

GHADA minutes for April 18, 2011

Recorded by Mike Censurato

The meeting was called to order at 7:00, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. 19 Members, 25 others were present.

The minutes were approved from the March 21, 2011 meeting.

Treasurer's report –Neil Greenstein- read by Jeff Dixon and approved.

\$468.30 - Beginning balance Checking Acct.

\$0.00 - No income received

\$28.32 - Payment for flag pole lighting

\$439.98 - Ending balance (Mar 04, 2011)

\$2863.48 - Beginning balance Savings Acct. (Feb 28, 2011)

\$0.19 - Interest credit 3/31

\$2863.67 - Ending balance (Mar 31, 2011) *****end of report

President's report – Mark Blake

The final ruling for the Hockessin Athletic Club request for the change to their liquor license had been received from the DE-ABCC Commissioner. In essence, the HAC can now serve alcohol and have live entertainment at their outdoor pool area, but with some added restrictions. The variances that allow the use of the wet bar, poolside speakers and the use of the existing paging system, as well as live entertainment can only occur between the hours of 9 AM and 9 PM. The existing deed restrictions called for no noise from 10 PM to 8 AM (M-F) and from 10 PM to 9 AM (Sat & Sun).

Any live entertainment shall not have amplification other than the existing external speakers already installed at the HAC that are currently used for background music or paging.

These added stipulations on the license by not allowing for any additional amplifiers, speakers, or separate sound systems show that the Commissioner took the community's concerns seriously. Not allowing the additional amplifiers is a win for the community and still allows the HAC to do what they profess to want to do. We still think the HAC is a valuable asset to the community. It's a great facility, but it's a health club, not a country club, not an entertainment venue.

Ordinance #11-021 sponsored by Mr. Reda & Mr. Tackett has been tabled. This is the ordinance that was seeking to revise Chapter 6 (Buildings & Building Regulations) of the NCC Code incorporating the International Building Code from the 2006 edition to the 2009 edition. But contained in this massive 73 page ordinance that references the even more massive 638 page Int'l Building Code, was two (2) small sections (R313.1 & R313.2) that would have mandated all new Townhouses and One and Two family dwellings have automatic fire sprinklers installed in them starting January 1, 2013.

This ordinance will likely come back with or without the sprinkler portion of the 2009 IBC at some time in the future.

*****end of report

County & State Officials comment:

Janet Kilpatrick: The sprinkler section will be amended out of the building code, but will be re-introduced. The combined code revision will lose support. There will be no tax increase, but there will be a 3% sewer fee increase. DSWA will have recycling of electronic equipment. See www.dswa.com. Summer camp information has been submitted. Questions involving the Stoltz property: not a “done deal” – requesting Council Members to vote no; traffic impact studies under way on some impacted roads.

Liane Sorenson: Potholes have been fixed the day after reported. Sorenson, Sokola and Manolakos support the Valley Road Walkways. Design money from 2012 will be used. Liane met with Deerfield to see if the tennis courts can be kept. HB 81-pension & healthcare benefits bill- passed. The NVF is exempted from the UDC. The beautification project of Lancaster Pike has encountered drainage problems. Marcy Widell of the Landscaping Advisory Committee will be meeting at the Perfect Cup on 4-19@7pm.

Review of GHADA Board Member Terms-Jeff Dixon Election of the Board of Directors will take place during the May meeting. 14 slots need to be filled. Jeff is moving. Please notify Tina Goldrick, Secretary, if Board Member steps down.

Carla Pastore – CCA: Discussed DNREC board presentation showing the revitalization of the Auburn Valley. The Marshall House and the NVF turned into a museum. The Governor’s bond bill-Section 77 will cost \$2.25M. Carla asked for support for this bill. The area will look like a park in three years. Go to yorklyn.org for the Master Plan.

Concept Presentation for Valley Road by Dick Saunders, DE Greenways: A presentation was made on Valley Road improvements, which is currently in the concept phase. An improved plan is required in May. The design will begin in September 2011 on existing right of way, taking one year to complete. Construction will begin in 2013. A motion was made and approved for the project.

