

GHADA October Meeting Minutes - October 18, 2004

by Diane Hagerty

Opening Comments by Ken Murphy:

Welcome to members & elected officials.

Announced the approval of the overlay and Hockessin Village Plan

Read letter of commendation to GHADA from Council President Chris Coons regarding the Hockessin Village plan and thanked Bill Tansey for introducing and supporting the bill

Treasurer's Rpt.:

Neil Greenstein gave the Treasurer's report stating that the starting bank balance was \$796.00 and \$360.00 for dues was received making the ending balance \$1,015.31.

Land Use Update:

John Flanagan provided the following updates:

- ü Supporting Kids focus group was held and there was no objection from the focus group members. The land use variance hearing will be held on Oct. 12.
- ü Lantana Square has submitted plans for new development for community comment. Once the developer receives community feedback, a formal request will be presented to a Lantana advisory board.
- ü Tweeds Tavern – approval is needed for land plan. Tweeds Tavern is being worked on to put it in moveable condition to be moved January 2005.
- ü McGrellis property rezoning (Pole Barn) – 19 acre rezoning request to commercial neighborhood was withdrawn Oct. 12.
- ü Health Center – rezoning was passed
- ü Montessori School has request for minor land use change
- ü Toll Brothers property at Farm Meadows – a small focus group will be formed to hear about requested variance

ü Valley Road focus group will be formed to see if a plan can be designed as an overall plan for the future of Valley Road

Transportation Update

Neil Greenstein provided the following updates:

ü Route 41 Safety Project –Route 41 will not be re-paved until May 2005.

ü Barley Mill road will open Oct. 19

ü Sharpless Road – no opening date

Gubernatorial Candidate Debate:

Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Bill Lee, and Frank Infante participated in a debate answering pre-written questions from the audience. Each candidate was given 5 minutes for opening comments, and 2 minutes to answer each question. The questions were read by moderator Bill Channin from the Hockessin Community News and included topics concerning education, jobs in Delaware, recycling, flooding, pollution, prison workers, farmland preservation, Gay rights, aggressive driving, and the clean indoor act. The candidates were then given 5 minutes for closing comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next GHADA meeting will be held

November 15th.

GHADA September Meeting Minutes - September 20, 2004

by Diane Hagerty

Opening Comments by Ken Murphy:

Welcome to members & elected officials.

Thank you to the Hockessin Fire Co. for letting GHADA hold their meetings in the Memorial Hall.

The October meeting will be a 'Meet the Gubernatorial Candidates' night with present Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Bill Lee and Frank Infante.

The November meeting will include transportation information specifically concerning the Route 41 project that is scheduled to start in November 2004.

Ken also mentioned that Fritz Griesinger is heading up a project to create a new road from Kirkwood Highway to Christiana and if anyone is interested in helping to contact Fritz or provide their name and contact information to GHADA.

Treasurer's Rpt.:

Neil Greenstein gave the Treasurer's report stating that there was no activity in the bank account through the summer. Dues notices will be sent to civic associations and board members, and will be handed out at tonight's meeting as well.

Representatives from Supporting Kids, Ellen Spoehr and Barbara Palmeri gave a brief overview of their plans to purchase the Pugh property on Old Lancaster Pike. Supporting Kids is a non-profit United Way agency that supports bereaved children and their families by providing counseling services and education on dealing with grief and loss. They have signed a contract to purchase the Pugh Property and hope to settle in mid December. They have submitted a variance with the county for parking spaces and the hearing date is in October. The counseling groups meet in the evening between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm and there will be approximately 15 cars in the parking lot between those times; and there will be approximately 5 cars in the parking lot during the day between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. The site development plan will be given to John Flanagan and he will arrange a focus group session.

Conectiv – Mr. Vince Jacono gave a presentation on Conectiv's plans to upgrade the power system on Valley Road and Route 7. Mr. Jacono provided pictures of the plans and the upgrade would include a transformer, and switchgear as well as a control house. He also gave an overview of Conectiv's new storm response practices as well as a new Website that customers can use when power outages occur.

Home Land Security in Delaware – Captain Tim Winstead from Troop 6 spoke about public awareness and a new terrorism tip line that was established – 1-800-Force-1-2, in order for the public to call and report suspicious activity. September is National Preparedness month and Jim Waznicki from the Intelligence Dept. of Troop 6 gave a presentation of the mission of the Delaware State Police regarding terrorism and public awareness. The mission is to prevent, disrupt, and defeat terrorist attacks. He provided a Website for more information – www.ready.gov.

Land Use Update:

John Flanagan provided the following updates:

- ü Supporting Kids focus group will be established for the residents in the area of Old

Lancaster Pike.

- ü Lantana Square has requested a re-alignment of the building at Lantana Square – and possible plans to build a building in the parking lot where the recycle bins are currently located. The 5 parties involved that

will be contacted for comment are GHADA, Hockessin Green, Hockessin Hunt, Valleybrook, and the Merchants Association. In addition, John Flanagan will also contact residents in Stenning Woods, Manley, and Hockessin Valley Falls.

ü McGrellis property rezoning - The rezoning proposal for the property on Valley Road from suburban to commercial for an Auction House and Social Hall on Valley Road was presented in August to the county. The GHADA focus group did not recommend the rezoning approval because they felt it did not fit into the area due to it being surrounded by residential properties. They felt it was a spot re-zoning and would alter the plan of Valley Road of residential. They also felt there would be traffic problems at peak periods, specifically Saturday mornings. There would be 250 parking spaces on the site and an Army Core of Engineers study is needed. The hours would be 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM and outside speakers would be used from 9:00 AM – 10:30 PM. Ballots were distributed to all Hockessin residents who attended tonight's meeting and were returned to John Flanagan to be counted.

Transportation Update

Neil Greenstein provided the following updates:

ü Route 41 Safety Project – Preliminary minor construction will begin in November, however, the major construction will not start until Spring 2005

ü Road work to repair the drainage ditches on Brackenville Road near the Ashland Nature Center will begin shortly

ü Old Lancaster Pike calming – construction will be done by Cirillo Bros. and will begin in October 2004.

Misc. Issues:

· Mary Grace Fariello from NCC announced that the Hockessin Village Plan would be presented to County Council for approval on October 12. There will be 5 – 9 people on the Village Planning committee, representing the community, and criteria is currently being developed on the qualifications on becoming a committee member.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next GHADA meeting will be held

October 18th.