

## **Minutes of May 17, 2006 RCHCA Meeting**

Joe Rosenberg, President of RCHCA, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The minutes from the January 28, 2006 meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business:

### **A. Traffic Calming.**

Mike Baker, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, reported on Montgomery County procedures for obtaining traffic calming:

1. The neighborhood association must submit a request to the County asking that it conduct a traffic survey, identifying the areas and the times that it would like to be studied. The request for a study is not a commitment to accept any traffic calming measures.
2. If a request is made, the County conducts a study to determine whether the streets identified qualify for traffic calming. This entails measuring the speed and volume of traffic over a 30 minute period, usually morning or evening rush hour.
3. If the county determines that a street or streets within the Association qualify for traffic calming according to its criteria, it advertises a meeting open to the public (not limited to RCHCA residents) to describe the survey results and the proposed calming measures, to show a video about traffic calming, and to answer citizen questions.
4. The Association then decides whether to request that the County implement the proposed measures. The process by which the Association makes this decision is entirely up to the association.
5. If the Association approves the calming measures, then the County conducts a survey of those households immediately impacted by the measures (houses on the street and any adjacent street where the sole egress is by the street under consideration). 80% of affected households must approve the measures in order for the County to implement them.

Mike then showed a 20 minute video on traffic calming prepared by the County. (This is the same video that would be presented at a public hearing in step 3 above.) The video explains the County's traffic calming program, including the need for calming, the various techniques for calming, the standards for a street to qualify for calming, and the procedures for obtaining calming. After the video was shown, Mike answered questions and conducted a lengthy discussion. Specific points included:

--traffic calming techniques include medians, traffic islands, circles, chokers, edge lines and speed humps

--there are two different types of speed humps, depending on whether a street is primary or secondary residential; primary residential streets qualify only for the flat hump, designed to slow traffic to 20 mph

--flat humps slow emergency response time 3-7 seconds

--speed humps will not be installed on stretches of road less than 1000 feet, and humps are placed roughly 500 feet apart

--the County has eliminated the Citizens' Watch Program

--Access Restrictions are an entirely different process and must meet very stringent standards to be implemented

--traffic cameras are currently being approved only for school zones

--towns and municipalities are not bound by the County traffic calming program

--Rock Creek Hills could incorporate on its own, or seek to be annexed to the Town of Kensington

A motion was made and seconded that RCHCA request traffic studies for portions of Old Spring Road, Elrod Road, Stoneybrook Drive and Kensington Parkway in the morning rush hour, and Saul Road in the evening rush hour. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

Mike said that he thought the County would be able to conduct the study before school ended in June. If it could not be done in time, then we agreed to ask that the study should be delayed until after Labor Day.

#### B. Traffic Triangle Beautification

Shannon Hamm, Vice-President of RCHCA, reported on the Haverhill Triangle beautification proposal. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$2000 to install a garden and \$500 a year to maintain it. It was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

The 2004 triangle designs will be scanned and posted on the RCHCA website.

#### New Business

A. Kensington Parkway Bikepath. The question of a bikepath on Kensington Parkway was raised. Mike Baker explained that it was already part of the County Master Plan. It was suggested that we write a letter reiterating our request for the bikepath. Mike said this had already been done.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Freeman  
Secretary