

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Severna Park Library
September 11, 2012

Go to: www.GSPCouncil.Org

I. Call to Order

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Steve Poland
- B. Attendees welcomed

II. Secretary's Report - August 14, 2012 minutes unanimously approved

III. Treasurer's Report – Steve Poland

- A. September 11, 2012 report unanimously approved

- B. Account balances (as of August 31, 2012)

- 1. B&B checking = \$ 7,158.16
- 2. SmithBarney money market = \$ 841.76
- 3. SmithBarney CDs (5) = \$25,000.00
- 4. Beautification Trust Fund (closed 10/2011)

- C. Account activity in August 2012

- 1. BB&T

- a) Dues deposited = \$35.00
- b) Checks cleared = \$ 0.00
- c) Service charge = \$(2.00)

- 2. SmithBarney

- a) Money Market = \$ 0.00
- b) Interest = \$ 0.00
- c) CD's = \$ 0.00

- 3. BankAnnapolis (Beautification Fund) (closed 10/2011)

IV. Guest Speakers

- A. Deputy Chief John Scholz – Anne Arundel County Fire Department

- 1. Website: www.aaco.org/fire
- 2. Provided overview of Department Divisions and tasks
- 3. Jones Station Fire Station
 - a) New special medical assist unit
 - b) New special operations unit
 - 1) Trench care unit
 - 2) Dive unit
 - i. 2012 pool/boating related fatalities – 4
 - ii. 2012 water related rescues - 31
 - 3) Hazmat
 - i. Hazardous materials move daily through AACo via rails, water, road, pipeline and air
 - ii. Mixing of in-home incompatible cleaning agents require several runs yearly
- 4. 80% of the approximately 80,000 yearly truck responses result from medical calls
- 5. New vehicle repeater communication system in place for departmental on/offsite engine command system
- 6. SAFE education program taught in County schools

7. Seniors Fall Prevention Sheet: [www.aacounty.org/Fire/Public Ed/FactSheets.cfm](http://www.aacounty.org/Fire/Public%20Ed/FactSheets.cfm)
8. Hurricane Preparedness News Release
 - a) www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php
- B. John Wright & Richard Klein - Severn River Association (SRA)
 1. Website: www.severnriver.org
 2. Founded 1912
 3. Purpose
 - a) Work with communities and individuals (members) to clean the river
 - b) Provide numerous volunteer opportunities to save the river
 4. All volunteer association
 5. Biggest challenge – stormwater runoff
 6. Accomplishments of last 100 years
 - a) Educate members on best watershed practices
 - b) Provide Grant Program - provide small grants to help programs get started
 - c) Inspect construction sites to monitor/report stormwater runoff
 - 1) Many current stormwater runoff systems are non-functional
 - 2) Improper stormwater management results in pollution of the river and Bay
 - 3) Volunteers alert AACo to problem sites
 - d) Assist property owners in limiting polluted runoff
 - 1) Working with AACo to develop Pilot Program education Community Associations
 - e) Inspect rain gardens and bio retention facilities
 - f) Expand Oyster Growing Program
 - 1) Leading partner in Maryland Grow Oysters Program
 - 2) Sept 13 – 1,200 bushels of young oysters will be planted on the SRA Oyster Sanctuary reef near Rt 50 Bridge
 - g) Support watershed restoration
 - 1) Operation Clean Stream – trash clean up from streams
 - 2) Evasive Plant Removal – Phragmites removal days
 - h) Represent best interests of the watershed before county and state governments
- C. Suzanne Etgen - AACo Watershed Stewards Academy
 1. Website: www.aawsa.org
 2. Established 1987
 3. Purpose
 - a) Certifies and supports volunteer community leaders to serve as Mater Watershed Stewards in the protection restoration and conservation of our watersheds, working to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff in AACo.
 4. Master Watershed Stewards
 - a) Engage communities to reduce pollution sources and capture stormwater.
 - b) Complete intensive, research based, hands on training
 - c) Work with their communities to:
 - 1) Assess watersheds
 - i. Identify pollutant sources
 - ii. Create strategies for pollution reduction
 - 2) Educate communities
 - i. Determine most pressing environmental problem in their area
 - 3) Reduce Pollutants

