

Minutes of the Lutherville Community Association

General Meeting – May 12, 2009

President Jeff Dier opened the meeting and introduced Senator James Brochin. Senator Brochin reported on the past legislative session:

- Death Penalty – He supported the death penalty, which passed. By starting with this, the person convicted might receive life without parole if the sentence is lessened.
- Lawful Presence – He did not support this and put in a bill to reverse it. Starting June 1, 2009, a person must show lawful presence in Maryland in order to get a driver's license. After July 1, 2015, a license will not be renewed unless the person can show lawful presence.
- Septic Systems – People who live in certain critical areas will have to upgrade failing septic systems which cause pollution in the bay.
- Speed Camera Legislation – This was opposed and it is now up to the counties to decide whether or not to use the cameras at highway work zones and school zones. There would be warning signs, and tickets would be given for driving twelve or more miles over the speed limit.

The representative from Baltimore Gas and Electric spoke about Budget Billing and Peak Rewards. With Peak Rewards, customers can choose 100%, 75% or 50% cycling and receive a rebate every year. He said the optimal temperatures to use are: air conditioning- 78 degrees, heat – 68 degrees, refrigerator – 38 degrees, and freezer – 0 degrees. Every degree higher or lower is a 3% difference in cost. We can save about \$65 a year by switching to compact florescent bulbs, and can prevent heat loss by making a box from construction styrofoam to place over the attic opening. BGE is planning a third unit at Calvert Cliffs which will not pollute the bay.

Nominating Committee – The nominees were presented and elected:

Secretary – Alice Parson
Treasurer – Leslie Storms
Newsletter – Sharyn Kuczka
Nominating – Michelle Shawyer
Security – Monica Enoch
Special Events – Heather Binnix
Traffic – Laurie Hooper

Minutes – The minutes were approved and seconded.

Treasurer's Report – Alice presented the report which was approved and seconded.

Committee Reports –

History – Karen had a few calls from volunteers to collect or give oral histories.

Hospitality – Tricia has given plants to five new neighbors.

Membership – Margo said there are 327 members. The cards for membership renewal will be sent out in July or August.

Newsletter – Sharyn talked about the Facebook page, which is another way to communicate in addition to the website, Listserve and newsletter. It will supplement the existing types of communication and be used to share news, announcements, photos, events and safety concerns, and for social networking and fundraising. It will need an administrator and someone to manage the e-mail list.

Public Facilities – Mel reported that Roland Run is at a standstill waiting for the next step and the flood maps are not posted yet. There is a lot of activity at Seminary bridge. The County-owned property and Greenspring Drive and Seminary Avenue needs landscaping and a sign, which Marcia is pricing.

Adopt-A-Highway will take place on July 11 at 9:00am starting at St. Paul's parking lot. The next occasion will be in early October. Eric will take care of these when Mel is not available.

Tricia said that the Lutherville Timonium Recreation Council runs Seminary Park and didn't replace the trees, which is causing problems with lights and noise for Burton Avenue residents. The County is going to plant more trees and LTRC will see about helping to fund them. There will be a cost to us, but with volunteers it should not be too expensive and Baltimore County will deliver them free.

Security – Monica discussed the recent scam at the Padonia Village Shopping Center.

Special Events – Margo told us that the picnic with the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company will be held on a Sunday in August and the charge has not been determined yet. The Yard Sale is also being planned.

Traffic – Jeff said that Baltimore County put a counter on Division Avenue to see if there is a need for a speed bump and is awaiting feedback about Greenspring Drive. Other areas of concern are Bellona Avenue and the narrow intersection of Kurtz and North Avenues. The right turn lane on Ridgely Road at Lutherville Station improves the left turn situation there.

When the trees are replaced on Charles Street, they must be in the public right-of-way.

Zoning – Eric reported that all existing issues are at status quo now.

A new issue is the property on Aylesbury Road which contains Bluestone and Gold's Gym. The owner plans to remove the existing buildings and construct two residential condominiums, two eight-story office towers and a combination office-retail building

To be called Timonium Center. This will have to go through the PUD process, which provides higher design quality under normal zoning for community benefit. It is limited to plan approval and cannot be changed. This will take at least 12-16 months to be approved. The Lutherville Community Association would like the buildings to be scaled down. The College Manor Group met about this and considered potential problems with traffic, water and parking.

The Cronin House is still in disrepair. There is no news about it and nothing that LCA can do except call the County code enforcement section if there is a problem.

New Business – The Board will discuss the possibility of starting the General Meetings earlier.

The meeting was adjourned.