

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2009**

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manger, Glen Echo Park (GEP)
Sophie Keefer, Echo Reporter
Matt Stiglitz Resident
Glen Echo Baptist Church (GEBC) Representative

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Ms. Angelakis reported on recent and upcoming events in the Park:

- Summer camps were very successful.
- The Labor Day Art Show was a great success. Kudos were offered to Councilmember Long for her tireless and continuing support of, and work during, the art show. The Labor Day Art Show is the longest continuing event under the National Park Service (NPS) at the Park. The show has been at the Park since 1971.
- On September 11, AARP volunteers worked in the carrousel. On September 26, candlelight tours will be offered at the Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS); a new Friends group there will use the event to recruit new members.
- “Then and Wow!” festival will return to the Park on September 27. The historical exhibit in the Popcorn Gallery is receiving high praises. Arranged by the NPS staff at GEP/CBNHS, it traced the history of the two sites from the late 1800s to the present with photographs; copies of letters, documents, newspaper articles; videos; and artifacts (including an original Baltsley brothers eggbeater).
- There will be a GEPPAC member/donor event on September 17. Councilmember Long recalled that the number reported at the GEPPAC meeting was 200 members. Ms. Angelakis thought the number was closer to 600 members.

C/T Polak told Ms. Angelakis that cars continue to drive over the new drain on Oxford Road to exit the overflow grassy parking area in the lower lot, noting that there is a chain that could be connected between two bollards on each side of the drain.

Councilmember Long asked about the replacement shingles on the newly restored Caretakers Cottage roof. Ms. Angelakis said that skateboarders continue to be attracted to the area and may be responsible for the damage. The NPS has added temporary fencing

and plans plantings to make the area behind the cottage less accessible. The Park is also providing information on nearby skateboarding areas.

Oxford Road Permit Meeting

Ms. Angelakis asked if the Town has received the NPS permit to move forward with the Oxford Road repairs. Mayor Beers said documents are circulating via email. Ms. Angelakis offered her assistance, if needed.

Mayor Beers, Town attorney Norman Knopf, Council members Long and Arber, and C/T Polak met with GWMP Superintendent Dottie Marshall, GWMP Specialist Ben Helwig, and an attorney from the Solicitors office earlier today (September 14) to discuss the permit the NPS feels is required for excavating on Oxford Road in preparation for road repairs. The discussion centered on ownership of Oxford Road, NPS or the Town. The representative from the Solicitors Office, Department of Interior, asserted attorney/client privilege when asked to present proof of ownership of Oxford Road. The NPS position is that they own the fee interest under the road, and that the Town has surface rights to maintain rebuild, and police the Road.

Mayor Beers summarized the Park's position on Oxford Road that the "Town may own Oxford Road but the land under Oxford Road belongs to GEP." NPS officials said that, under the Antiquities Act, the NPS must have access to a disturbed area (i.e., Oxford Road) for the town to receive clearance to repair Oxford Road.

In the interest of moving the street repair project forward, Mr. Knopf proposed that they should "agree to disagree" and the language of the permit should be amended to reflect that, in signing the permit, the Town does not admit ownership by NPS. NPS officials agreed that once the language is agreed upon, the permit could be issued so that work could start as early as next week.

The Solicitors Office and Mr. Knopf will work through acceptable language and send the final documents to Mayor Beers.

GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH (GEBC)

A GEBC representative told council that the GEBC is still looking for ways to become part of Town life. She suggested the Town could use the Annex as a storage facility for supplies for emergency preparedness programs.

Councilmember Macy commended the church offer family portraits, similar to the pet photography offered last fall, as a community outreach this year.

Residents may use the GEBC parking lot during the street repair project.

Councilmember Long inquired if Kelly Bohi was able to use the church for Girl Scout (Daisy Troop) meetings; the troop is meeting monthly at the church.

GEBC invited residents to a community cook-out at the church on October 4.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

C/T Polak reported that the street repair project is progressing. No time line schedule for individual streets is available until after the Oxford Road issues are solved. Most of the sidewalks have been repaired. The concrete subcontractor will return to town to complete the sidewalks and curb/gutters on Oxford Road and any additional blocks overlooked in the beginning survey.

