

Town of Chevy Chase
Long Range Planning Committee

Minutes of November 20 2007
7:00 P.M. Town Hall
John Navratil, notetaker

Members Attending: Pat Burda, Kathy Strom, David Lublin, Mary Anne Hoffman, Tammy Harris, John Navratil

Members Absent: Tina Coplan, Charles Duffy, Bruce Douglas

Call to order: Pat Burda convened the meeting at 7:00

Minutes of the October meetings were approved. Town resident Marty Saggese was discussed as an addition to the Committee, and all were favorably disposed to his joining the committee. The Discussion covered three principal areas:

National Register:

Mary Anne discussed a meeting she and Tina had with a Maryland State official in charge of overseeing Maryland applications for recognition of the Town on the National Register. The Maryland official considered the Town a good candidate for the National Registry and he reviewed the process should the Town choose to pursue the matter. Committee discussion re-affirmed that placement on the national registry imposed no requirements on the Town or any individual homeowner. Benefits of placement would include access to certain Maryland and Federal tax benefits for rehabilitation of certain homes or donations of charitable easements on properties, grants, special consideration in the planning of Federal or State projects that could affect the Town, etc. The Committee agreed to continue to explore the requirements to submit an application.

Bethesda Development and the County Growth Policy

David Lublin reported on a few development issues. Most notably, local community efforts succeeded in getting the developers of the proposed Woodmont East project (the area between Thyme square restaurant and Gifford's ice cream) to withdraw their application. Numerous individuals objected to the developers' plan before the Planning Board, arguing primarily that more open space was necessary in that area, especially given the upcoming development on lots 31 and 31A. It was agreed that the committee or Town would write letters to the attorney representing the developers and to the Planning Board asking that the Town be kept abreast of plans related to the development of Woodmont East and the public amenities that would be provided with respect to that development.

The committee briefly discussed the County's new growth policy and it was noted that the policy would not serve to limit development pressures in Bethesda. It was also noted that there is little or nothing the Town can do to slow Bethesda development. The committee agreed that it would

continue to monitor development on a case by case basis with attention to projects most likely to impact the Town.

Purple Line

Pat reviewed the interviews that she, Kathy, Mier Wolf and Todd Hoffman conducted with the Purple Line consultant candidates in the past month. Several very competent transportation firms submitted applications in response to the Town's Request for Proposal related to the Purple Line, and the New York firm of Sam Schwartz PLLC was selected, in part because they had experience representing communities rather than project developers. The Town is currently working on the agreements related to the scope of work, and the committee briefly reviewed a preliminary outline, prepared by Sam Schwartz, laying out the scope of their engagement. The committee discussed how changes to the scope of work might be approved, and whether the committee should be the principal contact point with Sam Schwartz as their work develops. It was generally thought that the committee, through Pat, would be a good contact point but it was noted that the Town Council would ultimately need to approve any significant changes in scope.

Pat concluded the meeting by noting that Bridget Hartman, with Todd Hoffman, would monitor the Town's adherence to its recently adopted Strategic Plan, and would report to the committee in March.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 11th – hopefully with representatives from Sam Schwartz PLLC.