

## Minutes of Lutherville Community Association

Meeting of March 10, 2009

President Jeff Dier opened the meeting at 8:04, and the meeting was turned over to the featured speakers, Kelly Kosino and Bob Steffy from State Highway Administration and Keith Link from Baltimore County Bureau of Traffic Engineering.

Ms. Kosino started the discussion by saying that the York Road widening is finished to Bellona Avenue, and the section of widening from Bellona to Ridgely Road will start this month and be finished by the end of summer 2009. The project will be totally finished, including final paving, which has not begun yet, and road stripping in approximately one year. Ms. Kosino was questioned as to why the project has taken a year longer than previously advertised, and she laid blame on the water main replacement, which took longer due to unexpected bedrock and blasting.

As to the Charles Street Bridge project, Ms. Kosino stated that lane shifts will begin in March 2009 and lanes will be reduced to accommodate the removal of the bridge deck. During this first phase, traffic will enter the Beltway going west as it does now, but eventually that will change to accommodate additional construction. The entrance to the ramp heading east (the ramp on Charles Street) will be moved several hundred feet south temporarily. The roundabout will take about a year to replace. New, smaller ones will replace the trees that have been removed. It was announced that the project to build a new, elevated ramp to 83 has been separated from the Charles Street work and is anticipated to be 10 years down the road. She suggested the community check [www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com) to keep up to date on construction changes.

Complaints were voiced about the night construction and the problems it will cause for residents getting sleep because of the high noise level. Ms. Kosino said that as the project progresses there will be less and less day work, but that "noisy" construction will not take place after midnight. Members of the audience also asked if the executed construction contract was a public document open for review and if the construction specifications can be reviewed. We also asked about the status of a public meeting and an environmental impact statement regarding the I83 project. Ms. Kosino will respond back on those questions. She suggested that LCA could have input into issues of concern by communicating with our County, State, and federal representatives.

Finally, Ms. Kosino stated that the replacement of the Seminary Avenue Bridge over Roland Run will begin the second week in July, and road closures will take place on four consecutive weekends.

Next, Keith Link took the floor. There are three criteria necessary for a road to qualify for traffic calming: a. the road must be longer than 1000 feet, b. it must be a residential road that carries "local" traffic, and c. the road must carry at least 100 vehicles an hour. (There is also some discretion to be flexible with one factor if another is exacerbated). If the road meets those thresholds, a traffic calming design is initiated. After the plan is completed, the engineers try to build consensus from all of the residents on that street.

Mr. Link indicated that there are no immediate plans for additional traffic calming on Francke and Kurtz Avenues since the County has already made an investment in the one-way street design and these are designated as “collector streets.” The County will still address maintenance and pothole problems on Francke and Kurtz. A resident complained that it was unsafe for their children living on Francke. Mr. Link suggested that the children should be kept in the backyards. Mr. Link also said that demands for traffic calming are so great on a countywide basis that additional calming is not practical from a demand sense. He described pending legislation for speed cameras near schools and work areas and suggested that this might be a remedy for the problems on these two streets. He also said any community could press the County Planning Board to take action if the group presents a strong case.

Mr. Link was uncertain why there were survey crews on Melanchton, but a neighbor indicated it was related to a storm drain project. He also indicated the County will re-examine the traffic calming on Division Avenue, and another speed hump *may* be added after the post project study. It was also mentioned that SHA has looked at the traffic light at Bellona and Seminary Avenues, but phasing the east and west movements on Bellona by changing the light’s pattern actually decreases the movement at the light.

Mr. Link indicated that Greenspring is on the list of County streets for concerns about speed and safety. The right lane on Ridgely leading to Lutherville Station will be made into a “right turn only” in the Spring.

The featured guests were thanked and Jeff Dier encouraged interested residents to attend the next traffic committee meeting on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30 at Spangler Hall. We then turned to the General Meeting as Marcia Hettinger moved and Sue Harvey seconded the minutes from the last General Meeting. Alice Parsons reported that the association has \$18,642 with the T. Rowe Price account and \$4,175 in the Bradford bank account. Marcia and Sue also moved and seconded the treasurer’s report.

Committee reports were presented as follows:

- A. History: The oral histories that were done a few years ago will be deposited with the Baltimore County Historical Society. Also volunteers are needed for more work on oral histories.
- B. Hospitality: Nothing new was reported, but the efforts of the committee are appreciated.
- C. Newsletter: Sharyn Kuczka will take over as newsletter editor. Several people remarked about the good look of the most recent newsletter.
- D. Membership: Currently LCA has 108 family memberships, 102 individual memberships and 6 business memberships. Margo will be in touch with the Cockeys about a lifetime membership and presentation at the May meeting.
- E. Nominating: All positions are filled, except Traffic Committee. Contact Marie Frederick if you want to chair the Traffic Com.
- F. Public Facilities: Dave Guignet of MDE reports that there may be potential to create wetlands along Roland Run. Mel Timmons also reported that the Adopt a Highway clean up for Seminary Avenue will take place on April 4. The group will meet at St Pauls at 9:00 AM. You will need to complete an information form and watch a safety video if you want to volunteer.
- G. Security: The community was advised to check [www.socm.info](http://www.socm.info) to find out information concerning sexual offenders who may live in the area. In the future when the association is advised of a new offender moving into the area, a posting will be placed on the ListServe to advise interested persons to check the aforementioned website.
- H. Special Events: The Easter Party will take place on April 11 from 11:30 to 1:00.

- I. Traffic: Jeff outlined the issues discussed at the last Traffic Meeting including feedback on the speed humps and concerns about Lincoln, Greenspring Seminary, and Bellona. We need a volunteer to spearhead issues for Greenspring Avenue. Zoning: No word yet from the Circuit Court on a ruling about Lutherville.
- J. Zoning: Lutherville – We are awaiting a ruling from the court hearing four months ago. The delay in the ruling is consistent with the delay that occurred with the original Circuit Court ruling. The zoning chair could not substantiate rumors about a potential bowling alley planned for next to the WalMart in Cockeysville. Nor could he confirm that plans to redevelop the Lincoln Mercury site on York Road have been postponed because of the economy. We are following up on concerns about the deterioration of the Cronin house.

#### New Business

LCA is considering a dual picnic with LVFC this summer. The location is undecided, but Padonia Park is a possibility. Margo Chaney is spearheading the planning.

We discussed pending legislation to allow community associations to participate in court and administrative hearings on zoning issues. Currently, developers hold most of the cards. The Board will follow up.

We talked about beautifying Seminary Park at the corner of Greenspring and Seminary. Eric is exploring and will talk to Rec. and Parks about a possible grant.

Marcia Hettinger is looking into refurbishing the Historic Lutherville signs and getting a sign for Country Club Park.

Tree-Mendous Maryland is offering trees to communities at a cost of \$10-20 per tree. The website has the varieties. The Board will follow up.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm.