

# Greater Severna Park Council

Delegation Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

[www.gspcouncil.org](http://www.gspcouncil.org)

[Facebook](#)

President Maureen Carr York opened the GSPC Delegation meeting at 7:32 p.m. via Zoom with 35 participants in the meeting.

Welcome

County Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler

Delegate Michael Malone

County Executive Representative Reece Peak

Guest Speaker

Mr. Chris Phipps, Director for Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works

Covid Challenges in Department

- They have modified how they do business in good and bad ways.
- It has been a very wet, rainy year and with covid they are having impacts on staffing ability. The new norm will probably be higher precipitation levels.
- Crews/field workers cannot telework. He is very concerned with their exposure. If they get one illness at a plant, then 8 operators may be in quarantine for 14 days. Same with utilities, road crews, etc. He went to A/B shift so that at any given time only half a unit would be wiped out. Reducing exposure means they have to be less proactive and more reactive. They are trying to develop self-service opportunities where citizens can go online and help themselves. There are limited people working at the office and calls are bouncing to their homes. They are exploring how to serve the community by better self-help opportunities.

Waste Management: trash collection, curbside, recycling

- Since the pandemic, there is a dramatic increase in volume of curbside and deliveries to the center.
- People are working, learning, and disposing at home. School trash/recycling is handled outside of county management. Same with work--they go through commercial stream. Our program is residence-based, but all that volume is now at home. There has been a 27% increase in visitations to landfill and recycling center--people also have more time to go there. That means it will cost more because they pay by the ton.
- Don't be surprised if there is a delay in pickup.
- They will have trash come first but leaves might be delayed until the next day if needed.
- There is a "Recycle Coach" app on the county website which can save you a phone call, telling you what can be recycled or not.

Highways include roadside maintenance, culvert repair, roads cleared, snow removal. It has been most affected due to COVID because it is part of the general fund. The entire county imposed a hiring freeze in the general fund. They are currently sitting at a 26% vacancy rate and on top of that they are doing alternate shifts. That means there are not a lot of crews available, but they are geared up and ready for snow with all contracts in place. County has inverted its model, in that they used to own equipment but now use contractors. Now with COVID they will need to sanitize vehicles in between shifts, and these will have to be staged. They are expecting a 3-4 hour loss of productivity.

Public Works Bureau and Highways website

- New feature “Know Your Roads” map
- Brown means it is a county road, yellow is private, and blue is state.
- A snow removal status map is also available here.
- There is a pavement management program where they do all the resurfacing.

Utility Bill Assistance: If you are below \$125k (typical household income) and cannot pay your utility bill, there is a water bill relief fund for anyone who needs help paying their water bill. There were almost 10k properties in danger but you can come up with financial plans as well.

Cattail Creek Sewer Force Main Replacement

This pipe is failing so they are working to insert a new pipe. They will not be able to start this construction for over a year. Once the project is closer, they will get out to the community on how it will impact traffic, etc.

Program: Our “WAAtter”

- Restoring the Chesapeake Bay
- Could be eligible for this program.
- Subsidies associated with deferring some of the cost.
- There is an application online to see if you are in an impact zone.
- Chartwell is an example since they are on septic. Anything in blue is in the eligible area. If they are surrounded by sewer it could be immediately available. There is an open application process in the spring of this year where properties and communities can apply. They will move forward community by community.

Q&A

*In terms of going from septic to sewer: would the community need to buy in? (Amy Leahy)*

Mr. Chris Phipps: Could do it on any kind of segment of a community down to the individual.

Chartwell: if there is a cluster of homes interested, they could just do that.

*Thanks to Mr. Phipps and the entire department. They are the rock stars of the county and stepping up to dredge Lake Waterford, looking at Cattail Creek. Something needs to be done with 2.5 miles of Cattail Creek. He is hoping the county will consider doing something with the Cattail Creek waterway. (Paul Spadaro)*

Mr. Chris Phipps: We are not perfect and stuff goes boom in the night. It is our obligation to be as responsive as possible. Things are going to fail and he asks for patience. In terms of the sewer

access project, he will check with Eric about an application for some grant funding to look at upgrading and restoring that section of Cattail.

*What is the status on restoring Cool Pond from the sediment SPHS project? (Susan Foote)*

Mr. Chris Phipps: He will have to follow up with the group about this.

*There is a stormwater issue by Cafe Mezzanote with horrible sludge by the restaurant. Is that onus on the center owners or Public Works? (Amy Leahy)*

Mr. Chris Phipps: Because it's immediately adjacent to Rt 2, it would probably be public/state or private.

Paul Spadaro: That area is tidal. That was 1880s wetlands and remnants of the Cypress Creek bog. It has special protections. It goes well beyond Rt 2 to Mt. Misery (which was actually miserable with all the mosquitoes in the heat during 1860).