Land Use – Fran Swift –no report

Hockessin Planning partnership – Ken Murphy, president: This organization is made up of all other organizations. They are attempting to build bridges between them.

DRAC-Cynthia Gamble, Chairperson: There has been no resolution of the Wells Fargo signage. Signage was approved with the William and Merry restaurant. For your information the Code Enforcement Dept. phone is 395-5555.

Hockessin Historical Society, Joe Lake, President – no report

New Business:

Sheila Dixon installed as a Board Member with term expiring in 2012.

Larry Thurrell, Friends of the Hockessin Library, reported Betty Russell will speak on “Memories of an Army Nurse” at their annual meeting on May 9th. She has been a resident of Hockessin for almost 65 years.

Paul Clark’s budget proposal was discussed.

Marcus Henry-General Manager of Community Services- information given.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted as reported by Mike Censurato, Board Member,

Tina Goldrick,

Secretary, GHADA

Next meeting: Monday, May 16, 2011 @7:00p.m.

Hockessin Fire Hall

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GHADA Minutes for March 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:02, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. 19 members, 23 others were present.

A moment of silence was observed for the people of Japan.

Minutes were approved from the February 21st meeting.

Treasure’s Report – Neil Greenstein - read; not submitted.

President’s Report – Mark Blake, President

Starting next month, we’re going to have a new segment at our monthly meetings, titled “Business Spotlight” where we’ll give a local Hockessin area business the opportunity to introduce themselves to the community and tell you a little about their business and themselves.

I wish to urge people to attend the Special Meeting which starts at 6 PM when County Executive presents his budget address to Council and the public. There are also several new proposals being presented at Council that could have an effect on our quality of life and expense to live and work in NCC in the coming years.

One of those items is the proposed hiring of a NCC County Director of Public Safety (Scott McLaren) by Paul Clark at a salary of about \$106,632/year. This is the position that has been vacant for just about 5 years since Chris Coons had Guy Sapp serving in that capacity for a period of only 6 months. Nothing against Mr. McLaren, but do we really need this position in light of the fact that we've been able to go for such a long period of time without anyone in that position?

Last month, Councilwoman Kilpatrick, along with Councilman Dave Tackett, was successful in getting their resolution about making audio recording of Council meetings available to the public and continues to work on the live streaming and hopefully, live video coverage a reality. Thanks to Janet and Dave for pushing this forward.

Today, John Peoples, Gen Mgr. of the Hockessin Athletic Club responded to a neighborhood complaint about their trash company making dumpster pickups at 4:20 AM the past few weeks. I spoke with John today, after getting an email from a neighbor in Stenning Woods behind the HAC, about the issue this morning. John was quick to resolve this by both emailing and calling their trash service provider and told them that they want their pick-up service scheduled for 4 PM from now on. This was something that was done by the driver and not something that either the HAC or the trash service had approved of. John wanted to also remind people if there's a problem, to please call him right away and not wait. I want to thank the HAC and both Bob Carpenter and John Peoples for resolving this matter the same day they were made aware of it. The HAC is a valued member of the Hockessin Community and we appreciate their fast response and support for the community.

Today, we learned that the DE-ABCC commissioner sent his ruling on the HAC's application for an amended liquor license, to the State's Attorney General's office for review and comment. The ABCC anticipates the final ruling will be issued soon. This is in regards to the license amendment application the HAC filed for last fall. Letters will be mailed when the ruling is finalized and signed. ***end report

State and County Elected Officials & Comments

Janet Kilpatrick – County Council: The schedule for the Public Budget meetings was submitted:

