

## **Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes March 25, 2014**

Attendees: Joyce Eaton, Ken Hornbeck, Larry Kreis, Andy Amasia, Dave Williams, Morita Bruce

Guests (and organization represented): Andrew Tress (aide to Council President Boniface), Councilman Joe Woods, Jessica Blake (aide to Councilman Joe Woods), Lt. Hugh John Dougherty (Harford County Sheriffs Office), Bob Frisch (Board of Education)

Other attendees: Laura Runyeon (YBES PTA and Board of Education candidate), Bryna Zumer (Aegis), Joseph Mattson, Brian Schorr

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Dave Williams. Minutes of the January 2014 meeting were approved. Our next FCC meeting will be March 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no July meeting unless a specific need arises.

**Sheriff's Crime Report:** Lieutenant Dougherty ([doughertyh@harfordsheriff.org](mailto:doughertyh@harfordsheriff.org)) provided crime report statistics. Alarms (32) and Suspicious Incidents(11) were down slightly compared to this month last year, and significant drops in Burglary (from 4 to 1), Thefts (from 8 to 4), and a 33% reduction in total calls for service. Crashes reported to the Sheriff's Office decreased from 2 to 1. However, there were 8 Domestic incidents, an increase from last year.

Ms. Eaton recommended that student drivers leaving school have a lower priority than through traffic during the after-school rush hour, to reduce traffic back-ups on the roads themselves.

Mr. Williams said a permit is needed for soliciting door-to-door. Homeowners should call the Sheriff if solicitors are soliciting in your neighborhood without permits, as they may be looking for burglary opportunities.

**Fire and EMS.** Mr. Williams said a drug presentation with PowerPoint slides can be seen by watching last week's County Council meeting online. Website [www.FVFC.org](http://www.FVFC.org) has fire safety tips for spring. Clean up combustible materials, including branches, and keep them away from sheds, buildings, pump houses, etc. Five acres of forest burned on Saturday, and the wildfire was caused by electrical problems in a small pump house. A house fire was caused by a makeshift grill used on a wooden deck. Another house and garage caught fire due to improper disposal of hot ashes. Permits to burn outside are issued by the Health Department, not the Fire Department, and require at least an acre of property.

### **State and County representatives:**

Councilman Woods announced that the County Council's public hearing on Resolution 5-14 (Water and Sewer Master Plan, spring update) will be April 1 at 6:30pm. The Soma property has one "water right" but will need more to build apartments. Bel Air has a moratorium on building because of MD American's water shortage. These apartments will be right above the water company's Winters Run water intake pipe. Mr. Woods follows the county's Master Plan, which calls for single family houses in this area. He will introduce an amendment to remove the Soma property from the Water & Sewer Plan because they don't have an approved Site Plan, which he believes should be required before water allocations are granted.

He discussed the proposed Lighting Bill submitted by Friends of Harford. As FCC has heard many times from the citizens, excessively bright lighting projected into neighboring homes by auto dealerships or sports fields is harmful to quality of life, and the current Zoning Code does not have any enforceable limits to stop this. The Sheriff's Office may be concerned about impacts to its personnel (diverting them from more crucial tasks), but was assured that – just like the noise ordinance – their personnel would only respond to property-specific complaints.

Mr. Woods also reported that the MACO (MD Association of Counties) meetings in Annapolis end tomorrow. It has been an amazingly quiet session. The governor took \$22million from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration fund, which is funded by the stormwater remediation fee. Other funds are also being raided to balance the budget.

Mr. Woods is running unopposed as councilman for District B.

Laura Runyeon introduced herself and said she is a candidate for the Board of Education, District B. She announced the TBES meeting that was held to review the new building plans, and showed the new layout. Parking will not increase and is still short; a walkway to the adjacent recreation center has been requested to help with evening overflows. Stormwater management is taking up some space, and temporary stormwater facilities will be used during the 3-year building of the school. Three counties are pursuing block grants from the state; it's possible this could reduce monies available to Harford.

Andrew Tress described a new Septic Reserve Bill to be introduced by the County Council. It will reduce the minimum septic reserve areas required for rural homes.

Bob Frisch announced he is running for reelection to the Board of Education, District B. He supports YBES' replacement. Maryland has provided money for major renovation of Fallston High School. The Board of Education sent their budget request to the County Executive; when he informs them how much money he has put into the budget for schools, the Board will readjust/reallocate funds based on the Executives funding level. He explained that the Board works with Annapolis legislators, County Council members, and Harford Business Roundtable in their search for funding. The County Council approves the final budget for schools.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

Brian Shore, who lives on Milton Avenue, attended the Community Input Meeting and Development Advisory Committee meeting for the Euler property on the north corner of Milton Avenue and Route 1. He believes the two restaurants plus retail planned for the property are improper because they will create too much traffic resulting in a dangerous traffic pattern. Traffic will be funneled through his residential neighborhood, which is already used as a short cut between Routes 1 and 147. This is a danger to children in the area. There also is no buffer between their homes and the commercial buildings. There will be a commercial building within five feet of West Grove, a private road. Maybe this is all legal but it isn't right.

BG&E would like to revisit FCC. If you have questions for them, please let Mr. Williams know.

Ms. Eaton said to call Department of Social Services if you are interested in their support group for current adoptive parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Morita Bruce