

Minutes of May 9, 2007 RCHCA Meeting

Joe Rosenberg, President of RCHCA, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Joe introduced the new Covenants Chair, Vince DeCain. All covenant matters should be referred to him. Vince noted that wrought iron fences will not be approved without shrubs. He may be reached at 946-5129 or vfe@aol.com.

The minutes from the January 7, 2007 meeting were approved by a show of hands.

Old Business

- A. Triangles at Littledale and Haverhill were renovated but need some weed management at a cost of about \$200. The shrubs at the E. Bexhill and Kent circle need to be removed because they block lines of sight for traffic. If anyone wants a triangle planted, please contact Shannon Hamm at shannonhamm@comcast.net.
- B. A Beltway Noise Task Force has been formed to obtain a sound barrier on our side of the Beltway. Please contact Robert@pricelaw.com if you want to participate.
- C. Traffic Survey. At the Special Meeting in October, the membership voted to let the process go forward so that the people living on Saul Road and Kensington Parkway, who are the most impacted by speeding traffic, will decide if they want speed humps. Each household will be contacted in person, provided with an information sheet and map where the humps and signs will go, and then asked to sign a concurrence form in favor or against. 80% or more households on each street must agree for the county to proceed.
- D. Train Noise. Joe Rosenberg described the history of his efforts to reduce the noise at the Forest Glen crossing. A study found that a full 4-corner stop was impossible but that a wayside horn was feasible and would greatly reduce decibel levels. However, CSX must agree, and while it does so in principle, its lawyers are now looking at liability issues.
- E. Kent Street continues to be plagued by speeding traffic. Some people suggested that a stop sign at an intersection along Kent might slow it down, but Mike Baker, Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, reported that the County has found that four way stop signs are not effective for traffic calming, unless there is roughly the same volume of traffic on both streets. He suggested that we ask the Town of Kensington for more humps south of the circle, or ask the County DPWT to perform a traffic survey on Kent Street. Given the distances between intersections, it may not be a candidate for speed humps between Hillridge Drive and East Bexhill.
- F. The Greenway between Saul and East Bexhill is in disrepair and neighbors have asked that a pedestrian bridge be installed across the creek to allow safe passage around the block. A letter will be submitted to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) once concerned citizens draft it.

New Business

A. Janis Pliner is raising money to renovate the Rosemary Hill Elementary School playground, last done in 1988. There is currently an 8-year wait, but if \$25,000 can be raised, the County will install new equipment in 8-10 weeks. The PTA has raised \$15,000 and is asking RCHCA to give \$1000. We will vote on this in October.

B. Peter Fosselman, Mayor of the Town of Kensington, spoke for the rest of the meeting. He gave an historical overview of the TOK, its founding, its population, and tax base. He then reported on current events and issues.

1. New TOK liquor laws will go in effect in October allowing restaurants to sell alcoholic beverages.
2. A proposed change in zoning authority will give TOK control over various commercial areas likely to undergo extensive development.
3. TOK now owns lights previously owned by Pepco, which will save \$43,000/year.
4. Regarding traffic safety, Mayor Fosselman is a big believer in speed humps to calm traffic, but not necessarily in time restrictions. Both Connecticut and Metropolitan Avenues are very dangerous. After the recent pedestrian death on Connecticut, the Town has hired a traffic engineer to study options. Unbelievably, Connecticut Ave. was not on the list of 15 roads recently selected by the County for speed cameras. This is an issue that all our communities need to address. He encourages RCHCA to get re-involved with the Coalition of Kensington Communities which meets every other month.
5. The Safeway should be open by the end of December.
6. Parks and Planning will own Manor Circle after one more payment.

C. Mike Atkins, RCH resident, objected to the street repaving because the streets can no longer be used for scooters, skateboards or bikes. He made the following motion, which was seconded and passed by a hand count of 12 to 1:

“I move that RCHCA write a letter to the Montgomery County government objecting to the adequacy of the micro paving. This will be accompanied by a petition of citizens requesting repaving.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Freeman
Secretary