County Executive Budget Address – Tues@6:00pm – Council Chambers

Public hearings: City/County Bldg.-8th floor conference room 3:00-5:30pm

Monday, March 28th – Executive, Row offices, County Auditor

Tuesday, March 29th – Revenues, Debt Services, General Insurance, Contingencies

Monday, April 4th - Land Use

Monday, April 11th – Special Services

Monday, April 18th – Public Safety

Monday, April 25th – Community Services

Monday, May 2nd - Capital Budget

Monday, May 9th – Administration & Ethics Commission

Sprinkler systems: The new ordinance, effective in 2013, would include 2009 International building codes for single family sprinkler systems. The two issues are public safety versus home builders. Council would like to hear what the community thinks about this issue. The cost would add \$2.68 to \$6/sq. ft. If they exempt one part of the code (sprinklers) the budget would pass. A motion was made by Ken Murphy to “Advance to have the decision process delayed and/or exempted until the public workshop discussion.”

Liane Sorenson – State Senate – DEMA has been asked to review constituent concerns of living within 50 miles of three nuclear reactors. DEMA will distribute Iodine tablets April 6th.

Wells Fargo signs were discussed. Sign pictures not presented to scale caused a miscommunication during the approval process. The Wells Fargo Bank officials felt the community displeasure was being exaggerated. A motion was made by Ken Murphy that “The GHADA membership showed displeasure at the signage”. Motion approved.

The Governor has a new initiative on well testing. Water should be tested privately when building or selling a property.

The Education Bill will allow teachers to be hired earlier.

Redistricting has not come to a vote. Blevins has a bill to develop a panel to decide the districts. One Senate and two house seats will go to Sussex County. To fight for fair redistricting call House Democrats@744-4351, Senate Democrats@744-4286, House Republicans@744-4171, Senate Republicans@744-4048.

Nick Manolakos – State Representative The government is reporting greater income which is helping the budget to be not as dire. Three bills are being considered. 1) A medical bill calling for all facilities to be accredited. 2) Race tracks expanding at an unspecified location. 3) Door –to–door salesman. Nicks’ surveys will be coming out in the next two weeks.

Traditions at Pike Creek-Shawn Tucker, Esq. and Dev Sitaram, civil engineer – The development is owned by the Penguin Real Estate Investors LP, represented by VP and COO Jim Lisa. A presentation was made last year with 64 units, with the access changed from Paper Mill Road to Limestone Road. The proposal now is for 76 units with 2,000-2,400 sq. ft. The traffic impact will be the same. The goal would be to construct townhomes costing \$200,000-\$250,000. Storm water drainage concerns will be handled by a swale that catches runoff and recharges the aquifer. Water runoff will be diverted to the nearby creek for larger storms. The impervious cover is about the same. A motion was made to support the plan for 64 units to be changed to 76 Homes. It was approved unanimously.

GHADA nominations for Board Members and Exec. Board. Cathy Censurato and Tina Goldrick will be on the committee. A 2ndVP is needed. The 14 members for the 2011-2014 term will be presented in May.

Land Use Report – Fran Swift, Chairman

Traditions at Pike Creek- North side Rt. 72, west of Rt. 7

Their Attorney, Shawn Tucker has been invited to the GHADA meeting tonight to discuss the Traditions at Pike and the reservation some of our communities have about this project. It is scheduled for April 5, before the Planning Board. They wish to increase the number of townhouses from 64 to 76 by reducing the width of the townhouses from 30 ft to 24ft, thus superceding the previously recorded rezoning

Hindu Temple – 760 Yorklyn Road

All permits have been approved. An engineer report from RPATAC has approved the 34% impervious Cover . We do have a copy on file of the approved drawings.

Hockessin United Methodist Church – 1155 Old Lancaster Pike

They are still going through the process of a 24,510 sq. ft. building expansion. They would also assist GHADA on anything they would need in to address the public in reference to their goals. They are presently working on 8 variances for their HUMC addition

Marra Property- Newport Gap Pike & McKennan's Church Road

No further information at this time

I believe there is still an unanswered question involving storm water runoff. But this project appears ready to start to build 27 homes on 4.43 acres with 5.34 acres of open space and .74 acres intended for Roads and streets.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society – 6274 Limestone Road

The plan has been approved and recorded. The preliminary work on the Traffic lights on Rt. 7 by DEL DOT has been completed on this project.

