

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
July 10, 2024

*All Councilmembers were in attendance.
The recording of this meeting is available on the Town website.*

DISCUSSION OF CAPITAL CRESCENT SURFACE TRAIL PROJECT

At 6 p.m., the Council met with representatives from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and Montgomery Parks to discuss the Capital Crescent Surface Trail project, a portion of which will be located within the corporate boundaries of the Town along 47th Street and Willow Lane. The Council noted several safety concerns with the current design, and Mayor Lane will relay these concerns in testimony she will provide at the July 16 MCDOT public hearing on this project.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Heard June 2024 financial report.
- Heard Town Manager's report.
- Heard public comments.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Held a public hearing on proposed improvements to the intersection of Leland Street and East Avenue. Voted unanimously to approve the project, with amendments to include a 4-foot-wide sidewalk and a landscaping plan for the redesigned intersection. Mayor Lane asked staff to look into LED Stop signs for the intersection.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Discussed a resolution to provide additional funding, with specific conditions, for the Bethesda Market Park project. Vice Mayor Rush reviewed the provisions of the resolution. The Council voted unanimously to introduce the resolution, as amended, and agreed to hold a public hearing on July 24 at 5 p.m. by Zoom. The Town Council expects to vote on the resolution immediately following the hearing. The Town will send more information about this issue, along with the proposed resolution, via Town Crier.
- Discussed an ordinance to modify regulations related to overgrown vegetation management. Voted unanimously to introduce the ordinance and hold a public hearing at the September 11 Council meeting.
- Discussed and approved a revised Town policy related to overgrown vegetation management. The new policy will require clearance of sidewalks to the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standard, which provides for a clear walking path at least 36 inches wide and 80 inches high. Discussed implementation of the new policy. Agreed to publicize the new standards in the September Forecast newsletter and begin implementation in mid-September.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Discussed Montgomery Planning Department's Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (AHSI). Mayor Lane discussed the schedule for consideration of these recommendations, which will culminate in proposed zoning changes in the fall.

- Discussed a technical amendment to state law to clarify municipal building authority over all residential housing types. Mayor Lane reported that the Town has drafted a letter to the State delegation from affected municipalities for the amendment to be considered during the 2025 General Assembly session. The Council agreed to hold a discussion of the Town's position on this issue at its September 11 meeting.
- Discussed the County's Growth and Infrastructure Policy, which ensures that the County's essential public facilities, especially schools and transportation systems, keep pace with development. Mayor Lane noted that changes to the GIP's metrics will be deliberated and approved by the County Council this fall.
- Discussed the Bethesda Minor Master Plan Amendment. Mayor Lane noted that the Planning Department will deliberate this summer on whether the development cap in downtown Bethesda should be eliminated or increased. The Planning Department will hold three informational workshops (on July 30, August 14, and August 17) to present information on the tools available to implement master plan recommendations and make subject matter experts available to speak with those in attendance to answer questions and gather input. The Town will publicize more information about these workshops through the Town Crier.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.