Resident Sharon Lerner, who will be moving in October, has inquired as to when the work will be scheduled near her home; she is concerned about access for the moving van. There is no specific date at this time.

Specific issues/questions brought to Council on the repair project were:

Q: Richard Leggin has requested that the speed hump on Oberlin Avenue be removed.

A: Remove the speed hump only if there are no additional costs. Councilmember Arber voiced concern about removing the speed hump and supports keeping it too slow the traffic on Oberlin Avenue. Councilmember Long noted it was placed there because resident son Oberlin were concerned about speeding and wreck less driving on Oberlin.

Q: How does Council want to treat the proposed raised cross walk/speed hump issue at University Avenue and Oxford Road.

A: A speed hump is to be placed before the Oxford Road cross walk with "STOP" painted before the speed hump; eliminate the raised cross walk, remove and keep the existing speed bumps for possible future use.

Q: The Irish Inn has asked that parking be available next to the Irish Inn (the area has been yellow striped for no parking).

A: Council was unclear as to the reason for restricted parking but agreed that, provided there is enough room for emergency vehicles to pass, the area should be open to the public for parking.

Councilmember Matney questioned why the new curb/gutter stopped near the drain at the intersection of Oberlin and Bowdoin Avenue; the drain belongs to the NPS and is their responsibility to repair. (Note: Land near and around the drain is owned by the NPS. See the attached map provided by Montgomery County.) He also suggested that an extension to complete the street project might be warranted because of the addition of work on upper Princeton Avenue. (Note: October 20, 2009, is the date to complete the street repair project. The contractor can be docked \$500/day if not completed by that date.)

A: Morton Thomas (AMT) has requested overtime pay for Frank Speaks, project inspector representing the Town and AMT. There were no objections from Council; Councilmember Matney asked to be informed of additional over time expenses.

Mayor Beers said she feels the additional expense for the AMT on-site inspector has been worth the expense. Mr. Speaks has been very involved in every step of the project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 2009 minutes will be tabled until the next Council meeting. C/T Polak asked that Council members send their changes to the minutes electronically

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long said there will be a Chautauqua event on October 13; Lyn Dworsky will be giving a presentation related to her n(se2cpea)l (1)-1fi ren

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Glen Echo resolves that:

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO DEBT POLICY

1. The Town will incur long-term debt only for the purpose of capital projects that the Council finds necessary or appropriate to be financed by such debt.
2. The Town will not use long-term debt to finance current operating costs.
3. A capital project financed through debt will not be financed for longer than the expected useful life of the project.
4. Short-term debt may be used to provide interim financing in conjunction with long-term financing for capital projects and for cash flow or emergency situations.
5. Any borrowing of funds will be authorized by the Town Council and be for purposes specified by the Town Council.
6. Debt service expenditures will be limited to 15% of the three year average of annual budgeted expenditures or 15% of the three year average of annual revenues, whichever is greater. These limits may be exceeded in an emergency as determined by at least 4 members of the Town Council.
7. The Town will not enter into derivative contracts.
8. The Town will not issue bonds.
9. This debt policy may be amended at any time by the Town Council.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Request for more police monitoring: C/T Polak again brought up a request for a greater presence of the Montgomery County Police in Town. Mayor Beers indicated that she would write a letter to the appropriate authorities.
2. Echo editors: Jim and Sally McGunnigle have agreed to manage the editorial portion of The Echo; Andrew Beers will be production editor.
3. C&O Canal: Mayor Beers noted the lack of water in the canal at several locations, including the area below the Sycamore Store. Councilmember Long said that there is no water above lock 8 because of a cave-in. Councilmember Long said that she will inquire about the lack of water but feels the attention has been diverted to the fund-raising activities of the C&O Canal Trust.
4. Brockie Stevenson, a long-time Glen Echo resident, died at his home on September 1. The Council offered its condolences.

Meeting adjourned 9:20.

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Polak