



CAN Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings of the CAN Board of Directors will be held on the following dates.

Thursday, September 14 (New Date), Dorchester County Council Chamber (501 Court St), 6:30 pm

Saturday, November 18, Dorchester County Public Library (303 Gay St), 10:00 am

Saturday, January 13, Dorchester County Public Library (303 Gay St), 10:00 am

Any alternate locations, when necessary, will be announced at least one week prior to the meeting.

All CAN Board meetings are open to the public. Everyone interested in CAN is invited to attend.

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CAN’s Website – <https://cambridgecan.org>

CAN on FaceBook – <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeAssociationofNeighborhoods/>

Contact CAN – CambridgeCAN@yahoo.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – THINGS ARE MOVING ALONG

Summer is coming to a close and, at age 71, I still get anxious about school starting, even if it is for my grandkids. Anyway, CAN had a good summer with several very successful neighborhood events, one of which is detailed later in this Newsletter. We were also successful at a Planning and Zoning meeting in limiting a landlord from putting 7 apartments into an old house on Maryland Ave. Planning and Zoning only allowed 2 apartments and a professional office.

We also met with City Councilman Robbie Hanson and some of his constituents from the 5th Ward to see if they were interested in starting a neighborhood under CAN. Hopefully, we can expand CAN beyond the 1st Ward.

On the administrative front, we received our Non-profit status letter from the IRS, which took a fair amount of paperwork and \$460 to get, but we are now official.

Looking forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

— Chuck McFadden, President, CAN

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD – GOOD NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

This is CAN's first "Good Neighbor Award" and it goes to Maureen Farrell and Brooks Bridges of Glenburn Avenue. A close neighbor of theirs was on a 3-week vacation in France when Brooks and Maureen found out that her sump pump had stopped working, and there was 8 inches of water in her basement. Brooks and Maureen have been going over 2 or 3 times a day to dry it out and to move things around. If that wasn't enough, another neighbor found out, at the last minute, that their rented beach house did not allow their dog, so Brooks and Maureen added another dog to their household.

That's being a **GREAT NEIGHBOR**. If you have a great neighbor, write up a short paragraph for the CAN newsletter. This is what CAN is all about.

— Chuck McFadden, President, CAN

CAN's MISSION

The Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) fosters neighborhood cohesion and community involvement to (a) enhance the quality of community life for all residents of Cambridge through community events, social activities, and neighborly assistance; and (b) protect and enhance the value of properties in Cambridge by improving building and zoning codes, supporting adherence to those codes, and engaging constructively with City Government, including the Historic Preservation Commission.



CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Building a Better Community, Block by Block

CAN engages the Cambridge Community by encouraging the development of self-identified neighborhood “blocks” through which members both (a) address their own neighborhood-specific concerns (e.g., individual neighbors needing assistance/support), and (b) leverage the combined energy and influence of CAN to advance common goals (e.g., zoning standards and enforcement).

CAN is committed to transparency. Timely notification is provided to all CAN members of the Annual membership meeting, special membership meetings, and meetings of the Board of Directors. All meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the entire membership. Meeting minutes are posted to the CAN website in a timely fashion. Financial audits will be conducted annually and posted to the website.

CAN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

CAN welcomes members from **any and all Cambridge neighborhoods** who are interested in organizing and working together, building a diverse membership reflecting the diversity of Cambridge residents.

Individual Membership. Any person at least 18 years of age residing within or owning property within the limits of Cambridge is eligible for individual membership in CAN (thus including full time residents, part time residents, property owners, and renters). **Organizational Membership.** Any business or other entity located within the city limits of Cambridge that is interested in fostering CAN’s goals is eligible for organizational membership. **Dues.** Annual membership dues for both individuals and organizations are currently set at \$20. Dues are reviewed annually by the CAN Board of Directors and may be modified based on CAN’s financial needs. The Board of Directors also welcomes proposals (e.g., volunteer work) to reduce dues for low-income individuals and non-profit organizations interested in membership.

Additional membership information is available on the CAN website at <http://cambridgecan.org/join-can>

CAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – CAN NEEDS NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEERS

CAN is still in need of a **VOLUNTEER** to **CHAIR** the **Neighborhood Development Committee**, as well as volunteer **“BLOCK CAPTAINS”** so we can reach **every neighborhood in Cambridge**.

Neighborhoods are the heart and soul of CAN. The CAN Neighborhood Development Committee fosters the development of **self-identified neighborhood groups (i.e., “Blocks”)** through which members (a) address the specific concerns of their own neighborhood “Block” (e.g., helping neighbors needing assistance), and (b) leverage the energy of CAN to advance common goals across the City (e.g., zoning enforcement). Neighborhood **“Blocks”** are loosely defined to meet the needs of each **self-identified neighborhood group** – the “Block” is defined by those neighbors willing to work together to address neighborhood concerns. CAN’s goal is to bring neighborhood “Blocks” together to identify commonalities and take action on shared concerns. Neighborhood **“Block Captains”** organize activities through which people get to know their neighbors, identify concerns, and work together to address those concerns.

Please contact Chuck McFadden at Ragtime31@gmail.com or CambridgeCAN@yahoo.com to volunteer.



CAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – WEST END AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD



West End Ave Street Team

**Life on the Street is good – don't you think?
Any problems you need help with?**

Back in January, we started reaching out to you all to see who might be interested in having a Team that keeps an eye on each other and helps with small projects so that you have a great quality of life on West End Avenue. We had a couple meetings/parties and then did a street clean-up and a porch painting/yard clean up for a neighbor.

**We want to have a Street Party/BBQ in September on the 300 Block up behind the old hair salon. Interested? LET'S DO IT!
HOW ABOUT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD?**

Email CANwestend@gmail.com or call me at 410-330-2268 if you can come. Do you have a grill? How about bringing a salad or dessert or drinks?

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS, YOUR STREET, YOUR CITY AND YOURSELF:

- Deliver Flyers monthly.
- Talk to your neighbors – make sure they are ok.
- If you see mail piling up or grass growing too high, get in touch with us.
- Pick up trash even if it is not yours.
- Don't toss cigarette butts in the street. They end up in the river killing everything.
- Pick up after your dog and after others.
- Check the storm water drains and clean up all the debris covering them.
- Remove all the grass in your sidewalk cracks and in the street (don't use Round-Up use vinegar and salt to kill it). Storm water needs to flow unobstructed to prevent flooding.
- Edge your lawns. Trim your hedges and bushes. Keep your property clear of debris.
- Trim trees away from your roof and house.
- Keep all garbage in the new cans.
- Recycle plastic bottles, tin cans, glass bottles and paper.
- Collect aluminum cans & bring to 5 West End for recycling to buy supplies for the Team.

NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING – CALL US !!!

Email CANWestEnd@gmail.com
Call Cindy at 410-330-2268



CAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – CHOPTANK AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD

On July 30th, a beautiful Sunday afternoon, an ice cream social was held on Choptank Avenue through the combined efforts of CAN Choptank Block Mamas, Kay Klepfer, Martha Phillips-Patrick and Linda Starling. Thirty-five neighbors from four blocks of Choptank Avenue attended to socialize and play games. Email addresses were collected in an effort to bring the street's residents together for more activities in the future.



CAN HOUSING QUALITY COMMITTEE – PLANNING AND ZONING NOTES – AUGUST 8, 2017

Old Business:

Farmer's Market – Commission recommended approval (as a special exception) to the Board of Appeals to allow the Main Street Farmer's Market to operate in two locations. Long Wharf approved for Thursday's 4/1/17-10/31/17 and the Corner of Race Street & Cemetery Avenue approved for Saturday's 4/1/17-12/31/17. Note that this was partially a retroactive approval and applicant will need to reappear in early 2018 for subsequent approvals. The corner of Race & Cemetery was approved for November and December as a possible "Christmas or Holiday Market."

Discussion Items:

- Single Family Dwellings in General Commercial Zoning District – Single family homes currently exist in this zone but cannot be replaced, except in an identical footprint. A text amendment is proposed that would allow a single family home to be replaced with a newer home, in different or even expanded footprint, as long as setbacks were met.
- Text Amendment (ordinance) proposed to resolve conflicting language related to signage in the Route 50 and Industrial Zones.
- Text Amendment (ordinance) proposed to include seasonal sales in the Downtown/Mixed use area. Seasonal Sales were included in other appropriate areas but inadvertently omitted in the Downtown (as part of the adoption of the original UDC).
- Text Amendment (ordinance) proposed to encourage better design standards in areas without nicer architecture that can be used as a comparison property.
- Potential rezoning, ultimately determined to be a map change related to 800 and 802 Peachblossom (included in Residential and should have been DWDD); 200 and 202 Robbins



(included in Residential and should have been NC4), and 302 and 304 Boundary (included in Residential and should have been Industrial). All properties appear to have been inadvertently included in an inappropriate zoning classification in the UDC (likely a color coding error). Property owners will be notified and public hearing to occur.

– Judd Vickers, Chair, CAN Housing Quality Committee

CAN HOUSING QUALITY COMMITTEE – PLANNING AND ZONING NOTES – JULY 11, 2017

New Business –

PZ 2018-001. Approval granted to replace non-conforming (previously damaged and removed) shed on Glenburn Avenue.

PZ 2016-006. Approval of Preliminary Plan, Phase 2 for Cambridge Market Place; representatives from Lidl Grocery, Starbucks, Taco Bell and Chick-fil-A on hand to discuss plans for their facilities. Staff to work with property owner on landscaping plan and curb cuts. Changes of note: 50” flagpole request by Chick-fil-A reduced to 35”; Message board for Chick-fil-A not approved; and Lidl permitted to have 8” sign. Both Chick-fil-A changes consistent with design elements of Easton restaurant.

Introduction of Phillips Factory “F” – Bill Struever of Cross Street Partners, along with representatives of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy were on hand to discuss plans and progress for the old Phillips Factory “F” building, adjacent to Cannery Park. 65,000 square feet of space will be renovated at an estimate cost of \$18,000,000, featuring an innovated office hub for entrepreneurs; a kitchen/culinary business incubator, events space and other retail space.

Old Business –

PZ 2017-021. Approval given to allow two apartments and one ground floor commercial space, with conditions. Matter now proceeds to Board of Appeals (formerly Board of Zoning Appeals). **CAN Board Members Chuck McFadden and Judd Vickers addressed the Commission and advocated restoring the property to two single-family residences.** *Background: Property was two separate lots, each with a single-family home from 1920’s-1980’s. Both houses were subsequently acquired by one owner, physically joined, and used as a medical practice. The practice closed and the property was vacant for a time, falling into disrepair and rented to residential tenants. The property was recently acquired at tax sale (purchased for \$48,000) and the new owner presented a request to P&Z in June for 7 apartments, which was denied. While not ideal, the approved reduction in the number of permitted apartments does not represent an expansion from the three existing meters. Had a 2016 UDC amendment related to this property not been adopted, it would likely have been required to revert to conforming use of single-family homes.*

Discussion –

The Planning Commission received a request to allow multi-family units in the Neighborhood Conservation Zones. The Commission took a strong stand and voted unanimously to deny this request.

— Judd Vickers, Chair, CAN Housing Quality Committee



CAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (July 27, 2017 – Open to the Public)

6:00 pm – PRE-MEETING DISCUSSION with Cambridge City Council Commissioner Robert Hanson and Residents of Cambridge Ward 5 (which extends roughly from Cambridge Creek to Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport)

1. Welcome – Chuck McFadden, CAN President

Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) President Chuck McFadden opened the discussion at 6:00 pm by welcoming Cambridge Commissioner Robert Hanson and approximately 10 residents of Cambridge Ward 5 who were interested in learning about CAN. Chuck explained that CAN is a new organization started in January 2017 with the goal of enhancing the quality of community life across the entire city of Cambridge through social events, neighborly assistance, and supporting compliance with city codes. CAN currently has a 60 dues-paying members, an email list of 180 persons who have expressed an interest in CAN, and a Cambridge-wide email list of 400 persons (begun prior to CAN's inception by CAN Board Member Dave Thatcher).

2. Social Activities.

Chuck described CAN's Neighborhood Social Component as a vehicle to develop neighborhood cohesion and build community identify through positive social interactions, networking, and community involvement.

Chuck explained that "neighborhoods" are self-identified areas that may consist of one city block, several blocks, or any geographic area that CAN members define for themselves under the leadership of a "block captain." One neighborhood activity is hosting social events; for example, the "Belvedere Avenue" neighborhood group recently held a successful ice social during which many neighbors met each other for the first time. As another neighborhood activity, the "West End Avenue" neighborhood has organized several neighbor-helping-neighbor work days through which neighbors have painted porches, power-washed houses, and performed cleanup for neighbors who were unable to do these things on their own.

CAN Membership Director Michelle Barnes indicated that she is gathering a variety of materials to assist "block captains" in the development of neighborhood "blocks" but what CAN really needs is people to come forward to define and "captain" their self-identified neighborhood groups.

CAN would like to encourage residents of Ward 5 to identify neighborhoods and "block captains" to participate in CAN – and to make CAN aware of the concerns of Ward 5 residents so we can work together to address those concerns with a strong collective voice. Chuck indicated that CAN has developed survey capability to find out what neighborhoods really think and what issues they want to have addressed.

