

COUNCIL OF CHEVY CHASE VIEW

Monthly Meeting

Date: May 16, 2007

Place: Christ Episcopal Church, Kensington, Maryland

Present: Michael Plantamura, Chairman; Coral Bell, Ray Bernor, Martie Mitchell, Peter Roman and Jana Coe, Town Administrator
Ro, Legal Counsel to Chevy Chase View

Alan Beal, Building Permit Administrator for Chevy Chase View

Others Present: Peggy Jacocks, 4000 Dresden Street

Rachel Ritvo, 4020 Everett Street

Molly Hauck, 4004 Dresden Street

Miguel Penafiel, 10110 Summit Avenue

James Matan and James Matan II, 10002 Summit Avenue

Called to Order: 7:30 p.m. by Michael Plantamura, Chairman

Welcome Newly Elected Council Members/Report on CCV Elections: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Plantamura. Jana Coe reported that Mike Plantamura, Peter Roman and Coral Bell were elected to two-year terms. The elected officials met the eligibility requirements, and David Podolsky administered the Oath of Office.

Mike Plantamura recognized George Monk for his four years of service on the Council, as the Chairman for eighteen months and Council member for thirty months. Mike also recognized the efforts of residents who volunteered to help with the election process. Appreciation was extended to the Nominating Committee – Suzanne Scarff, Chair, Chandler Wiegand and Joanne Flanagan.

Election of Chairman: Ray Bernor nominated Mike Plantamura to continue to serve as Chairman of the CCV Council. Peter Roman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2007 Annual Budget Meeting: Peter Roman moved that the minutes of the April 18, 2007 Annual Budget meeting be approved. Martie Mitchell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2007 Regular Monthly Meeting: Jana Coe pointed out the following corrections: Under **Connecticut Avenue Speed Camera Update**, the third paragraph should read: “Peggy Jacocks suggested a pedestrian safety upgrade that the Council could endorse and present to the SHA (was) **as** a safety solution. It included the upgrade of streetlights, installation of a crosswalk between Dresden Street and the Temple’s southern driveway, (extending the existing sidewalk from Washington Street to Dresden Street) **installation of a sidewalk from Dresden Street to said proposed**

crosswalk (approximately 160’), and installation of a left-turn bay for southbound Connecticut Avenue into the Temple’s southern driveway. The Council was impressed with the proposal and will submit it to SHA for consideration.”

Under **Time and Place of Next Meeting**, the date should read Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Martie Mitchell moved that the minutes be approved with the above stated corrections. Coral Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ray Bernor abstained from the vote as he was not in attendance at the April meeting.

Financial Report: Martie Mitchell moved that the financial report for the period April 1, 2007, to April 30, 2007, be accepted. Peter Roman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Walk: Peter Roman reported that the Town overall looks good. He asked that the sidewalk between Cleveland Street and Dresden Street be reviewed by Chamberlain Contractors as it is showing signs of aging. He also asked that the heaving sidewalk area to the left of the driveway at 4201 Franklin Street also be reviewed. Jana Coe will contact Chamberlain and asked that these areas be considered as part of the summer street maintenance contract work which is scheduled in late June.

Mr. Roman also asked that residents be reminded that summer is around the corner and kids will be out of school. Please to be mindful and drive slowly.

Application for Deck – 10114 Summit Avenue (Garayta): Alan Beal presented an application to construct a deck to the back of the home at 10114 Summit Avenue. The proposed deck conforms to all CCV building regulations. Ray Bernor moved that the application be approved as submitted. Peter Roman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Application for Fence – 10002 Summit Avenue (Matan): The Matans have applied to remove an existing fence and install a new fence around their property at 10002 Summit Avenue. The fence will replace an existing 6 foot fence along the rear and right side of the property as well as a 4 foot fence along the left side of the property. The new fence will be the same height as the existing fence. No portion of the fence will be installed forward of the front wall of their home. Peter Roman moved that the application be approved as submitted. Martie Mitchell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Application for Deck – 3905 Saul Road (Springer): Mr. and Mrs. Corey Springer submitted an application to construct a deck that enlarges an existing deck at their home at 3905 Saul Road. The proposed deck would be 15’ from the east side property line and conforms to CCV regulations. Ray Bernor moved that the plans be approved as submitted. Peter Roman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Application for Driveway Apron/Second Curb Cut – 10110 Summit Avenue (Penafiel):

Mr. and Mrs. Penafiel submitted an application for a second curb cut and driveway apron to facilitate the installation of a circular driveway in front of their home at 10110 Summit

Avenue. The construction will require the removal and possible relocation of a large holly bush that is in the right-of-way next to the existing driveway apron. Mr. Penafiel would like to relocate the holly bush to his backyard. Peter Roman stated that a replacement tree should be considered. Jana Coe will contact the State Forester to ascertain whether a permit is required to remove the bush.