- i. Target pollution sources such as pet waste, toxic household cleaners, fertilizer or pesticides
 - 4) Coordinate action
 - i. Install rain gardens, rain barrels, plant trees and other rainscaping techniques
- D. Paul Spadaro & Peter Bergstrom – Magothy River Association (MRA)
 - 1. Website: www.magothyriver.org
 - 2. Established in 1946
 - 3. Purpose
 - a) Access, monitor and enhance the ecosystem health of the Magothy River
 - b) Encourage citizens to use the river and invest in it
 - c) Originated to address zoning and strong development along the river
 - d) Emphasis has shifted to environmental issues
 - 4. Most of Severna Park lies within the Magothy Watershed
 - 5. Provides environmental scholarships to AACC students
 - 6. Academy Workshops
 - a) Restoration diving as partnered with the U.S. Naval Academy
 - 7. World Bank Partnership for purchase equipment
 - 8. Three major committees
 - a) Government Affairs – zoning
 - b) Stormwater Committee
 - c) Beachwood Park – Friends of Beachwood Park
 - 9. Oyster Stations
 - a) 10 monitoring stations along the river since 1992
 - 10. Underwater grasses
 - a) Due to poor water quality in the Magothy River , underwater grasses cannot currently be supported
 - b) MRA growing hydroponic plants that survive in poor quality water and reduce nutrients
- E. Sarah Knebel – Severn River Keeper Program (SRK)
 - 1. Website: www.severnriverkeeper.org
 - 2. Founded in 2002 by current Severn Riverkeeper Fred Kelly
 - 3. Purpose
 - a) Community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to protection and restoring the Severn River as a healthy and swimmable body of water
 - 4. Four key programs
 - a) Watershed restoration
 - b) Public outreach/education
 - c) Advocacy
 - d) Water quality monitoring
- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Education – Brad Myers
 - 1. First cuts have been made in AACo Capital Budget
 - 2. Severna Park High School project still remains with \$55 million allotted
 - 3. Severna Park High School project has not been moved up the priority list
 - B. Planning and Zoning – Steve Poland
 - 1. Homestead Tax Credit

- a) The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation has set a deadline to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit by December 31, 2012.
 - b) People who do not sign up could have to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars more in property taxes in future year. Many people are unfamiliar with this program because their taxes are paid by a mortgage company, but it is very important to pay attention to this.
 - c) It is very simple to determine if you are approved for the Maryland Homestead Tax Credit. Go to the State database at http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/ and type in your address. At the bottom of the page, check the field that says "Homestead Application Status" to see if you are approved.
 - d) If you are approved, there is nothing you need to do. If you are not approved, you can apply online by going to <https://sdathtc.resiusa.org/homestead/>. Be sure to have a copy of your most recent assessment notice handy to fill out your information.
- 2. Open Space Legislation
 - 3. Hearing officer – Lower Magothy Beach Properties

VI. New Business

- A. Legislation on Stormwater Management Fee
- B. Celebrate Severna Park
 - 1. Severna Park Community Center
 - 2. Sunday, October 7, 2012
 - 3. 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - 4. Free Admission
- C. Available: Grinder pumps for sewer. Place on whole house generator and not lose septic
- D. Cole Parkway hiker/biker path has been started
- E. Millersville Crematorium – new mercury standards are being reviewed and set up
- F. Anne Arundel County Charter Amendments – November 2012 Election
 - 1. Charter ballot amendments/referendums at www.aacounty.org
 - 2. Scroll down to Site Highlights
 - 3. Select AACO Ballot Questions

VII. Next GSPC meeting dates

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| A. Board of Directors | September 26, 2012, 7:30pm | SevPk Library |
| B. General Meeting | October 9, 2012, 7:30pm | SevPk Library |

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
 Sandy Poland
 Acting Secretary