3. Housing and Zoning Issues.

CAN Vice President Judd Vickers explained that CAN's Housing Quality Committee, which he chairs, systematically tracks Planning and Zoning meetings to identify issues



of concern and to advocate on behalf of affected neighborhoods. CAN's activities include conducting research, monitoring meetings and enforcement, and following-up on identified problems. For example, CAN recently supported efforts by Commissioner Hanson and other residents of Ward 5 to address a zoning request that would have greatly increased the number of apartments in a property on Maryland Avenue. CAN submitted a written objection to the proposal and sent representative to the Planning and Zoning meeting to speak in person against the proposal, which was ultimately defeated.

Judd indicated that the Housing Quality Committee needs many more volunteers because there is lots of work to do. For example, Judd explained that the City now entirely prohibits converting single-family housing to multi-unit dwellings. However, because Cambridge has no systematic enforcement mechanism, CAN has been trying to monitor and follow-up on such non-conforming property uses. This will require that people who know their neighborhoods identify multi-unit houses that become vacant so code enforcement can be requested. Judd described two recent situations in which non-conforming multi-unit houses were forced to revert to single-unit housing. Greg Boss noted CAN is developing databases to identify owners of multiple houses who constitute a burden to Cambridge and should be targeted for code enforcement.

Judd noted that CAN would also like to provide assistance to tenants with uncooperative landlords who refuse to comply with city requirements. CAN hopes to develop a "Tenants Corner" on its website where information to assist tenants can be compiled and accessed.

4. Open Discussion – Attendee Comments

Chuck McFadden reiterated that CAN wants to foster development of large cohesive groups of citizens, and is extremely interested in encouraging Ward 5 residents (and all residents of Cambridge) to participate in CAN. As CAN attracts more members, CAN will be able to exert increasingly greater influence to address community concerns. CAN needs to learn about the concerns of Ward 5 residents, and CAN needs Ward 5 residents to become active and involved in CAN, if we are to address Ward 5's concerns effectively.

- a. **Comment:** Cambridge Landing has implemented the neighborhood concept for 34 years. It works because there is a strong set of rules, and residents enforce the rules. Expectations are clear and neighbors self-enforce the standards.
- b. **Question – Code Enforcement and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):** Commissioner Hanson explained that the Cambridge Historic District and the HPC follow specific guidelines based on Federal and State requirements. Chuck McFadden explained that CAN wants to work with the HPC to develop consistent guidelines and procedures that work. It was noted that the availability of Maryland Historic Trust monies to assist owners of historic properties depends upon compliance with federal guidelines that require an operating HPC. Establishment of the Cambridge Historic District and the Cambridge HPC in 1996-1997 led to increased regulation resulting in neighborhood improvement. However, inconsistent code enforcement is a major, longstanding issue not only for the entire City of Cambridge. For example, there is a block in the



“West End Avenue” neighborhood where every house has been forced to comply with the City sidewalk codes EXCEPT the one house owned by a particular landlord. The “good-old boy” network in Cambridge has consistently opposed strong code enforcement, but CAN is working with Commissioners Hanson and Rideout to advocate strengthened enforcement, which would also result in additional revenue that the City desperately needs to improve its infrastructure.

- c. **Ward 5 Issue – Homeless, trash, drug use on the Fishing Pier.** Chuck once again stated that CAN very much wants to learn about the issues and concerns of Ward 5 residents so we can address these issues with more clout. Ward 5 residents expressed their serious concern about homelessness, trash, drug use, and unsavory after-hours activity on the Fishing Pier, which receives little or no oversight. Chuck noted that CAN is excited about getting Ward 5 residents involved so we can more effectively address problems like these.
- d. **Ward 5 Issue – Crime and Public Safety.** Commissioner Hanson noted that Lexus/Nexus crime maps are now available on the Choose Cambridge website and that the public can now sign up for and get alerts about crime in their neighborhoods. He also noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being developed to facilitate oversight of areas where City and County jurisdiction and responsibility overlap or are poorly defined. He also indicated that the long process of trying to get video cameras placed in critical locations is finally about to result in deployment of 18 additional cameras.
- e. **Ward 5 Issue – Help for Homeowners.** It was pointed out that many homeowners in Ward 5 and throughout the City have limited resources to maintain and improve their properties, and that Code enforcement may be difficult or impossible for them. Chuck noted that CAN’s goal is not to target individual owner-residents for strict code enforcement, but to target landlords who refuse to maintain their properties in compliance with City requirements. CAN wants to target its enforcement efforts where they will do the most good, specifically, to owners of multiple dwellings with consistently poor code compliance. In the case of individual resident homeowners, CAN is committed to helping those individuals as much as possible, and cited the “West End Avenue” neighborhood’s neighbor-helping-neighbor work days as an example of this commitment.

5. Closing. The Open Discussion concluded at 7:00 pm. Chuck McFadden thanked Commissioner Hanson and the residents of Ward 5 for their participation and encourage them to consider membership in CAN. He asked attendees to sign the attendance sheet at the door so they could be included in the CAN email distribution list and receive information from CAN, including the CAN Newsletter, whether or not they choose to become members.

7:00 pm – CAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board Members Present: Chuck McFadden (President), Judd Vickers (Vice President), Mary Ellen Jesien (Treasurer), Tom Puglisi (Secretary), Roman Jesien, Sharon Smith, and Dave Thatcher, constituting a Quorum of the Board under Bylaws Section 11 (seven of nine members being present)



