

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
COUNCIL MEETING  
May 12, 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/CBNHS<sup>1</sup>  
Leah Hertz, resident  
Michael Collins, legal counsel for The Irish Inn  
Christy Hughes, owner of the Irish Inn  
Andy Malmgren, resident  
Norman Hudson-Taylor, resident  
Norman Bernhardt, resident  
Gerry Mande, resident  
Herb Niles, resident  
Renny Springuel, resident  
Debang Lao, resident  
Kelly Cole, resident  
Jim & Sally McGunnigle, residents  
Phyllis Fordham, resident and editor of The Echo  
Eve Arber, resident  
Debbie Lange, resident  
Dick Leggin, owner of Leggin Architects  
Alexis Feringa, resident  
Bill Vincent, The Echo reporter  
Gloria Levin, resident  
Aaron Hirsch, resident and owner of 2 Vassar Circle  
Erin Girard, legal counsel for Aaron Hirsch  
Curt Schreffler, CAS Engineering, civil engineer for Aaron Hirsch  
Julia Wilson, resident  
Dan & Constance Macy, residents  
Cris White, resident  
Patrick Hooper, resident  
Robin Kogelnik, resident  
Matt McFarland, resident  
Dawn Tanner & Emily Siegel, residents  
Ben Arem, Knopf & Brown, legal counsel to the Town

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

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations in this document include CBNHS (Clara Barton National Historic Site), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture), NPS (National Park Service).

### **GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

Mr. LaRocca reviewed recent events at GEP/CBNHS. He requested that on the days that NPS helps restrict traffic to the Town, that residents use an entry to the Town other than Oxford Road (*N.B.* – NPS provides traffic barricades at each Town street that enters MacArthur Boulevard on days when NPS expects a large crowd at GEP/CBNHS. The tree mitigation issue for the Montgomery County shared use path section that will run through NPS property has not been resolved. Councilmember Long noted that the 58 trees to be removed for this project is a large number of trees to sacrifice. Mr. LaRocca noted that they are still working on a final number of trees and a means to collect money to replace the trees. Mayor Beers requested that the Washington Folk Festival organizers submit a written request to use the Town's lot on Tulane as a staging area.

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

### **IRISH INN PARKING AMENDMENT**

Mr. Collins presented a proposed amendment to the parking lot lease agreement with the Town. Mr. Collins requested an extension of three years, increasing the payment to \$500/month and an added overflow area (50 x 50 feet) a few days a year. He offered to do some additional landscaping to improve the area. Mr. Collins drafted the new proposal as a license (based on the previous agreement) but offered to draft it as a lease-hold agreement, whatever the Town's preference was. Mayor Beers asked for the following changes to the proposed agreement:

- 1) Change the length of time from 3 years to 1 year to test out the new mode;
- 2) Limit the overflow parking use to 15 days per year
- 3) Remove the right of first refusal and remove the three years advance notice of termination;
- 4) Add landscaping to screen the area.

Councilmember Matney requested the term "servants" be removed as well.

Letters from business owner, Jeffrey Sklaver, and Oberlin resident, Robin Slonager, were read to the Council. They object to the extension of the Irish Inn parking area. Dick Leggin noted his objection to the extension of the parking lot area and asked if some of the parking impact on Oberlin and Tulane Avenues could be ameliorated by offering GEPPAC employees and cooperators parking on the miniature golf course area at GEP. Mr. LaRocca noted that the miniature golf area is not an option for parking as it is part of the historic area. Mayor Beers noted that it is the Town's interest to get cars off the streets.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2014-15** Council approved the April Meeting minutes with one change: page three, line four, insert "to" before "not have."

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

### **COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Councilmember Stiglitz noted that there was a string of home invasions and burglaries in Chevy Chase. He advised that residents lock their doors. The police commander requested that if a

resident sees something that doesn't look right try to get the tag number if a car is involved before you pick up the phone (more important than just the description of the vehicle).