CCV's paving contractor, Chamberlain Contractors, has evaluated the proposal and is concerned that the new curb cut may allow water to run off the street and onto the property instead of into the curb storm inlet and recommended that the owner sign a release. Mr. Penafiel stated that he has no water issues at this time and agreed to signing a release.

It was moved by Peter Roman that the application be approved with the following conditions: 1) The State Forester will be contacted to determine if a permit is required to move the large holly bush; 2) Mr. Penafiel will execute a release holding CCV harmless from any damages or costs related to the installation of the new curb cut/driveway apron; 3) Harold Green of Chamberlain Contractors will be asked to meet with Mr. Penafiel to discuss the driveway installation concerns as related to future stormwater runoff; 4) CCV will attempt to plant a replacement tree between the entrances of the new circular driveway. Coral Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. David Podolsky was directed to draft the release for Mr. Penafiel's signature.

Tree Planting and Pruning Update: Peter Roman reported that Myers and Laws, CCV tree contractor, will begin the major spring pruning of trees. It is estimated that it will take five days, beginning June 6, 2007. Peter also reported that five new trees have been planted this spring.

Rachel Ritvo of 4020 Everett Street asked about the tree data base that was created by the tree committee several years ago. Peter reported that in the past month he was able to recover the file from former Council member, Jule Crider, and that data from the past three years of tree replacement plantings needs to be entered. Peter will work with Jana Coe to complete this task.

Connecticut Avenue Speed Camera Update: Mike Plantamura reported that the May 2, 2007 safety forum hosted by the Town of Kensington was well attended by residents in the 20895 zip code, SHA officials, County Council members, District 18 Representatives and church leaders. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss speed and safety concerns along Connecticut Avenue.

One immediate recommendation was to upgrade the lighting on Connecticut Avenue. The Council instructed Jana Coe to direct a letter to PEPCO (with copy of our political representatives) asking that this priority be addressed.

Mike Plantamura further reported that the installation of sidewalks on the west side of Connecticut Avenue, as explored by the CCV Council in 2002, was revisited at the May 2nd meeting. The CCV Council and Town of Kensington Council are working to set a joint

work session to discuss how the two towns would like to proceed with the County. Nancy Floreen, a member of the Montgomery County Council, stated that she was very supportive of the sidewalk issue and would support putting it in the County budget.

Chevy Chase View resident Peggy Jacocks reported that on April 24, 2007, SHA traffic engineers spent approximately four hours reviewing the condition of streetlights and, as a point of discussion, the proposal that Mrs. Jacocks submitted to the CCV Council at the April meeting. The SHA engineers will report their findings within the next few months. It is important to note that the SHA engineers do not set the policies.

Mike Plantamura stated that the Council remains interested in exploring the possibility of contracting with Chevy Chase Village Police Department for the operation of speed cameras on Connecticut Avenue. The CC Village cameras will be up and running in CC Village in the second week of June, and Chief Gordon of CC Village felt early July would be the earliest appropriate timeframe to begin discussing a possible CC Village Police speed camera program for Chevy Chase View. David Podolsky stated that the State law is unclear as to whether CC Village can indeed operate speed cameras in CCV.

Street Lighting Update: Jana Coe reported that CCV has been successful in the correction of the billing register, and we have corrected the monthly maintenance fee that is being calculated for the energy consumption of the 70-watt HPS systems (our new lights are 55-watt QL induction lamp systems). This correction has resulted in a refund of \$8,936.09. We have also determined that the manufacture of the QL induction systems has no extra ballast load. When PEPCO sets the rate for the 55-watt QL induction bulbs, the past overcharges will be calculated. We anticipate a reimbursement and/or credit of approximately \$2,500.00.