Board Members Absent: Jackie Vickers, Frank Cooke

- 1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes.** CAN President Chuck McFadden opened the meeting at 7:00 pm by welcoming the members of the Board, as well as approximately 30 members of the public in attendance. Chuck introduced the minutes of the May 20, 2017 meeting, which were distributed via email earlier this week. It was moved and seconded that the Board approve the May 20 minutes as distributed, and the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote of Board members present.
- 2. Nomination and Election of New CAN Board Member.** The Board received a recommendation from CAN Vice President Judd Vickers, as Chair of the Nominations Committee and with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, that CAN Membership Director Michelle Barnes be appointed to one of the vacant seats on the CAN Board of Directors in accordance with Article IV, Section 8 of CAN's Bylaws. Roman Jesien made a motion to that effect, and Tom Puglisi seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote of the Board Members present (Judd Vickers having left the room temporarily), and Michelle Barnes was added to the CAN Board of Directors, effective immediately.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.** CAN Treasurer Mary Ellen Jesien reported a current balance of approximately \$769.81 in CAN's Treasury. Recent expenses include \$309.55 for door hangers and postcards. CAN currently lists 60 paid memberships.
- 4. Secretary's Report.** CAN Secretary Tom Puglisi reported that the next Newsletter would be issued during the last week of August and that articles should be submitted to him no later than August 21. Tom noted that the Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy has provided an article for every issue so far, and we would like to have as many community groups as possible providing articles. Although Tom forwarded a meeting announcement to Cambridge Community Radio Station WHPC, the announcement was not aired as expected. Tom will follow-up to ensure that an announcement of the next meeting airs. Mary Ellen Jesien volunteered to have meeting announcements placed in the local newspapers.
- 5. Housing Quality Committee Report.** CAN Vice President and Housing Quality Committee Chair Judd Vickers provided additional detail on the Maryland avenue property described during this evening's discussion with residents of Ward 5. Although CAN was not successful in having the property converted back to two single unit residents, the Planning and Zoning Commission did limit the property to two apartment units and one commercial space. Greg Boss has developed a database to provide street-by-street detail for identifying neighborhood properties to determine which housing is single family, which is a second residence, which is non-conforming multi-unit housing, and which is in transition. For example, it appears that Belvedere has all single-family owner or rental housing, whereas Oakley has several multi-family houses that are nonconforming, some of which are inhabited and some of which are not. CAN Board member Frank Cooke has been attempting to monitor non-conforming housing and request enforcement once the transition occurs. Susan Morgan will be working with Frank on this and will take over when Frank leaves Cambridge in the Fall. The Committee needs more volunteers to monitor meetings, maintain lists of



problem properties, determine the best ways of addressing individual problems, and addressing tenants issues (e.g., bedbug issues recently faced by a number of new tenants). The Committee will also try to incorporate the recent Salisbury State study of Cambridge housing into its database. Formal written requests to the Mayor and City Manager will be needed to obtain full study results. Judd also noted that the Habitat grant will offer rehabilitation assistance targeting owner-occupied residences with code violations.

- 6. Neighborhood Development Committee Report.** Chuck McFadden described the recent, very successful “Belvedere Avenue” neighborhood ice cream social. He once again voiced the need for many more Neighborhood Block Captains and for someone to take over permanent leadership of the Neighborhood Development Committee.
- 7. Membership Director’s Report.** Membership Director Michelle Barnes reiterated the importance of conducting concerted outreach to all of Cambridge. She reported that door hangers have distributed to Neighborhood Block Captains, and many have already been hung. Postcards will be sent to people who have come to meetings but not joined. Materials and step-by-step checklists for neighborhood development captains and neighborhood events/activities are being developed. Michelle would also like to hold discussions on being effective Neighborhood Block Captains. In Fall, CAN’s goal is to visit groups/organization/churches to publicize CAN and its program of coherent activities (still to be finalized).
- 8. Open Discussion – Can Members and Others in Attendance**
 - a. CAN Membership List.** It was noted that CAN needs to decide (i) who will be responsible for maintaining the membership list, and (ii) how to ensure that relevant information (e.g., PayPal payments and meeting sign-in sheets) will be forwarded to that person. It was decided that, as Treasurer, Mary Ellen Jesien will be responsible for maintaining the official CAN membership list and that she will work with Fred Phillips-Patrick to ensure that PayPal information is provided to her regularly. Mary Ellen will routinely send membership information and email addresses to Dave Thatcher to ensure that Dave’s email distribution lists are kept current. Michelle Barnes will develop a membership form to standardize information received from members.
 - b. Circles of 6.** Debbie Haynes described a practice of a neighborhood group in Florida whereby groups of 6 neighbors agree to be responsible for helping each other in emergency situations. It was suggested that establishing “Circles of 6” could be an activity of CAN’s Neighborhood Blocks and could be focused particularly to vulnerable neighbors not only in emergency situations but where persons could benefit from regular monitoring and assistance as needed.
- 9. Adjournment.** Chuck McFadden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Puglisi seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

— Tom Puglisi, CAN Secretary



COMMUNITY NEWS – COOPERATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MIDSHORE RIVERKEEPER CONSERVANCY (MRC) – Ride for Clean Rivers 2017

Sunday September 17, 2017 – Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD

Ride the beautiful back roads of Talbot and Queen Anne's Counties in support of clean water for our Midshore rivers. Register now and save the date to experience the spectacular scenery and rich history of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Early registration ends September 8, 2017.

Ride for Clean Rivers features metric (62-mile), 35-mile, and a 20-mile rides. All rides have SAG support and have food and drink at each rest stop. There will be light morning snacks and coffee at registration. The metric will kickoff at 8:00 am and the 35-mile and 20-mile rides will follow at 10:00 am. All rides will start and finish at Chesapeake College, culminating in an outdoor barbeque celebration and music.

For more information, contact Sarah at sarah@midshoreriverkeeper.org or 443.385.0511.

MIDSHORE RIVERKEEPER CONSERVANCY (MRC) – Stewards for Streams: Faith Based Conservation

Stewards for Streams: Faith Based Conservation is an MRC program that partners with faith communities to spread the message of environmental stewardship and action. This past year MRC collaborated with St. Luke United Methodist Church on Bradley Ave., Waugh Chapel on High St., and Open Bible Academy on Race St. to install environmental landscaping and provide outreach to the congregations.

In 2016, **Waugh Chapel** kicked off the Stewards for Streams program by planting a 250 sq ft rain garden filled with native flowers and grasses. The rain garden, which sits next to their community vegetable boxes, filters storm water and reduces pollutants flowing into the Choptank River.

This summer **St. Luke's** installed a 660 sq ft bioswale, a graded and planted drainage ditch, which naturally filters water and removes pollutants before entering the Choptank River. This fall and spring, St. Luke's and Waugh Chapel will plant 10 native trees on their property to support native wildlife, increase tree canopy, and beautify their space.

In August, MRC provided an environmental field experience at University of Maryland's Horn Point Campus for 40 children from **Open Bible Church and Academy**. Children canoed, hiked through forested trails, toured the sturgeon lab, and learned about human impact on our local rivers.

Stewards for Streams seeks to collaborate with faith communities to inspire Creation Care, or the belief that humans are responsible for taking care of God's Creation. MRC hopes that faith organizations' environmental actions will permeate throughout their communities and inspire homeowners to impart



CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Building a Better Community, Block by Block

similar practices such as rain gardens, rain barrels, and pervious pavers to reduce pollution flowing into our local rivers. **Stewards for Streams** is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

For more information or to involve your faith community, contact Suzanne Sullivan at Suzanne@midshoreriverkeeper.org or call 443-385-0511.