Councilmember Stiglitz's report is attached to the minutes.

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ROAD ORDINANCE**

Mr. Arem noted that the road ordinance is aimed at safety, egress, parking and other issues; at present, the Town does not have any ordinances governing this. The Town is trying to act within the bounds of its authority to enact a provision to help residents be as safe as possible. The Town is enacting this because the Town has been told that the Montgomery County Planning Board will look to the Town's laws first. If the Town has a road safety standard, the Planning Board will take that into account.

Ms. Kogelnik noted that she felt the ordinance was redundant. Mayor Beers noted that the County will not avoid enforcing their own laws but they might choose an option that is not attractive to the Town (e.g. take away parking on both sides of the street so that fire trucks can pull through and set up). Ms. Levin noted that the situation has changed enormously; she said it is difficult to foresee what is to come but the Town needs "to take back responsibility" for some issues when appropriate. Ms. Fordham read a statement to the Council (attached to these minutes). Ms. Feringa noted her objection to her taxes being spent on this ordinance.

Ms. Girard responded to the proposed ordinance by saying that she did not believe that the Town has the authority to regulate subdivision. Mayor Beers countered that the Town did have the authority to regulate its roads. Ms. Girard noted that there is no county regulation for one-way streets (Vassar Circle is a one-way street). Mr. Schreffler noted that the county's standard for a two-way tertiary street is a 50 foot right-of-way, the County does not have a standard for one way streets; therefore, he feels that it is not appropriate to apply the 50 foot right of way to Vassar Circle.

Mr. Hudson-Taylor noted his support of the ordinance. A quick poll of the audience resulted in 14 of those in favor of the ordinance and 6 against.

Mr. Springuel recounted the difficulty of fire trucks and emergency crews to be able to drive around Vassar Circle. He stated his support of the ordinance. Ms. Hertz noted that there is a connection to the density of the buildings at 2 Vassar Circle and the number of cars. At present, she feels that there is not room on Vassar Circle for 12 more cars; she hopes that safety concerns can be accommodated in the development. Councilmember Stiglitz said that his concern was the safety and width of the traffic circle; the current situation is problematic without any development at 2 Vassar Circle. This proposed development has brought forward the problem and sensitized Council to the issue. He asked Mr. Schreffler what would be his solution to the space problem on the circle. Mr. Schreffler noted that his firm used a computer model to drive a fire truck around the circle with cars parked. He stated that there might be more pavement on the lower end of the street and possibly the bank through erosion, has migrated into the street. The county's regulation for 50 feet right of way for tertiary paving, provides for sidewalks on both sides; he does not envision the need for a sidewalk on the inner side of the circle. Mr. Stiglitz asked if the tight curve of the street might necessitate a larger width so that longer vehicles (e.g. fire truck) may pass through. Mr. Schreffler said that the county lacks a standard for a one-way

street; he does not have a generally accepted detail to refer to but he would be comfortable with a 20-22 foot width. Ms. Girard said that the engineers at the county will inform what is the appropriate width. Mr. Hirsch said that his primary concern is the final lot size, the road ordinance shaves off a radius from the property itself, resulting in fewer buildable lots; in essence, the Town is taking away one of our properties. He offered to increase the width of the circle as an easement or a PIE (public improvement easement).

Mr. McGunnigle noted his support of the road ordinance.

**Motion 2014-16** to defer consideration of the proposed road ordinance for the next meeting. Councilmember Matney made the motion; Councilmember Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Fraser  
Clerk-Treasurer

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Deborah Beers, Mayor

Date

Attachments: GEP/CBNHS May 2014 park report by Mr. LaRocca  
May 2014 Police Report and Community Police Board Report  
Letter from Jeffrey Sklaver, Art Matters, regarding Irish Inn Parking  
Email from Robin Slonager, Oberlin resident, regarding Irish Inn Parking  
Letter from Phyllis Fordham, regarding proposed road ordinance