PLANNING BOARD

Tuesday, April 5, 2011, 7:00pm. North Side Paper Mill Road and 200 feet west of Limestone Road.

Traditions at Pike Creek

Historic Review Board

1019 Corner Ketch Rd, A demolition permit for the Farm House

4810 Lancaster Pike, permit to replace windows ***** end of report

Business Spotlight – Speaker not present

DRAC – Chairperson not present

Hockessin Historical Society – Chairman not present

Hockessin Planning Partnership – Ken Murphy, president –Time deferred

New /Old Business

HAC liquor license application has gone to the Attorney General. A ruling should be back in one to two weeks.

This Saturday is the Red Clay clean-up.

Hockessin Community Center- Building is incomplete. There is a construction lien and there is a civil litigation suit. They have hired another builder.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm

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GHADA Minutes for February 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:01, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.18 members, 36 others were present.

President’s Report – Mark Blake, President

Welcome, tonight we have the privilege to have as our guest speaker, Lt. Governor Matt Denn, who will be talking about our overall education system here in Delaware, as well as any other topics that might arise after his talk, regarding any other issue that folks might have some questions about.

Senator Liane Sorenson sends her regrets for her absence, as she is out of the state, traveling.

I also wanted to let everyone know that there are still several millions of dollars available for Delaware homeowners for energy improvements, but the rebates are only available until the end of March 2011. These rebates range from anywhere from \$400 for simply increasing the insulation in your attic, etc. up to a maximum of \$8,250 if you implement all of the possible improvements from the recommended energy audit. On average, most homeowners have seen a rebate of around \$2,500 to \$3,500 if they undertake a normal number of possible energy saving improvements. These include updating your heating and air conditioning system to new insulated entrance doors, windows, duct sealing, crack sealing, etc. For the complete list of rebates available and all the program details, please go to www.energizedelaware.org

Tomorrow night at the NCC Council Meeting, there will be a few new ordinances presented that will address the recent issues regarding resolutions/ordinances that get put on the consent calendar that typically don’t have enough information for the average citizen, or councilperson for that matter, to be

able to tell what that item is all about. A couple of our County Council people, on both sides of the political isle have joined forces (Dave Tackett (D) and Janet Kilpatrick) to cosponsor this change in legislation. There is also a proposal to allow for internet streaming of either audio and eventually video of the meetings so more of the citizens of NCC can see what happens at these meetings without having to trek into Wilmington twice a month or more to witness these meeting in person. We think the time is long overdue for such public accessibility and applaud the efforts of those council members that value open, honest government and realize that by providing such access, only makes our government more engaged with its' citizens. I would strongly urge everyone that can, to attend the NCC Council meeting to be seen and heard as we support these efforts to make OUR government open and available to all taxpayers and citizens that can't easily attend these meetings in person.*****End of report

Minutes were approved from the January 17, 2011 meeting.

Guest Speaker-Lt. Governor Matt Denn. Main agenda was State of DE education and schools.

The number one issue involving kids in our State is education. Factors impacting this issue are: 1- the huge jump in the unemployment , thus focusing of getting people back to work and 2-the impact on State spending for education due to decreased revenue. When talking to businesses, the number one issue for them is the educational quality in the Delaware schools. Therefore, it is important for schools to: (1) focus on quality of life issues, incentives and goals; encouraging schools to be more efficient with spending the money they have. Red Clay was one of 5 top school districts in Delaware. It would cost \$28 million to bring the 11 other districts to that top level and (2) hire new teachers in a timely way so they are not lost to other states. Senate Bill 16 would allow hiring in the spring. Delaware is the only state with a School Academic Achievement Award. Matt attends different schools each week and works as a mentor to gain more insight. Parental involvement was the #1 teacher request for students' success.

