

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
November 8, 2023

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

TOWN FORUM ON GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER BAN (6 p.m.)

The Town Council held a public forum to hear from residents about a proposal to enact a full year ban on gas powered leaf blowers beginning in 2024. The Council will continue to discuss this issue at its December 13 meeting.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Heard October 2023 financial report.
- Heard and discussed Town Manager's report.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS (7:30-8:15 p.m.)

- Voted unanimously to approve, with conditions, a tree removal appeal for 4119 Rosemary Street. Conditions include: 1) the Water Board shall approve a water drainage plan that allows for regrading of the lot as proposed by the applicant; 2) the Town shall approve a building permit for the proposed project; 3) the applicant shall implement the proposed tree planting mitigation plan; 4) the planting space for the replacement arborvitae shall be at least 3 feet wide; 5) the replacement arborvitae shall be 8-10 feet in height; and 6) the replacement hornbeams shall be 2-2.5 inches in caliper.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Corso Chevy Chase
 - Noted that the Town submitted comments on Corso's initial development application in advance of the Development Review Committee (DRC) meeting on October 24.
 - Noted that the applicant's first resubmission of the application was due on November 8; however, the Town has not yet received the revised application, which will include responses to the Town's comments.
 - Discussed the issue of site access and noted that the State Highway Administration has requested additional information from the applicant to substantiate the applicant's claim that a signalized intersection is needed for the safety of pedestrian and bicyclists.
- Discussion and Possible Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Chapters 4, 5, and 28 of the Town Code to Clarify Applicability
 - Voted unanimously to introduce the ordinance.
 - Noted that the ordinance only applies to lots used for institutional purposes as of May 17, 2008 for so long as such lots remain in institutional use. Also noted that the Town's urban forest ordinance would continue to apply to properties used for institutional purposes.
 - A public hearing on this ordinance will be held at the December 13 Council meeting.

- Purple Line
 - Discussed privacy concerns of residents related to the location of the pedestrian bridge and ramps constructed adjacent to the Town as part of the Purple Line project.
 - Agreed to encourage residents on the north side of Elm Street to avail themselves of the Town's private tree planting programs to provide screening from the Purple Line infrastructure.
 - Agreed to send a letter to these residents reminding them of the Town's tree planting program.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES

- Bethesda Market Park
 - Councilmember Rush discussed the status of the Bethesda Market Park development project, including the status of the funding and development agreements.
- Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference Review
 - Mayor Lane and Councilmember White reviewed topics of interest to the Town that were discussed at the conference.
- Capital Crescent Trail
 - Mayor Lane discussed a meeting she attended about proposed improvements to the Capital Crescent Trail between downtown Bethesda and Washington, D.C.
 - Councilmember Rush discussed a request to the State Highway Administration for advance opening of the Capital Crescent Trail bridge before the Purple Line becomes operational in order to provide a passage from Elm Street Park to Pearl Street and on to B-CC High School.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.