*Aware of residential COVID relief, but is there anything available for businesses? (LaToya Nkongolo)*

Mr. Chris Phipps: Not through Public Works. There probably is through other county programs.

Reece Peak: There are programs through ACDS and workhouse development, including \$500 gift cards. Restaurants can apply for up to \$10k. The latest stimulus package did not include money to state or counties, so they cannot create any new programs.

## Committee Reports

Secretary's Report (Holly Slack)

December minutes were sent out earlier today. Please email any corrections.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Poland)

BB&T checking = \$ 2,165.31

MorganStanley money market = \$ 362.64

Dues deposited = \$ 0

President's Report (Maureen Carr York)

Please send 2021 Dues as soon as possible. The link can be accessed [here](#).

Chamber of Commerce

No report.

Elections (John Norville and Steve Poland)

2020 Board of Directors Elections for 2021 – FINAL ELECTIONS Report for January 12, 2021

Nominating Committee Chair John Norville previously had thanked the Elected Committee members Jack Mason and Amy Leahy for serving on the Committee again this year. At the Dec. 8, 2020 Delegates Meeting, Chm. Norville had advised the Delegates that the Committee had met, and that the following is the Slate that WAS unanimously proposed, per the GSPC

By-Laws.

President: \*Maureen Carr-York

Vice-President: {later...}

V. P. Public Affairs: \*Amy Leahy

Secretary: \*Holly Slack

Treasurer: \*Steve Poland

Director: \*John Norville [Nominated by the Board of Directors]

Director: \*Bill Lippincott

Director: \*Doug Nichols

Director: \*Austin Holley

Director Emeritus: \*Art Timmons [Appointed by the President]

Director Emeritus: \*Dan Nataf [Appointed by the President]

\*ALL are Incumbents

The Board of Directors on behalf of the Delegates thanks Erin O'Neill and Dan Nataf for their faithful years of Service as Directors and as Chairs of the Public Works Committee.

They also appreciate the long varied services of retiring V.P. Brad Myers, who also Chaired the Education Committee, and will continue as the Webmaster & the ZOOM Technical Host for the GSPC Delegates and Board virtual meetings as a Member of the Board. Chm. Norville had noted that this was the last of two calls for candidates per the By-Laws, and asked if anyone present was interested in nominating themselves as a candidate? There were none. His Motion to Accept this Slate was Approved by the Delegates. He thanked the Incumbents for their service. Electronic Voting by Delegates, "Yes or No", WAS conducted Dec. 12, 2020 – Jan.7, 2021 by the Treasurer, Steve Poland, who announced the results at the Jan. 12, 2021 Delegates meeting. He then asked for Votes from the 20 HOAs that didn't Vote electronically, if present on the ZOOM Meeting, with +4 YES, resulting in a FINAL VOTE of 40 "YES" & 0 "No"s. Pres. Maureen Carr-York then Announced that ALL the above were then INSTALLED as the 2021 Board of Directors. She re-appointed the two Directors Emeritus, all of the Committee Chairs, etc. for Serving. Chm. Norville also Thanked ALL.

Copies of this Report were given to the to the President and to the Secretary.

Nominating Committee Approvals: John Norville, Chairman, Director; Delegate

Jack Mason, Member; Amy Leahy, V.P. Public Affairs, Member

Delegate Michael Malone:

The Maryland General Assembly convenes tomorrow around 1pm. They will start the session and then put things off that need to appear on the floor until February. He has a bill on the floor to increase cyclists' safety who have been improperly endangered. That hearing is on Thursday. All committee hearings will be done remotely. The Senate is limiting witnesses to 5. The House is limiting them to 30. Please contact his aide, Erin O'Neill, with any questions.

County Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler

Ms. Fiedler has introduced a bill related to civil emergencies. It states that if there is a civil emergency tied into a state emergency, if the governor lessens restrictions, then the county executive would have to get permission from the county council if he wants to be more

restrictive. The County Executive's current authority during the pandemic is from a snowstorm in 1966. This section in the code was never used again until this pandemic. This legislation looks far beyond current times.

#### Reece Peak, County Executive Representative

- In the past, budget town halls have been in an auditorium, but this time it will be on Facebook and cable tv. To ask a question, please sign up prior to get the link. There will be a link to the webinar that Reece will email to Maureen.
- The official budget is presented to the County Council on April 1. The town hall is to talk about priorities for the budget.
- Former District 6 Councilman Chris Trumbauer is the new budget officer for the county. He was a senior advisor working on communications before becoming the official Budget Officer. He served the district for 8 years.

