly basis with the support of the council.

Volunteer days could be focused around planting and NPS functions.

Canal improvements is a much more complex issue requiring more research no recommendations currently.

Town Hall improvements: The committee members are willing to pitch in as necessary, but just need direction from the Council regarding scope and priority.

Attracting additional businesses and services to the Town. This is more or less dependent of the outcome of land use recommendations for properties, no recommendations at this time.

Lights festival probably would not happen until the fall or winter of next year, so this item will be tabled for now.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mayor Polak conveyed his gratitude to everyone for their support and participation in the roundtable discussion this past Saturday the entire Council attended, and it was a huge success.

Pepco visited Renny Springuel's home and indicated that they will be removing a diseased tree from his yard.

Minutes from past meetings did not have attachments and were not posted on-line. Meeting minutes will be posted on-line once approved and will include handouts and documents reviewed or discussed at the meeting.

Jan Shaut inquired about the status of the mini library. It is built, and Carol Barton can paint it - it needs to be picked up or moved to her house for painting.

Motion 2018 – 3 was made by Councilmember Matt Stiglitz to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Dia Costello seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ladani, Clerk – Treasurer

Willem Polak, Mayor

Date 02/12/2018