– Suzanne Sullivan, MRC Education & Volunteer Coordinator



BAYLY HOUSE SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT

As the owner of **Bayly House**, I am very proud to share with you that we are beginning work on the preservation and restoration of the slave dwelling behind the house, right here in Cambridge! We are so fortunate to have made the acquaintance of Mr. Joseph McGill, who has scheduled his nonprofit **Slave Dwelling Project** to come to Dorchester County in October, to promote education and understanding about the lives of enslaved peoples through staying overnight in the structures that once housed these souls. The Slave Dwelling Project will be sleeping in the **Bayly Slave Cabin** on Friday night, October 13, along with more wonderful events throughout the weekend at other sites in the city and county.

In the last week of September, **Dorchester County Public Schools** (DCPS) is planning to bring their 4th and 5th graders to visit the **Bayly Slave Cabin** in Cambridge, as well as Spocott and Handsell in Dorchester County, to enrich their education about the history of enslaved peoples in our community, and in conjunction with the Slave Dwelling Project event. Ann Phillips of the Dorchester County Historical Society is working with Monique Ward of DCPS to organize this wonderful opportunity for the students.

I am looking for volunteers to support this event at the Bayly Slave Cabin. Some of you will already be aware of these events and the need for volunteers, or you may know someone who would like to participate. Any assistance would be appreciated, and as this **interpretation centers on role playing** as a



slave, we would be especially excited to have volunteers who are interested in **interpretive roles**. Ann Phillips has scheduled an **organizational meeting**, open to all who are interested in helping make this educational opportunity wonderful for our students, on **August 31 at 10:30, at the Dorchester County Historical Society on Maryland Ave in Cambridge**.

Please feel free to share this message with any and all who might have an interest or know someone who would want to know about more. There are so many fantastic and dedicated people involved in organizing this project and other educational programs, I hope this message helps bring success and growth within our County through enhanced opportunities for community involvement.

— Catherine Morrison, Bayly House

EASTERN SHORE NETWORK FOR CHANGE – Back to School Rally

The [Eastern Shore Network for Change \(ESNC\)](#) is partnering with [The Dorchester County Judy Center](#) to organize a back to school rally at **Sandy Hill Elementary School**. We are specifically calling on the men in our community to show the children, the school system, and our city that they care about our children and are invested in their success. As a first step, we are asking men to park at and report to **The Judy Center at 7:30 am on September 5th**. We will meet there for coffee and donuts and walk over to Sandy Hill Elementary to welcome the children. The first arrival of children is at 8:05 am, so it is very important to arrive on time to avoid incoming buses and so that parking will not be an issue.

Our goal is to have **100 men** participate, so please share this email with your network of friends, organizations, and churches.

If we want to see a change in our community, we can't just talk about the problems, we have to be active in the solutions. Let's show these kids that this community supports them.

If you have any questions, or would like to share the list of names you were able to recruit, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 410-908-7506.

We look forward to seeing you on the first day of school!!!

— Dion Banks & Kisha Petticolas, Eastern Shore Network for Change

EASTERN SHORE NETWORK
FOR CHANGE

ESNC

"Where the status quo is not an option."

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PICKLEBALL CAMBRIDGE

Pickleball was played in Cambridge for the first time on May 24, 2017, at the Glasgow Street tennis courts. Three adventurous pioneers participated. Since then, 60 people have come out to play, and the number keeps growing. The nets, paddles, and balls required for the game were privately purchased, coordination was made with the YMCA to promote the program, and with the County for use of the courts (using duct tape to layout the pickleball courts on the tennis court surfaces). A lot of tape has been used, since it isn't too fond of sun and rain.

While playing continued, and the numbers kept growing, efforts were being made to get permanent pickleball court lines painted on the outdoor tennis courts, and on the YMCA gym floor. With great cooperation from the County and the YMCA, this will be accomplished within the next month. **Pickleball continues to be played on the outdoor courts, and beginning September 18th, it will also be offered indoors at the YMCA.** Scheduled playing times at the outdoor courts (weather permitting) are Mon, Wed & Sat @ 0930, and Tue and Thu @ 1800. There is no cost. Paddles and balls are provided. Scheduled playing time at the YMCA will be MWF from 1200-1400 hours. Members play for free, all others pay a \$5 walk-in fee. Beginners are welcome, and instruction is provided as needed.

For more information, contact Dave Thatcher at 443-521-3946, or email DAVETHATCHER@RCN.COM



NATHAN OF DORCHESTER

The Skipjack Nathan of Dorchester invites you to sail on the beautiful Choptank River from historic Cambridge. The Nathan was commissioned on July 4, 1994. Funded by contributors and built by volunteers, the Nathan was built to preserve the wooden boat building skills and maritime heritage of the region. She was the last Skipjack to be built as an oyster dredge boat. Regular two-hour public sails are available each Saturday that the Nathan is in port, May through October departing from Long Wharf, and one-hour sails are available one Sunday each month. For information call 410-228-7141, access our website at www.skipjack-nathan.org, or email us at info@skipjack-nathan.org.



DCPG

P.O. Box 576

Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Dear Friend and Neighbor,

It's time to renew your membership!

Your membership helps DCPG support strong County and City Comprehensive Plans that direct residential, commercial and industrial growth to our villages and towns while preserving the farming, fishing, and forestry industries. Your support is needed to continue the water quality monitoring program which has expanded to 8 sites including the Sailwinds visitor beach on the Choptank River. The monitoring volunteers are collecting data on nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and bacteria. The cost of the water testing, including bacteria, is expensive but this is important because so much of the Dorchester County watershed is impaired. Please help.

Our mission statement:

DCPG is organized to guarantee a public voice in issues of land and water use. The group pledges to advocate for the promotion, maintenance, and conservation of the natural resources, farmland, waterways and open spaces of Dorchester County.

We'd like to thank those giving at the \$50 level and above by recognizing you in our next Newsletter.

Visit us on the web www.dcpgonline.org

If you have renewed your membership for 2017, thank you for your support.

Fred Pomeroy
DCPG
President



CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE LITTER

Anyone who drives on Three Notch Road or Mervell Dean Road (NAS Patuxent River) near the tractor supply may have seen the large patch of burned grass between those two roads recently. This was most likely caused by a cigarette butt tossed out of a car window. **It was probably an absent minded thing, as many people do not even consider cigarette butts to be litter.**

Based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) National Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 90,000 smoking-material fires in the U.S. These fires resulted in an estimated **540 deaths**, 1,640 injuries and \$621 million in direct property damage [Laura Labella, NAS Patuxent River Public Works Department, Natural Resources, & Shawn Graham, NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs].

Discarded cigarette butts are a form of non-biodegradable litter. Carried as runoff from streets to drains, to rivers, and ultimately to the ocean and its beaches, cigarette filters are the single most collected item in international beach cleanups each year. They are an environmental blight on streets, sidewalks, and other open areas [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2697937/>].

