



THE FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2022

Advent Lutheran Church 2230 Rock Spring Rd. Forest Hill, MD 21050

Members & Representatives in Attendance

Thom Ellenbecker – Acting Chair, Secretary

Elena Skittle-Watson, Board Member

Cathy Ohler – Board Member

Tom Miller – Board Member

Lt Aaron Hawk – Northern Precinct, Harford County Sheriff's Office

Aurora Kahoe – Legislative Aide to Council Member Chad Shrodes

Larry Richardson – Policy Director for the Office of the County Executive

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Thom Ellenbecker at 7:03pm, reminding those in attendance of the mission and purpose of this meeting – neighbors talking with neighbors.

June minutes were tabled until the October meeting.

A crime report for Forest Hill was presented by Lt. Hawk for the past month and yearly comparison.

- Calls for service: 31 Suspicious incidents, 22 Animal complaints, 15 Alarms and 3 crashes.
- For Part 1 crimes investigated in the area included 3 Burglaries (Chestnut Hill), 11 Thefts, and 2 Auto Thefts.
- An arrest was made for the Burglaries in Chestnut Hill.
- No suspect for the thefts on the morning of 9/11 were arrested but investigators are continuing to work on leads. These thefts involved accessing cars left unlocked cars to access garage door openers to gain entry into garages.
- Citizens are reminded to always lock vehicles at night. Ring devices remain effective in investigations but some thieves are using masks and hoods to avoid identification.

Our guest speaker, Stephanie Taylor Stephanie Taylor, Election Director for the Harford County Board of Elections (BOE) presented an overview of the election process.

- Stephanie has worked for the elections board for 11 years, becoming director in 2020.
- In off years the BOE:
 - Maintains constantly evolving voter roles
 - Recruits election judges

- Maintain scanning machines and devices, turning them on and charging them every 6 weeks as a part of regular planned maintenance.
 - Outreach events
- Registration is maintained on the Maryland State database and questions related to voting rolls need to be directed to them.
- During an election:
 - Election judges undergo training scenarios
 - Election support specialists perform test scripts to verify each device, including scanning in a test deck, to verify that the devices are tabulating properly. This is done in teams so that the work is watched and certified.
 - Devices are packed with tamper tape and security seals that are recorded on an integrity report for verification as the election location is setup.
 - State Board of Elections / Early voting updates tells the nature of how an individual voted; if an issue is observed when a someone attempts to vote, the individual is given a provisional ballot on the day but the board of elections will investigate before the ballot is allowed to be counted.
 - Any incidents of attempting to vote twice are referred to the special prosecutor's office, and there have been a couple of such cases that were referred by Harford County's BOE from recent elections.
- After Election Day:
 - Canvassing of Mail-in ballots will occur. Historically there averaged 795 such ballots in a normal gubernatorial primary election but during COVID that number soared to 12,000 ballots.
 - Teams of reviewers examine the legitimacy of each ballot following a set process.
 - Any ballot issues (e.g. stray marks) are referred to the Board of Canvassers who project the ballot on a screen to determine the voter's intent.
 - Physical ballots stay in Harford County with results uploaded to the State. The state sends back tallies that the Harford County BOE will validate with local counts to ensure there is no deviation before certifying the results.
 - Certified results are recorded with the Clerk of Courts.
 - No machines have direct access to the internet. The electronic pollbooks are connected through a secure VPN connection to the State Board of Elections during Early Voting to validate the names of voters against the state database.
 - Results from ballot scanning machine SD cards are loaded onto an air-gap computer that records all results, which the results are audited against when tallies come back from the state.
 - The results that are uploaded to the state are moved off the air-gapped computer using a memory stick to a different machine for posting results. That machine connects to the Maryland state network using a secure VPN connection.
 - Web ballots require additional processing. A tracking number is written onto a clean ballot and all votes of the submitted web ballot is transferred manually by an election team to the clean ballot (size/type of paper must be consistent for the ballot scanner) before the ballot is scanned.
- Other notes:

- Election judges must be at least 16 years old, United States citizens, residents of Maryland, not an elected official and not affiliated with any campaign. Signup at HarfordVotes.gov.

Other updates from officials and upcoming events

Aurora Kahoe –

- Maryland State Highway Administration has confirmed that they recognize Grafton Shop and High Point intersections with Hwy 23 as hot-spots and are actively working to apply for federal infrastructure grants to improve these intersections.

Larry Richardson –

- County Executive Barry Glassman's last day in office will be Dec 5th.
- Harford County is hosting a 2nd chance job fair on September 28th and is looking to sign-up more employers for the next year's event:
<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2607/Second-Chance-Job-Resource-Fair>
- September is Recovery Month, with multiple events scheduled:
<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2960/September-is-Recovery-Month>

Meeting adjourned by acting-Chairperson Thom Ellenbecker at 8:37pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Thom Ellenbecker

The Forest Hill Community Advisory Board is a forum for the area residents to inform the Office of the County Executive on matters of interest and/or concern within the Forest Hill community. This Board will host regularly scheduled public meetings that educate attending residents on local government services, plans and initiatives, along with various state agencies and other organizations. All meetings are open to the public. Resident involvement is critical to the success of this community board!

Forest Hill Community Advisory Board Members:

Bernard Schweigman II – Acting Chairperson

Thom Ellenbecker – Secretary

Tom Miller

Catherine Ohler

Nancy Reynolds

Elena Skittle-Watson

Daniel Sekowski

Sherri Wiczorkowski

Please see our web page at: <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2710/Forest-Hill>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheForestHillCommunityAdvisoryBoard/>