

November 21, 2005

The GHADA November meeting was held at the Hockessin Memorial Hall on November 21, 2005 commencing at 7:30 PM. The agenda was as follows:

Opening Comments and Administrative Reports.

Hockessin Library Expansion

Anne Farley, General Manager Community Services for New Castle County and other County representatives discussed the design of the Hockessin for expansion and renovation, the proposed schedule and the capital budget for this project in the context of the county capital budget review. Another meeting will focus on library plans.

Pennsylvania Route 41

Dee Durham, Executive Director of S.A.V.E. (www.save41.org) provided an update on the status of efforts to develop a more sustainable solution to improvements proposed by PennDOT for Pennsylvania Route 41. Significant policy changes are being witnessed in Pennsylvania regarding transportation and land use planning, including a shift to “right-sizing” and “context sensitive design.” And, as a grassroots nonprofit community group, S.A.V.E. has been instrumental in bringing about these shifts and having them applied to some significant local initiatives, including:

§ PennDOT’s proposals for Route 41

§ a proposal to rehabilitate the endangered historic Mortonville Bridge

§ the area’s first roundabout being built in East Marlborough

§ favorable feasibility studies for a model modern roundabout at the PA 41 and Old Baltimore Pike South intersection

§ the consideration by a growing number of municipalities in Chester County of roundabouts and traffic calming as better solutions to roadway concerns

S.A.V.E. has become an effective voice for policy reform and a resource for municipalities and groups throughout the region. They have become the “go to” organization for innovative transportation solutions which complement the area’s land use goals. Although winds of change began to be felt when Gov. Rendell took office almost three years ago, some of the impetus behind them was rooted in a growing fiscal concern that surfaced within PennDOT almost two years ago and foreshadowed the current crisis being experienced by DelDOT.

Neil Greenstein provided the Treasurer’s report and John Flanagan gave an update on Land Use projects - Hockessin Crossing and Brackenville Plaza.

GHADA Meeting Minutes - February 21, 2005

Opening Comments by Ken Murphy:

Welcome to Board members & elected officials.

Treasurer's Rpt.: Neil Greenstein gave the Treasurer's report stating that the starting bank balance in January was \$1,463.79 with \$60.00 collected for dues, and \$300.00 for expenses and \$275.00 fee for the website. A balance of \$3,526.20 is in the planning account.

Land Use Update: John Flanagan provided the following updates:

ü Hockessin Elementary School meeting was held Feb. 2 regarding the requested addition of an additional 2400 square foot building on the property. The group reviewed the plan for a full day kindergarten instead of ½ day for use of the building expansion.

ü Happy Harry's and Valley Road – meeting was held with community members and attorney Larry Tarabicos – the Happy Harry's building will be 17000 square feet and Mr. Tarabicos took questions from community members. He will submit a final plan in the near future.

ü Naudain Property at Route 7 and 72 – plan not complete

ü Plan for Route 41 across from School House Road to erect commercial building. John plans to meet with residents in area.

ü Brackenville Plaza – Brackenville Road/Lancaster Pike – 9600 square foot commercial building proposed. Property owner working on obtaining tenants and John is trying to get architectural plans. Landowner had a proposed tenant who declined, therefore the owner is still looking for potential tenants and cannot submit architectural plans until he knows what the tenant will want.

Meeting Agenda: Senators Charles Copeland and Liane Sorenson, and 12th District Representative Debra Hudson presented their planned agenda for the upcoming months

Senator Liane Sorenson began the presentation by speaking about her involvement with the Delaware Cancer Consortium and Environmental sub committee. There is increased funding for fish sampling in Delaware. The cancer registry was started to collect data in order to determine Delaware's cancer statistics. Senator Sorenson handed out pamphlets concerning radon. Radon is considered to be the #2 cause of cancer with cigarette smoke being #1. Education regarding indoor pollutants is currently ongoing with the next year.

Senator Sorenson is also a commission member for Delaware Family Law.

Representative Debra Hudson was the 2nd speaker and she gave examples of bills currently under review as well as past bills:

1 – Bill regarding tax and the surplus from last year and where the funds should go

2 – Bill regarding gambling due to competition from Pennsylvania and Delaware is looking to add another gaming facility in Wilmington.

3 – Bill regarding anti-discrimination – old house bill 99; new house bill 36.

4 – Education – She deferred to Senator Copeland for later comments

5 – Recycling – Recommendation of mandatory recycling was given to Governor Minner. Most civic associates do not want mandatory recycling for a cost.

6 – Stem Cell research – Enabling legislation for research

7 – Open space – 1 or 2 bills to dedicate money to buy open space

8 – Free college – Governor Minner wants to pay 2 years at Del Tech for students who deserve it or to any college in Delaware. The bill needs definition of which students would deserve this funding.

9 – Uninsured in Delaware – Use state Insurance system as a way to buy Insurance for citizens in Delaware who don't have insurance.

Senator Charles Copeland was the 3rd speaker and covered the following topics:

Education – 3 tier diploma – A bill was introduced last year by Pam Myer to have a commission for 1 tier diploma that would be based on many factors – grades, DSTP, etc.. A senate bill was introduced for a 2 tier diploma. Governor Minner's experts said it wasn't their issue to make a decision on the tier diploma.

Full Day Kindergarten – Task force recommendation was to implement state wide full day kindergarten, however, studies show no real benefit or changes by 3rd grade for middle income children attending full day kindergarten. It did however show improvement for poverty or "at risk" student population. 15 of 19 state school districts offer full day kindergarten to "at risk" students. If a student doesn't need it, they have to pay for it. The problem is that the student/teacher ration goes to 1 – 22 for full day kindergarten. Delaware currently has math standards in the state of Delaware, however, only 16 of 19 school districts have implemented the standards. There is also a risk of putting private facilities who provide full day kindergarten out of business.

House Bill 37 is for a state wide curriculum to be required for all school districts and the bill is currently under debate.

College Voucher – The criteria for the 2 year Del Tech voucher is not yet known.

Questions and comments were taken from those who attended regarding recycling, state curriculum, and the college voucher.

Steve Williams from the Dept. of Natural Resources gave a brief presentation regarding the Red Clay Watershed and Christina River Watershed.

Closing comments by Ken Murphy:

Matt Denn will be speaking at the April GHADA meeting

Hockessin seeks help from "Liveable Delaware" who has provided planning assistance to incorporated towns.. Ken requested the panel to do what they could to help Hockessin with their planning agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 21, 2005.