In the past decade, cigarette smoking in America has decreased 28%, yet cigarette butts remain the most littered item in the U.S. and across the globe. Dropping cigarette butts and cigar tips to the ground, putting them in planters, and disposing of them in waterways is littering [America Reaches Major Anti-Smoking Milestone, *The American Legacy Foundation*, Nov. 19, 2008].

Economically, cigarette butt litter:

- Requires additional sidewalk and street sweeping, greenway and park maintenance, storm drain cleaning, and increased maintenance of storm water filters.
- Makes business owners bear the expense of cigarette butt and cigar tip litter cleanup around entrances, exits, sidewalks, and parking lots.
- Can result in a decline in a city's foot traffic, tourism, business development, and housing. In fact, the presence of litter in a community decreases property values by a little over 7%. Focusing on small improvements, like reducing cigarette butt litter, creates safer and more economically vibrant communities.
- Takes a toll on recreation areas and public spaces. Tobacco litter represents nearly 34.4% of all litter in outdoor recreation areas such as picnic areas, hiking trails, parks, etc. decreasing the appeal of these natural areas.
- Creates fire hazards, impacts local wildlife, and eventually contributes to lost tourism and revenue.

Environmentally, cigarette butt litter:

- 32% of litter at storm drains is tobacco products [Litter in America, KAB Research, 2009].
- Cigarette butt litter creates blight by accumulating in gutters, and outside doorways and bus shelters.



- Increasing amounts of litter in a business district, along riverfronts, or recreation areas create a sense that no one cares, leading to more community disorder and crime [Can the Can, *The Economist*, http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12630201].
- 95% of cigarette filters are composed of cellulose acetate, a plastic that degrades slowly and can persist in the environment [Clean Virginia Waterways, <http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/cigarettelitterhome.html>].
- Filters from tobacco products are harmful to waterways and wildlife. Nearly 80% of marine debris comes from land-based sources. Cigarette butt litter can also pose a hazard to animals and marine life when they mistake filters for food [Faris, J. and Hart, K., *Seas of Debris: A Summary of the Third International Conference on Marine Debris*, N.C. Sea Grant College Program and NOAA, 1994, title page].

Cigarettes contain over 165 chemicals:

- Benzo[a]pyrene: found in coal tar and cigarette smoke and it is one of the most potent cancer causing chemical in the world.
- Arsenic: deadly poison that causes diarrhea, cramps, anemia, paralysis and malignant skin tumors. It is used in pesticides.
- Acetone: It's one of the active ingredients in nail polish remover.
- Lead: Lead poisoning stunts growth, causes vomiting, and causes brain damage.
- Formaldehyde: causes cancer, can damage lungs, skin, and digestive systems. Embalmers use it to preserve dead bodies.
- Toluene: highly toxic, commonly use as an ingredient in paint thinner.
- Butane: highly flammable butane is one of the key components in gasoline.
- Cadmium: cause damage to the liver, kidneys and brain, and stays in the body for years.
- Ammonia: causes individuals to absorb more nicotine, keeping them hooked on smoking.
- Benzene: found in pesticides and gasoline.
- Plastic pieces have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales, and other marine creatures that mistake them as food, swallowing harmful plastic and toxic chemicals. Ingestion of plastic cigarette filters is a threat to wildlife. Sometimes even young children pick up and ingest cigarette butts.
- Wind and rain often carry cigarette butts into waterways, where the toxic chemicals in the cigarette filters leak out, threatening the quality of the water and the creatures that live in it. [http://www.beachapedia.org/Cigarette_Butt_Litter]

While the environmental impact of a single disposed cigarette filter is minimal, there were 1.35 trillion filtered cigarettes manufactured in the United States in 2007, and of these, more than 360 billion were consumed here. [US Department of Agriculture. *Tobacco Outlook Report*, Economic Research Service, October 24, 2007] About 680,000 tons of cellulose acetate was used in the production of these filtered cigarettes. With 5.6 trillion filtered cigarettes consumed worldwide in 2002, and nine trillion expected by 2025, the global environmental burden of cigarette filters is also significant [Mackay J, Eriksen M, Shafey O. *The Tobacco Atlas*. 2nd Ed. The American Cancer Society; Atlanta, GA, USA: 2006]. It is estimated that 1.69 billion pounds (845,000 tons) of butts wind up as litter worldwide per year [Carlozo LR. Cigarettes: 1.7 billion pounds of trash. *Chicago Tribune*. Jun 18, 2008].

Most attention has been given to the cigarette butt waste problem because of the filters that end up on beaches. The annual Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) reports that 'cigarette butts have been the single most recovered item since collections began [Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup, The Ocean Conservancy, 2007 <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=11411>].

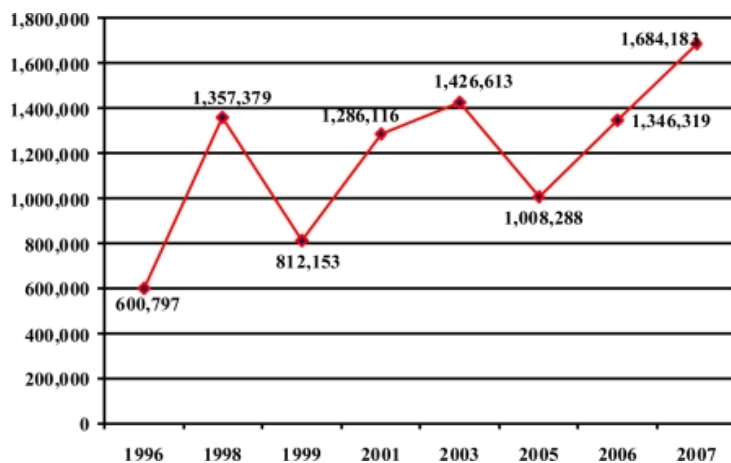


CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Building a Better Community, Block by Block

Although volunteers collected 1,684,183 cigarette butts (33.6% of all debris) in the 2007 US Cleanup, these data likely underestimate total discarded filters. For example, a comprehensive cleanup in Orange County, California, yielded 20 times more butts than the estimated ICC total for that beach for the same year [Moore S, Gregorio D, Carreon M, Weisberg S, Leecaster M. Composition and distribution of beach debris in Orange County, California, Mar. Pollut. Bull. 2001, 42:241–245].

The cigarette butts recovered from beaches are not necessarily due to cigarettes that are smoked on them. Butts are dropped on sidewalks or thrown from moving cars; they then move to the street drains, and thus to streams, rivers, and the oceans.