#### Planning/Zoning/Legislation (Amy Leahy and Austin Holley)

- The Board of Appeals deliberated on the Badro property. They were told by an attorney that they had to approve the commercial strips of property. This time they voted to rezone one of the properties to commercial and left the other one open space. Not sure how that will settle out. Several board members thought the county council should reexamine and make that decision.
- There were 2 parcels in question. Parcel 308 was granted--mostly already zoned commercial. They agreed to change a thin sliver that joins Parcel 546. Will look at a map given by Art to see if this is positive. The entire parcel has been zoned for mixed use in Plan 2040 so it will still be an uphill battle. Advisory attorney to Board of Appeals reversed course.
- Board of Appeals was not holding hearings but now they seem to be meeting via Zoom.
- Plan2040: Amy Leahy submitted testimony on behalf of GSPC. It looks fairly controversial with vague information--there is a lot of growth and development from a CE who ran against growth and development.
- Art Timmons announced tomorrow's Board of Appeals hearing where they will deliberate the change in rules, and hopefully have a regular zoom/virtual meeting. Make sure to read the existing rules to determine who is eligible to attend/speak and who is not.
- Amy Leahy: It was distressing to see the number of new members on the Board of Appeals who had not looked at anything involving the Badro property before voting.

#### Police/Community Relations (Doug Nichols/Mary Vogelsang)

- Chief Awad has not yet revived the Advisory Council. The PCRC is not meeting because of COVID.
- Cpl. Scott McAdoo: There are no specific threats in Anne Arundel County concerning an uprising. No credible specific threats about anything coming our way. Chief Awad is still hiring her staff and busy catching up.
- Big Bean had a robbery today where the perpetrator was caught in West Severna Park. Woods preschool was not notified. Why was there no lockdown or announcement? SPHS was on lockdown even though no one was there. Is there any way to get more warning?
- Doug Nichols will find out how to sign up for text messages.
- Nextel had a way to register for text messages?

- We will wait to hear from Cpl. McAdoo.
- John Norville: There is a list that reports crimes of the day with “Spot Crime” where you can look at your location.

#### Environmental Committee (Paul Spadaro/Lisa Bender)

- State of Magothy will be on March 17, 2021 via zoom featuring a representative from the county about Native American sites.
- Ecology services: MRA considering filing legal action against them for polluting Lake Waterford depending on what happens with MDE. If Ecology services does not fix the problem, they are looking at \$35k/day fine.
- Lake Waterford has been a pollution source for the Magothy, but the County has stepped up. The dredging will cost a couple million dollars and they are putting it in the FY budget of 2022. They are hoping for a direct budget item but may need council support.
- Beechwood Park: MRA will help take care of erosion problems with the county. They are hoping to celebrate that effort very soon.
- MRA is working with Broadneck high school to come up with a 2nd deck of trivia cards with the Living History project.
- Mt. Misery in Round Bay was a civil war fort and played a huge role in local history during early days of civil war. Unfortunately it is also under a lot of pressure to be developed, even though it is the definition of steep slopes. Hillside is 26% and the maximum a car can travel up is 22%. It is by Old County road and Hoyle lane, between that and Round Bay. When Old County Rd takes a lot of S turns, that’s where Mt. Misery is. It is very very steep. It is not possible to walk up without holding trees for assistance..

#### Public Works Committee (Doug Nichols)

Very pleased with Chris Phipps’ presentation tonight. There are still many questions outstanding with the State Highway Association. Are there plans to widen Ritchie by Earleigh Heights?

#### SPHS Neighbors Committee (Richard Newton)

- A car crashed into the bus stop shelter at the intersection of B&A and McKinsey. There is confusion over whose responsibility it is to restore it. If it is on B&A, then that is a state issue. Reece Peak will work on contacting MTA about it.
- There is no final answer about the Evergreen light situation. There is a meeting this Thursday with County Traffic Engineer Nestor Flores.
- No new updates on the high school sound system, and it seems to be in snail mode. He has called contact to try and figure out where they are on it. There’s been no activity on it for some time. They have been promised that this is happening. The contract has been approved and will be working on tennis courts. Speakers will be on poles behind the stadium and wiring will go underground so will have to tear up the turf for a bit.

#### Airport Noise Committee (Austin Holley)

No report.

#### ASPIRE Report (Amy Leahy)

Will probably not be able to have the ASPIRE dinner but still planning to hold it the last Wednesday of March for now.

Education Committee (Holly Slack)

- AACPS sent out a survey about returning to school without a timeline. The one change from the October survey was about prioritizing staying with class or the teacher, and which was more important.
- Continuing to suspend youth sports. The surrounding counties are allowing sports so this is especially frustrating for constituents.
- The Board of Education is having a meeting tomorrow night to discuss opening the school. Survey was to see if people had changed their minds since the last one.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Adjourned at 9:53pm

Next meetings

General: February 9, 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Board of Directors: January 26, 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom