

SECTION T OF THE VILLAGE OF CHEVY CHASE
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Date: November 14, 2006
Time: 7:30pm
Place: 5906 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase Village Hall
Present: Margy Abbott; Frances L. Higgins, Ira Rosenbaum; Andrew Smith;
Alan Beal; 11 Section 5 residents

1. Minutes

Andrew welcomed everyone. He moved that the October 10, 2006, Council Meeting minutes be approved as revised by email. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Alan Beal's Report on Revising Section 5's Permitting Process

Alan said that as much information as possible should be included on the building application form and the fee amount should be listed on the form. He provided some sample copies of his suggestions for a revised Section 5 application for a building permit form. He also said that Section 5 should create a one page building permit form and this form should be posted on the building site. The Council will review the material which Alan presented and email him with their comments. At the December Council meeting the Council will be ready to adopt a fee schedule for building permits.

3. Citizens' Concerns and Suggestions to the Council

A resident said that the owners of the property at 7401 Brookville Road have been experiencing some difficulties in dealing with the County regarding a building permit. He said that one of the major difficulties is the County's requirement that the owner install a sidewalk along the north side of the property along Windsor Pl. Two people from the landscape company which is performing the landscaping work on the property were at the Council meeting and expressed their concern about the number of trees which would need to be removed if a sidewalk is installed. Andrew said that the Council supports the installation of a sidewalk but accommodations could be made to save some of the trees. One of the landscapers asked the Council if it would write a letter to the County stating its position on the installation of a sidewalk. Andrew said that he would write such a letter for the Council. Peter said that he thought that the Council should contact the property owners before this letter is written; the Council agreed.

4. Discussion of Basketball Hoops on Public Strips

Andrew said that Section 5 has received a legal opinion from David Podolsky concerning the presence of basketball goals on the public strip which allows people to use the public street as the basketball court. This opinion says that Section 5 could be liable for injuries which players suffer. A resident said that he approves of the basketball goals on the public strip because their presence allows children to stay in the neighborhood and play basketball rather than to leave the neighborhood to go to a park. Another resident said that she raised three children in the neighborhood and her children played basketball with a goal attached to the garage. There was some discussion about the degree of liability which Section 5 has assumed by allowing these goals to exist on the public strip. The Council asked the manager to contact the town's insurance company about the degree of liability which the town has and report at the December meeting. The manager will also ask the insurance company if it could reduce its liability

by sending a notice to the residents periodically concerning the dangers of people playing in the street.

A resident asked the Council why the issue of safety concerning basketball goals has arisen. Andrew explained that back in June a large public tree fell on two houses on Thornapple St. and the owner of one of the houses told the Council that the tree fell because of negligence of the Council. Because of this negligence he said that the Council should pay the amount of his insurance deductible. It was determined, however, that the Council was not negligent because it has a vigorous tree care program. This issue of the Council's responsibility for happenings in the town caused Andrew to think about the safety issue regarding basketball goals.

5. Speed Bumps

Andrew said that residents on Glendale came to the last Council meeting and expressed their concerns about the volume and speed of automobile traffic on Glendale and Woodbine Streets. They would like to have speed bumps installed on Woodbine and Glendale. Ira said that he obtained information regarding the requirements for installing speed bumps on County roads. The County requires a street to experience 1,000 cars per day and be at least 1,000 feet long. Woodbine St. is not 1,000 feet long and according to the last traffic study it only had 500 cars per day. There was some discussion. Andrew moved that the Council employ a company to conduct a traffic study which will include the volume and speed of traffic on Section 5 streets. Peter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

Section 5 redeemed the \$100,000 CD with PNC and purchased a new CD from PNC Bank for 9 months at 5%.

7. Manager's Report

The Council agreed to pay the cost for a subscription for Local Government Weekly, a publication which provides results of municipal law court cases. This subscription is for one year. John Higgins reviews the articles on local government in the weekly issues and reports to the town.

The manager said that the Town of Chevy Chase has not been approached about a gift to the BCC Rescue Squad this year but last year it gave \$2,500 to the squad. The Village of Chevy Chase has not been contacted this year about a gift to the squad.

The manager engaged an arborist to inspect the large oak at 3800 Thornapple St. The arborist said that the tree needs some extra care but that it is healthy enough to remain but it should be watched. Eleven trees will be given to residents this year as part of the Urban Reforestation Program.

Jeff Andrews, a WSSC representative, is presently writing an MOU. In this MOU WSSC agrees to pay 50% of the cost to repave Woodbine St.

8. Permits Granted

3810 Thornapple St. – fence entire yard
3805 Williams La. – 1 story addition in rear
3602 Thornapple St. garage 1 story in rear
3805 Thornapple St. – replace side fence

Andrew moved that the meeting adjourn; the motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.