PLEASE DON'T LITTER

— Cindy Smith, CAN West End Avenue Neighborhood Captain

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

CAMBRIDGE MATTERS: MESSAGES FROM COMMISSIONER STEVE RIDEOUT (swrideout@aol.com)

Previous "Cambridge Matters" messages may be found on the CAN Website at

<https://cambridgecan.org/category/news/commissioner-posts/>

CITY BOARD VACANCIES

I have learned from our Mayor that there were a number of positions open on several city boards. They are the **Housing Board of Review**, **The Housing Authority Board**, and **the Board of Zoning and Appeals**. Below are links to the city website regarding each of the Boards. There is a brief mention of what they do and how often they meet.



Housing Board of Review – http://www.choosecambridge.com/index.php/default_templates/city-boards-commissions/housing-board-of-review/

Housing Authority Board – http://www.choosecambridge.com/index.php/default_templates/city-boards-commissions/housing-authority-board/

Board of Zoning Appeals – http://www.choosecambridge.com/index.php/default_templates/city-boards-commissions/board-of-zoning-and-appeals/

For the **Housing Board of Review**, it appears that terms for all positions ended last year or are scheduled to end August 31st of this year. For the **Housing Authority Board**, it appears that the term for one position ended this past June. For the **Board of Zoning Appeals**, 3 terms expired in April of this year. I am not aware of how many, if any, of these vacancies have been filled, but the Mayor advises that she needs candidates for each of them.

For the city to run properly and for matters that come before these boards to be appropriately and timely resolved, citizens need to step forward to help out. It appears that the Housing Authority Board meets regularly, while the other two only when there is an issue to be decided.

As you may recall, a few years ago there was a significant and public issue regarding the Housing Authority that was, thankfully, resolved; but the problems that arose there are an example of how important it is to have involved and knowledgeable people providing oversight regarding the work of the Housing Authority and the other boards.

We need some of you to step forward and notify the Mayor of your interest in possibly serving on one or more of these boards. Please contact her at the email address above or by calling city hall.

Not having a full complement of board members will hurt our efforts to continue the improvements that are starting to take place.

Thanks for considering this request.

— *Steve*

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – August 14, 2017

Monday's meeting had some interesting twists and turns.

The agenda, with a minor modification, was approved after which Public Comment was taken. This was the first meeting where a significant number of people came to talk about an issue of concern to them. What drew them was the proposed grant (Item 11 on the agenda) from the state to help fix up the bathhouse at the city marina and the proposal to open up the bathhouse facilities to the public. Every person who



appeared and provided comments were either in favor of the grant, opposed to the opening of the bathhouse to the public, or both. I will explain the outcome of these issues later in this report, but to a person everyone who spoke was polite, spoke passionately about the issue, and provided many good reasons to support their position.

With the consent agenda, the following occurred:

- The meeting minutes as amended for the July 24th city council meeting were approved. If you ever want to read city council minutes or about a particular issue that was taken up and decided, they can be found on the city website.
- Beat the Rush Delivery was granted permission to hold a community supper in the 500 Block of Race Street on Sunday September 10, 2017 from noon to 8:00 p.m. The 500 block of Race Street will be closed that day starting at 11:00 a.m. A variance from the noise ordinance was approved, and all of the above was subject to submission of a certificate of property and liability insurance naming the City of Cambridge as an additional insured and a certificate from the Health Department for serving food that day.
- Grand National Waterfowl was granted permission to hold “El Primer Festival Internacional de Cambridge” in Cannery Way and the parking lot between 420 Race Street and 411 Academy Street on Sunday August 27th from noon until 8:00 p.m. with a variance from the noise ordinance. A certificate of insurance protecting the city, a copy of the county liquor license, and a payment of \$1,440 to the city for police coverage of the event was required.
- IRONMAN Maryland was granted a variety of permissions at the request of Gerry Boyle for the upcoming IRONMAN competition on October 7, 2017, subject to IRONMAN Maryland providing an appropriate certificate of insurance protecting the city.
- The Jesus Church was granted a noise ordinance variance for a Christian Music DJ at the Dorchester County Pool on August 25, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their Super Natural Generation event.
- The Dorchester Center for the Arts (DCA) was granted a noise ordinance variance for an Art in the Alley art exhibit and performance event held on August 13, 2017 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Under New Business, the issues of the bathhouse grant and possible change of usage mentioned above was considered. In August of 2016, City Staff applied for a grant from the State of Maryland for \$65,000 to help fix up the bathhouse at the city marina. The state approved the request on the condition that the bathhouse continues to be used only by boaters who have a registered boat or are transient boaters visiting Cambridge.

Most of the money for these kinds of grants comes from fees paid by individuals purchasing boats in Maryland. In addition the boaters who have slips in the city marina or are transient boaters visiting Cambridge pay fees for the use of the marina that help support the running of the city marina.



Prior to 2005, the city marina made money for the city that was used to support other shortfalls in the city budget. With the expansion of the marina in 2005 and later and the national economic downturn in 2007, the money that the city borrowed to pay for the expansion was not being repaid by the anticipated income from the marina because the expected use by more and larger boats did not materialize. Currently there is a shortfall of about \$255,000 a year to run the marina, which is basically the payment that the city is making on the marina loan that has 5 more years to run. Without the burden of the loan, the income generated by the marina would basically pay to run the marina.

As there is this shortfall that city residents are supporting through their tax payments, Commissioner Sydnor sought to open the bathhouse at the marina to the public as it is located on city property and is being supported by the taxpayers. The bathhouse is not the public restrooms that are located near to Lighthouse at Long Wharf. The bathhouse is located in the Marina Park near Yacht Club Drive.

As the grant from the state was restricted to support boating and boaters and if the city opened the bathhouse to the public, the state would not give the grant to the city. If that were to take place, any repairs to the bathhouse to bring it into compliance with the law would be at the expense of the tax payers and would have cost the city at least another \$40,000 out of taxpayer funds. In addition, opening the bathhouse to the public would have placed Cambridge in a unique position of being the only known jurisdiction on the Bay to do that. It was reported that no other city marina bathhouse facilities in the state are open to the general public.

As boaters had paid a portion of the purchase of their boat to the state for this purpose and were paying the city money to park their boats during the season or as visitors to Cambridge, part of what they are paying goes to being able to use the bathhouse facility. In addition almost every person who spoke earlier at the public comment session confirmed that they and probably more boaters would move their boats to another marina or not visit the Cambridge marina.

The grant application indicated that approximate 800 boats rent slips here or visit here. Seasonal slip rentals bring approximately \$2,000 a year to the city for each boat. The potential loss of income would only mean a greater use of city taxes to pay the loan payment, which would mean less money available to pay for other needed expenditures.

