

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
Town Council Meeting
December 10, 2012

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

VISITORS: Donna Cuttone, Acting Site Supervisor of GEP¹ & Clara Barton
NHS
Gloria Levin, Resident
Angela & Aaron Hirsch, Future residents
Nick Lambert, Resident
Catherine & Stephen Hathaway, Residents
Gerry Bodlander, The Echo reporter

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Donna Cuttone, acting site supervisor of GEP, reported that the park staff has been busy learning new software to manage finances and programs. Ms. Cuttone noted that staffing is down at GEP, no supervisor or curator (she is at Arlington House) at present and two other are furloughed positions. Ms. Cuttone reported that due to the staffing shortages that the weekend programs have been modified (*e.g.*, the Candy Corner hours) but still fulfilling the catalogue requirements.

Ms. Cuttone stated that Clara Barton NHS tours might be under review. She feels that Clara Barton NHS is a specific destination for visitors. Clara Barton House has about 8,000 visitors a year (averaging about 3 visitors a day at a cost of \$16/person to give the tours). For comparison, Arlington House has 500,000 visitors per year. Ms. Cuttone suggested that instead of 7 tours per day in the winter, 4 tours per day would be sufficient to meet visitor demand.

Ms. Cuttone said that the Victorian Greeting card workshop was well attended.

Ms. Cuttone said that Clara Barton NHS is on schedule for a fire suppression system within the next year; the house will close temporarily and need to be emptied out.

¹ Abbreviations used in this document include GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture), GWMP (George Washington Memorial Parkway), NHS (National Historic Site) and Washington Gas (WG).

Mayor Beers asked if the proposed shared-use path would be through the upper parking lot. Ms. Cuttone said that it will not be through the parking lot but where the trolley line used to be.

Ms. Cuttone said that the Shooting Gallery exhibit is in house and will be installed by the end of the week.

Councilmember Long asked if there was any news about the next GWMP superintendent or the GEPPAC partnership agreement. Ms. Cuttone said that there was no news about the next superintendent but she said that she and Katey Boerner were working through the partnership agreement. Ms. Cuttone said that she and Ms. Boerner had determined that there was no dance ranger needed until April 1st, also projects requiring compliance reviews are coming up to including to repair the path to one of the yurts and to replace boards on the carousel platform turntable that must be completed by spring.

Ms. Cuttone said that she could find nothing in Polly Angelakis's office related to the exit/entrance route on Oxford Road into the GEP parking lot. She noted that there will be a new acting site manager on January 26, 2013 for another three months, there also might be a third acting site manager in 2013.

AARON & ANGELA HIRSCH NEW OWNERS OF BAPTIST CHURCH ANNEX

Aaron and Angela Hirsch introduced themselves to Council and Mayor and announced that they will close the sale of the Baptist Annex on Thursday. Early plans for the site include renovation of the structure, keeping the roof line, and digging out the basement.

Councilmember Long asked if the Hirsches intend to live in it themselves. Mr. Hirsch said yes, he and his family intend to live in the property after renovation. Ms. Levin asked if the lot line issue had been resolved. Mr. Hirsch said that it was resolved before he made an offer on the property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of November minutes were tabled until January.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long noted that the holiday party was well attended. The FSGW-English Country Dance Group has offered to tune and put new casters on the piano at their expense; the Council agreed to this offer and expressed thanks to FSGW for this service.

Councilmember Long noted that this group is the primary, once a week, user of the piano. Ms. Hathaway thanked Councilmember Long for the extraordinary lengths she went to to keep her surprise party for her husband a secret.

NATURAL GAS UPDATE

Ms. Hathaway reported that the load letters for the Washington Gas were sent by overnight mail last week to Ms. Anne Kern. She received 68 responses:

- 15 residents had no desire to participate

- 41 residents committed to gas heat
- another 7 residents committed to other appliances
- 3 residents wished to wait to commit after the final numbers were known

Ms. Hathaway reported that WG offered two scenarios of pricing. The first scenario was based on commitment to gas heat:

- with 93 residents, the cost to the town would be \$30,550;
- with 47 residents, the cost to the town would be \$140,600;
- with 31 residents, the cost to the town would be \$178,881.

The second scenario was based on solely a commitment to gas based water heating:

- with 93 residents, the cost to the town would be \$269,731;
- with 47 residents, the cost to the town would be \$278,340;
- with 31 residents, the cost to the town would be \$303,092.

NOTIFICATION OF TREE REMOVAL AT 15 VASSAR

The Town received a letter from Jim and Sally McGunnigle at 15 Vassar informing the town of their intent to remove an American Elm tree on the border of the property with Ms. Nancy Long. Councilmember Long noted that she is concerned as the tree is on the property line she shares with the McGunnigles. She wishes to confirm the condition of the tree and will discuss the matter with the McGunnigles. Mayor Beers pointed out that the Town has no say on the matter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk

Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

Date

Attached: Gas survey update
Tree at 15 Vassar