



THE FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD Minutes

March 23, 2021

Online Zoom Meeting

Members & Representatives in Attendance

Bernie Schweigman – Chairperson

Thom Ellenbecker - Secretary

Elena Skittle-Watson – Board Member

Cathy Ohler – Board Member

Nancy Reynolds – Board Member

Daniel Sekowsky – Board Member

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

Carl Brooks – Captain, Northern Precinct, Harford County Sheriff's Office

Chad Shrodes – Harford County Councilman

Aurora Kahoe – Legislative Aide to Councilman Shrodes

Billy Boniface, Chief Advisor to the Harford County Executive, Barry Glassman

Christen Sullivan, Senior Budget Analyst, Harford County Budget and Efficiency Dept

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bernie Schweigman at 7:03 pm.

February minutes accepted with following amendments:

- Solar Farms - Chad Shrodes alerted the Forest Hill CAB to proposed amendments that put at risk diverting rural, rural residential and village business properties for this use.

A crime report for Forest Hill was presented by Captain Brooks for the period of Feb/Mar 2020 versus 2021.

- Crime remains the lowest in years. Animal control calls have increased.
- Successful arrests were made in distraction burglaries
- Still have fraud cases being reported related to impersonated unemployment and social security claims
- Rodney Prince sentenced to multiple life sentences in MD for AGS Edgewood Mass Shooting.

Guest Speakers: Billy Boniface, Chief Advisor to the Harford County Executive, Barry Glassman
Christen Sullivan, Senior Budget Analyst, Harford County Budget and Efficiency Dept on the topic of rural internet access.

- Harford County established partnership with ThinkBig partnership to bring high-speed internet access to rural communities.

- ThinkBig will lease unused fibers on the HMAN fiber network that circles the county to connect county buildings. ThinkBig will use these connections to then build out to rural residences.
- Estimates are that this is a 4-year process to expand out to all of N. Harford. First phase is starting in Norrisville because it presents the highest density nearby to HMAN. Equipment is already being staged for phase 1 in this area.
- N.Harford residents are encouraged to go to the ThinkBig website to sign up now so that they prioritize future build-outs appropriately based upon interest. There is a map on ThinkBig's website that shows more details of their plans.
- MOU between Harford County and ThinkBig requires reasonable rates, can't charge for first 200' then \$12/ft.
- Harford County investing \$2M of CARES act funding to expand HMAN for further redundancy, essentially completing a circle around the county. Contracting KCI. KCI will likely also be doing work for ThinkBig's buildout.
- ThinkBig will be applying for other government grants at State and Federal Level in the future to help fund last-mile build-outs.
- Other companies were invited but most were not interested in leasing HMAN which would have increased overall costs.

Other updates from officials:

- Chad Shrodes – Keep an eye on the summer solar farm work group that will be proposing options within the county for expanding community solar options (2MW or smaller). The larger Fairview Farms solar project (140MW), under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission is likely to happen.
- Larry Richardson –
 - State bills - Maryland General Assembly just passed the crossover date ending the chances of several bills that were being watched for possible impact to county funding. April 12 is sign or die date.
 - Police Reform bills appear to be moving forward in some form that is still negotiating. Concern related to the extent of liability of county for tort claims related to negligence. Note: Harford County will be funding body cameras regardless of if this becomes a statewide mandate.
 - Harford County will be opening a mass vaccination site by the end of April.
 - See The Grove's website for upcoming events, looks like a great schedule for the year. Upcoming was March Mulch Madness and an Ag Symposium on Social Media

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Bernie Schweigman at 8:04PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7pm – virtual meeting, speaker TBD

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 - Chairperson

Thom Ellenbecker - Secretary

Catherine Ohler

Nancy Reynolds

Elena Skittle-Watson

Daniel Sekowski

Steven Davids

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

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