After hearing all of the arguments, I moved to accept the grant of \$65,000 and not open the marina bathhouse to the public. That passed on a vote of 3-2 with me and Commissioners Hanson and Cannon voting in favor and Commissioners Sydnor and Foster voting against.

The issue of having sufficient bathroom facilities for the public in the city was raised but not addressed as a result of this vote but is something that city council needs to bring back for further discussion and decision.

The next issue was the creation of a Planner 1 position within the Department of Public Works. An Assistant Planner position currently exists but is not filled at this time due to the departure of La Sara Kinser to a new job. With that funded position there is a need to add \$20,000 from the Administration Budget in order to have sufficient monies for fund the Planner 1 position. As there is need for staff with



additional experience and a need to provide more support to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), the commissioners agreed that it was appropriate to create the Planner 1 position and shift existing available funding to fund the position and voted to do so.

The next issue involved the Street Paving program. The City has set aside \$250,000 for paving a small portion of the city streets. In addition \$25,000 has been budgeted to hire a consultant for a street maintenance assessment to identify the level of need for repair of all of the streets in the city, of which there are approximately 72 miles, and make suggestions on how our limited resources should be spent most effectively.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) also proposed moving forward with a provisional approval of a plan for paving streets in each of the city's 5 wards. After discussion where the commissioners expressed different disagreements with the plan, I moved to authorize release of an RFP for the Street Maintenance Assessment and to continue discussion of the paving plan until the next city council meeting. That motion passed.

I indicated that if the provisional paving plan was approved before the Street Maintenance Assessment was completed, I would request that the monies not be spent until we had a chance to look at the Assessment. It is my view that the street paving should not be a political decision but should be based on the available data that can tell us what the priorities should be and what kind of paving would be most economical and effective so that we can be spending your tax money the best way to improve our streets and not the political way.

The next item on the agenda was a request by city staff for approval for them to submit a grant application for a FY 2019 Open Space Community Parks and Playgrounds Program grant in the amount of \$530,000. After a presentation on the request and a public hearing, the request was approved.

The next item was a request from Beazer Homes Corp. to have the city settle a claim that the city has against Beazer as a result of its failure to complete its development of their Deep Harbour project in the city. Beazer had signed MOU's with the city that resulted in obligations that they failed to meet that included the promise to build a public Riverwalk.

After presentation by counsel for Beazer Homes Corp. and discussion by city council, the settlement offer was rejected unanimously. In addition my motion to have staff consider filing suit against Beazer Home Corp. for specific performance of the MOU for the completion of the Riverwalk or in the alternative money damages passed unanimously.

A number of miscellaneous items were taken up before we adjourned. The report from the Finance Committee meeting of July 27th was reviewed. Odie Wheeler made a presentation of the camera project that is ongoing that showed the clarity of the picture being brought to the City Police Department as part of their crime intervention and prevention efforts.

I was given permission to attend a meeting electronically on September 25th. The reason for that is that I will be in Norfolk, VA to participate in their Statewide Best Practice Courts Conference that starts the next



day. It would have been difficult for me to attend the city council meeting and then travel to Norfolk and be ready for the conference the next day. I will be attending by Skype in order to meet the requirements of the Maryland Open Meetings Act. The plan is that such permissions to attend meetings electronically will be granted on an individual basis depending on the circumstances. This is our first test of allowing this, and it will be interesting to see how well it works.

The next item involved a concern raised by Commissioner Hanson regarding the types of signs that are prohibited in the city. Bill Craig, chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, was in attendance to explain the law and the reasons behind it. After discussion, Mr. Hanson indicated that he would take this information back to his constituent and Mr. Craig indicated that he would take the city council's concerns and suggested solutions back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for discussion and possible action.

The final matter that we discussed involves the televising of the city council meetings. Currently they are shown on Channel 50 for those homes that use Bay Country Communications. Sometimes the TV works and sometimes it does not. Even if it does work, it is limited availability for city residents as it is only shown on Bay Country TV. Thanks to our new city attorney and while at the Maryland Municipal League meeting, I was introduced to and spoke with the representative of another Eastern Shore community regarding their use of streaming of their city council meetings over the internet. He was very pleased with doing it this way.

Streaming over the internet allows everyone in the community and elsewhere to view the city council meeting as it takes place or at a later date at their convenience. You watch on your computer. The cost of the service is minimal, and the service allows the meeting minutes to be more specific and on point so long as the video of the meeting is maintained.

The city can have a link on the new city website to where the videos of the meeting minutes are maintained so that there is easy access to them for the public. The City Manager indicated that she was moving forward with implementing this idea once our IT staff finishes some projects that they are currently completing.

With that discussion completed, there were public comments by other Commissioners and the Mayor and the meeting adjourned.

— Steve

NEW CAMBRIDGE CITY WEBSITE

I am forwarding an email message (below) from Brandon Hesson, *City of Cambridge Associate Director of Economic and Community Development*, about some of the things that the new Cambridge City Website will do for those of you who are interested in receiving agendas or how you can sign up for agendas or other notifications about which you might have an interest.

— Steve



From Brandon Hesson, *Associate Director of Economic and Community Development*, (410) 221-6074:

On Tuesday, August 29, the City of Cambridge will launch a new and improved ChooseCambridge.com, and you may notice one or two differences in your agendas, updates, and other notifications.

- **They will come from a different address:** Your agendas are still being crafted by staff, but the CivicPlus platform will send them from listserv@civicplus.com, and these emails may initially be delivered to your Junk Mail or SPAM inbox. You may need to adjust your email settings to allow emails from listserv@civicplus.com.
- **Confirmation:** Tuesday morning, you will receive an email from listserv@civicplus.com asking you to confirm that you would like to receive agenda updates. We are going to set you up to receive your normal agenda update, but you will need to click on the link provided in the confirmation email and follow any instructions.
- **Will I continue to get these confirmation emails:** You will get them every time you choose to receive a different type of agenda or update, but after this initial launch and set-up, you will not get them unless you've chosen to receive other agendas and updates. City staff will not sign you up for things to receive.
- **What other updates can I receive through email:** On the new ChooseCambridge.com, you can opt-in to receive agendas for City Council, Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and others. You can also choose to receive calendar updates when meetings are set, and special alerts for weather advisories or temporary, unforeseen loss of important utility services. Check back frequently, because new options could be added.
- **How do I receive those other updates:** We've attached an easy-to-follow set of instructions. You'll go to the "Notify Me" portion of the website, enter your email address and choose which alerts you'd like. It's only a few short clicks.

The new ChooseCambridge.com represents a significant effort to improve your online experience and make important information easier to find. The new platform by CivicPlus will allow for future updates, so please keep an eye out for information about new features, or opt-in to updates from "**Spotlight News**" to get them delivered to your inbox or cellular phone.