



THE FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2021

Forest Hill/Hickory Activities Center 2213 Commerce Rd. Forest Hill, MD 21050

Members & Representatives in Attendance

Thom Ellenbecker – Acting Chair, Secretary, Board Member

Nancy Reynolds – Board Member

Elena Skittle-Watson – Board Member

Cathy Ohler – Board Member

Tom Miller – Board Member

Daniel Siekowski – Board Member

Chad Shrodes – Harford County Council Member

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

Lt. Hugh Doughty – Shift Commander, Northern Precinct, Harford County Sheriff's Office

Aurora Kahoe - Legislative Aide to Council Member Shrodes

Joel Gallihue - Chief of Long-Range Planning, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by acting Chairperson Thom Ellenbecker at 7:05 pm.

September minutes were read and accepted.

A crime report for Forest Hill was presented by Lt. Steven Dunlop for the past month.

- Overall calls for service are down 24% lead by a reductions in alarm calls and suspicious incidents but a slight increases in wellbeing checks.
- Vehicle accidents, assaults and thefts are also up slightly.
- Reminder to not leave valuables in cars or packages on porches. With the upcoming holidays, try to make arrangements with neighbors.
- Body camera official rollout on track for the end of the year.
- Q: Why are catalytic converters stolen? A: precious metals and supply chains.
- Q: Effectiveness of ring cameras / how used? A: Videos of suspicious incidents are very helpful but the sheriff's office does not have direct access to your cameras. Homeowners can send links from video recorded to their personal cloud to the sheriff's office who would then download the video and enter it into evidence
- Q: More details on the active shooter incident that day at hospital? A: People on a nearby private property were target shooting.

A presentation about Harford next Harford County Planning and Zoning long range planning was provided by Joel Gallihue

- Land use maps are updated every ~10 years with comprehensive rezoning occurring about a year later. This was last completed in 2017 and likely won't kick-off again before 2025 at the earliest.
- Harford Next set 500 different goals for the county and work on these goals did not halt during the COVID lockdown.
 - Recent progress includes: Edgewood transit study, paperless online development review processes, fast track processes for industrial development, encouraging agricultural development outside the development envelope, the Harford County Farm Finder, Green Infrastructure Plan, Purchases of development rights and other investments, Flood Hazard Application, Cresswell-Area Development Study, Mobility and Connectivity Transportation initiatives, a new Bike and Pedestrian Plan, establishing consistent historical preservation review processes, historical preservation resources and grants, an inventory of local historical properties, the Healthy Harford initiative.
 - Upcoming work includes: Rural Plan, Code Updates and 200 other projects or map studies.
 - Harford Next goal tracking can be viewed at: <https://hcggis.harfordcountymd.gov/Planning/NEXT/>
- Regarding the Forest Hill Estates - Concept Plan for up to 70 houses at the corner of Rock Spring Rd and Hwy 23 (DAC Plan No: C407-2021), the 2017 rezoning did allow for residential homes in this area. Bog turtles were not found around the nearby spring, which would have required additional buffers and set-backs on that portion of land. Next steps are for the development review process to continue which will look closely at set-backs vs the concept plan as well as set the parameters for a traffic impact study. The proposed entry for this development that was presented to the county is at the intersection of Rock Spring Rd. and Newport Dr., turning what is now a 3-way intersection into a 4-way intersection that will require approvals from the State since Rock Spring Rd is a state highway. In addition to the Development Review, this concept will require a Subdivision review. During the subdivision review process, developers are required by law to talk with neighbors and address their concerns, like assuring appropriate screening. Because of the associated requirements for this type of development, it is very likely that ground will not break on this project for 2-3 more years.
 - Development review activity, including an activity tracker can be found at <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/809/Development-Review>

Other updates from officials:

Larry Richardson –

- The annual MDOT consolidated transit plan tour occurred this month. Federal infrastructure and additional funds will enable substantial fixes and development with safety repairs being a priority. Notable was the Tollgate and Winter Run bridges.
- MDOT confirmed that they do understand our concerns and issues with 23 and Grafton Shop and agreed to look again at the safety numbers.

- Infrastructure bill will also expand the Port of Baltimore with dredging and new cranes. The port is seeing increasing traffic as ships divert from overcrowded west-coast ports to unload. This should, in turn, drive further distribution and transportation industry investments in Harford County.
- A new bill was introduced to extend outdoor dining through 2022.
- Mission BBQ in Bel Air is now open.
- Household hazardous waste disposal day is Nov 6th.

Chad Shrodes –

- Shared an open letter of priorities he requested of the MDOT Consolidated Transportation Planning Tour, which includes Grafton Shop options.
- Councilmanic redistricting mapping is underway. A vote on a final proposal is expected in February.

Meeting adjourned by Acting Chairperson Thom Ellenbecker at 8:47PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7pm at a new location, the Forest Hill/Hickory Activities Center, 2213 Commerce Rd. Forest Hill, MD 21050

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/>