

Town of Chevy Chase
Environment Committee Meeting
December 18, 2007

Attendees: Vicky Taplin, Ruth Fort, Coralee Hoffman, Missy Goldberg, Joan Rood, Rob Enelow, Michael Payne, Scott Henderson

I. Call To Order

Vicky Taplin called the meeting to order at 7:35. The primary goal of the meeting will be to review and approve the draft of the guide to drainage ordinance. Also, the Noise Subcommittee will present a brief report.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the November 27 meeting were approved with one small modification noted on page two, first line, where the word "article" was changed to "information piece."

III. Water Drainage Ordinance

The committee discussed in some detail the draft of a Home Owners Guide (Guide) To The Town of Chevy Chase Drainage Ordinance. The ordinance was adopted on November 8, 2006 but there is a general consensus among the committee members that most residents do not fully understand the ordinance and/or are even aware of it. The Home Owners Guide is designed to set forth basic information about the ordinance and help ensure that residents comply. Among the items discussed were the need to clarify the 700 sq. ft. new impervious surface threshold and what other activity may be covered as well as the replacement of existing driveway exemption. Cost estimates and level of detail concerning the ordinance to include in the Guide were discussed by the committee. Also, the degree to which penalties should be specified was discussed.

The Committee reviewed each section of the draft Guide and agreed on final language. The only remaining tasks are to run the language by Don MacGlashan, who sits on the water board and helped to draft the water drainage ordinance, and insert an information box with examples of pervious surfaces to use for patios, pathways and other garden hardscapes. The goal is to have the Guide distributed as soon as possible.

IV. Noise Ordinance Subcommittee

Coralee reported on the efforts of the subcommittee which focused on three primary questions. One, do the residents understand the need for and will they support an ordinance; two, does the Town have the capacity and interest in implementing an ordinance; and three, do we need an ordinance and what should it include.

The subcommittee felt a more thorough examination of the current status of the situation, complaints, data from staff, etc. would be helpful. Also, looking at previous work of other committees on the noise issue and perhaps getting input from residents would help determine the nature of the problem and the adequacy of the existing county ordinance. Is the county ordinance sufficient or do we need more?

The committee recommended that the areas of regulation, enforcement and education/voluntary adherence to any requirements needed to be examined in addition to the items suggested earlier in the report before more steps were taken.

V. Next Meeting

Vicky Taplin indicated that the next meeting would be held on January 17.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Michael Payne