BRAC Committee Report: Mike Plantamura, serving as the representative for CCV, reported that the Montgomery County BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Implementation Committee has met three times. Discussion has focused on the impact on traffic congestion from the planned expansion of the National Naval Medical Center. In August, an environmental impact study (EIS) is expected to be released, following which the BRAC Implementation Committee, as well as other interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public will have an opportunity to submit comments on the EIS and suggestions for addressing the impacts of BRAC on the area.

Assignment of Council Member Responsibilities: The floor was opened for nomination of officers of the Council. By unanimous vote the following officers were elected: Mike Plantamura, Chairman; Martie Mitchell, Acting Chairman; Peter Roman, Treasurer; and Coral Bell, Assistant Treasurer.

The Council members then discussed the numerous responsibilities of the Council. **Please use the attached updated list as your reference when you need to contact a Council member.**

Chevy Chase View Tree Canopy. The Council discussed potential dates for a work session, as proposed at the April Council meeting. The purpose of the work session would be to integrate the information the Council has been absorbing over the past nine months, as well as to come up with a plan of action going forward. Martie Mitchell suggested that at some point it would be helpful to have an arborist attend a CCV meeting in order to determine the definition and types of trees that the Council considers as replacement or “canopy” trees, and to advise the Council and the community on issues that have been discussed over the last few months.

The Council plans to schedule this work session on a date in June or July, depending on Council members’ schedules and availability. Note that work sessions are open to the public but discussion at a work session is limited to the Council members, i.e., no comments from attendees will be allowed.

***NOTE:** The proposed worksession date of June 4 posed a conflict for several Council members. The worksession will be scheduled later in the summer.*

Overgrowth at Corner of Saul/Gartrell: The Council has received several complaints about the overgrowth/debris in the right-of-way on the northwest corner of Saul Road and Gartrell Place. Ray Bernor inspected the property and found that it is difficult to see oncoming cars when attempting to make a left hand turn onto Saul Road from Gartrell Place. Jana Coe will contact the owner and ask for his cooperation in clearing the debris.

CCV Sidewalk, Curb and Road Patching Update: The Council discussed the approved bid from Chamberlain Contractors for the sidewalk and curb repair as well as road patching. It was moved by Ray Bernor that the contract be approved, with a few minor changes as discussed by the Council. Mike Plantamura seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Refund Request: Miguel Penafiel of 10110 Summit Avenue stated that last year the Council lowered the building application fee for a deck from \$500 to \$75. His application was approved the month prior to the reduction. He asked the Council to consider refunding the difference. The Council asked that he put his request in writing for consideration.

Road Repair Due to Construction: Alan Beal discussed the upcoming repairs to be made in conjunction with construction projects in CCV. The required CCV Cash Performance Bond language allows the homeowner’s contractor to restore the curb/street to standards acceptable to CCV; however, the Council prefers that the CCV designated contractor conduct the work in order to prevent a patchwork of standards. It was concluded that Alan Beal should notify the homeowners that they can have their contractor do the work, but if it is not acceptable it will be redone to CCV standards at the

owners' expense. The Council will review the bond language in order that it is consistent with its intent.

Adjournment: At 10:25 p.m., Peter Roman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Martie Mitchell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Time and Place of Next Meeting: **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT THE THIRD WEDNESDAY** - The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be at Christ Episcopal Church, Kensington, Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,
Jana S. Coe, Town Administrator

Application for Building Permit – Building Permit Applications for consideration at the June 11, 2007, meeting must be fully perfected by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2007. Applications can be submitted to Alan Beal, the Building Permit Administrator, for review. Please note that Mr. Beal's review may take several days and an application is not considered perfected until Mr. Beal completes his review. Any questions about this process should be directed to Mr. Beal at 202-607-4153.

Bulk Pick-Up - The next bulk pick-up will be Saturday, June 2, 2007. Bulk pick-ups are held on the first Saturday of the month. As a reminder, heavy refuse includes major appliances, furniture, large toys, bicycles, plumbing fixtures and up to two tires cut in quarters. Excluded are batteries, propane tanks, bricks and general construction debris and iron pipes. Please have your items at the curb by 7:00 AM on Saturday as the truck comes through early.

Website - Please visit our website at www.chevychaseview.org.

Listserv – Please consider becoming a member of the CCV listserv. Send an email to ChevyChaseViewNet-subscribe@yahoo.com.