Question topics included: 1) Administrative costs-Matt felt if local boards make decisions, voters could hold them accountable. Five districts at the bottom of performance were announced. Consolidation of the districts could physically and legally take several years. He would hope they could consolidate what they do, i.e. share staff instead. 2) Schools. Teachers' unions are very powerful and the bureaucracy continues to grow. Standards of education were set lower in our state. Common core standards were raised, so our numbers changed. Parental involvement continues to be essential. 3) Safety in schools-Friends and family were fearful in schools. Matt found that some schools had a disruptive atmosphere. He asked people to contact him with any concerns. Parental involvement importance was reiterated. (4) Patronage. Governor hires his cabinet. We need the best at the top and need to control a number of things that go wrong. DEL DOT - The stimulus money has been allocated to specific areas. Very little was discretionary spending.

Matt's email is on his website. The Recovery Act is listed. A small amount of Race to the Top funding was used.

Treasurer's Report - Neil Greenstein - see attachment

County and State Officials Comments:

Dave Sokola – Discussed money going into the classroom and made a comparison to Montgomery County schools. He reviewed the Non discrimination bill, including civil unions, with the same rights of marriage. The DuPont Company has a company policy.

Nick Manolakis – Discussed education issues, stating the achievement gap is the main problem; SROs are needed. Bills discussed (1) standard print material needed to publicly list business licenses 2) Standards for attendance requirement. Stated he supports medical marijuana.

Janet Kilpatrick - Two people from Hockessin were recently honored: R.T. Licht from NCC fire and ambulance and R. Young from the Diversity Committee. The last Comprehensive Plan was done in 2007. The NCC website provides an update and tells what it is about.

Land Use Report – Fran Swift

Traditions at Pike Creek- North side Rt. 72, west of Rt. 7

On the County Council Agenda for February 22 is to revise previously approved and recorded UDC rezoning record for Major Land Use development plan. They wish to increase the number of townhouses from 64 to 76 by reducing the width of the townhouses from 30 ft to 24ft, thus superceding the previously recorded rezoning

Hindu Temple – 760 Yorklyn Road

All permits have been approved. An engineer report from RPATAC has approved the 34% impervious Cover. I have a copy of the approved drawings for anyone's review

Hockessin United Methodist Church – 1155 Old Lancaster Pike

They are still going through the process of a 24,510 sq. ft. building expansion. They would also assist GHADA on anything they would need in to address the public in reference to their goals.

Marra Property- Newport Gap Pike & McKennan's Church Road

No further information at this time

I believe there is still an unanswered question involving storm water runoff. But this project appears ready to start to build 27 homes on 4.43 acres with 5.34 acres of open space and .74 acres intended for Roads and streets.

Milltown Square – Limestone Road and Milltown Road

This involves rezoning 8.56 acres of land from S to CN. It is a proposed mixed-use development consisting of retail, restaurant, office, and residential use and a parking garage.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society – 6274 Limestone Road

The plan has been approved and recorded. The preliminary work on the Traffic lights on Rt. 7 by DEL DOT has been completed on this project.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Thursday, January 27, 2011, 6:00pm
This property is still under review:

1159 Little Baltimore Road, Newark, De 19711 – Area variance needed to maintain a principle dwelling 6ft from the Right of Way and to maintain a detached Accessory *****end of report

Hockessin Historical Society – Joe Lake, President -The Dempsey Property will be restored. The annual banquet was held. Properties were discussed: Two homes at the Limestone Road and PA State line and the Odd Fellows building on Rt. 41. The HUMC will be giving items to the Historical Society.

Hockessin Planning Partnership (HPP) – Ken Murphy, President -Parking on Old Lancaster Pike and at the Piedmont fields was discussed.

DRAC – Cynthia Gamble-Signage for the Wells Fargo Building was discussed. There were misunderstandings regarding the final plans for the outdoor signs. If anyone has questions about the overlay, please contact her.

New Business: A new Board and elections for terms ending in 2011 will be held in May. Storm water drainage and clean water disconnect were discussed.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Tina Goldrick, Secretary, GHADA

Next meeting: Monday, March 21st

Hockessin Fire Hall- 7:00 pm--- UPSTAIRS!!