

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING
March 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Debbie Beers, Mayor
 Nancy Long, Councilmember
 Steve Matney, Councilmember
 Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember
 Matt Stiglitz, Councilmember
 Nicole Fraser, Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: Aaron LaRocca, Supervisory Park Ranger, GEP/CBNHS¹
 Alex Harris, prospective Eagle Scout
 Gloria Levin, resident
 Jim McGunnigle, resident and The Echo reporter
 Brent Agnew, resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Supervisory Park Ranger Aaron LaRocca reported that GWMP realignment is moving forward. The supervisory park ranger position at GEP will cease to exist under the new framework. In the future, a management assistant position would be responsible for community meetings and would be based at GWMP's Turkey Run site. Mr. LaRocca presented a letter to be sent to Mr. Christy Hughes, owner of the Irish Inn, to allow temporary parking on March 17th 2014 on the NPS owned land facing Bowdoin Avenue.

Mr. LaRocca's notes are attached to the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2014-09 Council approved the February Meeting minutes with the following revisions:

- 1) Under 37 Wellesley Circle discussion, first paragraph, fifth sentence, to be changed to: "The maximum height will be 35 feet high (average height will be 26 feet)."
- 2) Under 37 Wellesley Circle discussion, first paragraph, sixth sentence removal of "and construction is due to start at the end of February or beginning of March."
- 3) Under 37 Wellesley Circle discussion, first paragraph, to be added "Councilmember Long stated that she no longer owns the land at 37 Wellesley Circle and feels that the house is too big."
- 4) Under AT-MTC discussion, first paragraph, first sentence, insertion of "financial" after "current."
- 5) Under AT-MTC discussion, first paragraph, second to last sentence, removal of "that."
- 6) Under Town Hall Use discussion, first paragraph, last sentence removal of "keep" replace with "maintain" and remove "to."
- 7) Under Additional Items discussion, first paragraph, third sentence, revision of the sentence to read "Ms. Levin reported that Harvard Avenue was closed without notice

¹ Abbreviations in this document include AT-MTC (Adventure Theatre-Musical Theater Center), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GWMP (George Washington Memorial Parkway) and NPS (National Park Service).

during WSSC's street cut on the last Friday of the month resulting in heavy traffic from the post office."

- 8) Under Additional Items discussion, first paragraph, insertion of new sentence after fourth sentence: "Council discussed the damage caused to streets by dumpsters and proposed posting a bond for all dumpsters stored on Town streets when the ordinances are revisited."
- 9) Under Additional Items discussion, insertion of new paragraph, before meeting adjournment: "The April Council Meeting was changed from April 14th to April 7th to accommodate holiday schedules."

Councilmember Stiglitz made the motion; Councilmember Matney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

LANDSCAPING CONTRACT

C/T Fraser presented the Chapel Valley landscape contract. Councilmember Stiglitz observed that prior to the current contract, people had reported on the decline of quality in the work, and inquired whether it had improved this past year. Councilmember Long said that she felt they had improved (from two years ago). Mayor Beers said that she is concerned that Chapel Valley is not keeping up with removing the weeds in street and sidewalk paving resulting in the sidewalk degradation. C/T Fraser said that she had noticed an improvement in service and the Chapel Valley crew were quick to act to clear the drain at Tulane And Bowdoin; during the federal shutdown, the NPS could not monitor that drain water from heavy rains had backed up there causing the street to flood.

Motion 2014-10 to approve the contract for landscape maintenance as proposed by Chapel Valley. Councilmember Matney made the motion; Councilmember Stiglitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GAS INSTALLATION PERMIT

Motion 2014-11 to approve the 2/11/2014 Town gas permit as amended. Councilmember Matney made the motion; Councilmember Stiglitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TREE CANOPY RESOLUTION

Montgomery County has adopted a new tree canopy ordinance and has asked the Town to choose whether to opt in or opt out. Councilmember Matney noted that the full text of the ordinance was not available on the Montgomery County website and the latest version is only to effect new construction and subdivision. Council decided to wait until the full tree canopy ordinance was available for review before deciding.

COMMUNITY BOARD POLICE REPORT

Councilmember Stiglitz presented the data from the latest Community Board Police meeting. There was a slight rise in residential burglaries, from 2 to 6 incidents. The closest to Glen Echo was on Massachusetts Avenue. Two robberies occurred this year, one was a kid whose skateboard was stolen at Friendship Heights. A bank robbery occurred on Old Georgetown Road. Thefts from automobiles are down and this might be weather related. A new "decat" team (a decentralized, special unit to be dispatched at the commander's discretion) will be created to be

used as increased presence of uniformed officers that can stay in an area and be more visible. A new class of police cadets is starting soon; six officers from the class are slated to be assigned to the Bethesda district. Ms. Levin reported that the lost and found pets community board has been taken over by the police department and is suffering in the transition. Councilmember Stiglitz offered to check on the issue.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported on the use of the Town Hall by residents and others. She announced that the Town St. Patrick's Day party is scheduled for Sunday March 16th. English Country Dance will use the Town Hall on Wednesday evenings as usual. A pre-subdivision meeting for 2 Vassar Circle will be held on March 24th; it is a public meeting but not sponsored by the Town – such a meeting is required by Montgomery County to be held by the developer. The Scottish Fiddle Club will hold an event on April 19th. An evening concert sponsored by FSGW will be held on April 24. Two resident uses in March and one non-resident use in April are scheduled.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Councilmember Long reported that Montgomery County has approved the new zoning code.

Mr. Agnew alerted the Council and C/T Fraser that the concrete of the sidewalk in front of his home is crumbling and will need to be replaced when the weather is warmer.

Ms. Levin reported that the increased construction in Town has resulted in trucks parked all day in the fire lanes and so close to intersections that visibility is compromised. Building materials stored in the street on University has continued to be an issue especially during snow events when parking is impacted already. She encouraged the Town to enact the ordinances regarding parking and safety of public streets. C/T Fraser stated that until the ordinance review is completed she cannot charge the fines detailed in the current ordinances as many of them are to be levied through the tax bill which is now handled by the County.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Fraser
Clerk-Treasurer

Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date

Attachments: GEP/CBNHS March 2014 park report by Mr. LaRocca
Letter to Irish Inn from NPS regarding parking for March 17, 2014
Community Police Board Report