

Rock Creek Hills Citizens' Association

Minutes of the January 25, 2009 meeting

Following the pot luck dinner, Joe Rosenberg, President, called the meeting to order.

Old Business:

1. Minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting.

Vote: Approved.

2. Karyl Kramer presented the Treasurer's Report. A significant financial event, since the last meeting, was the Halloween parade.

Motion: To approve the Treasurer's Report.

Vote: Approved.

Speakers:

Mike McGill and John Mitchell from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission spoke about the upcoming "Bi-County Water Tunnel" project. The project will construct an 84-inch diameter water supply main from I-270 and Tuckerman Lane to Beach Drive and Stoneybrook Drive. The project will provide water to meet growing demand in Prince Georges County.

Some of the points raised in the presentation and discussion:

- The project will use tunneling and not cut and cover.
- The project will take three to four years to complete.
- The water supply main is not part of the distribution that delivers water to the homes in Rock Creek Hills. Since it is a separate water main, if there is any impact at all on our water supply, it should be minimal.
- Three shafts will be built. They will be located at:
 - Tuckerman Lane at I-270
 - Connecticut Avenue and the I-495 cloverleaf (northeast quadrant)
 - Stoneybrook Drive and Beach Drive
- The shaft at Connecticut Avenue and the I-495 cloverleaf will be the main shaft and most of the work will take place at this location.
- Heavy trucks will arrive at the Connecticut Avenue and I-495 shaft location via the exit ramp off of the outer loop of I-495. Light trucks may approach the location from Kensington Parkway.
- There will be intermittent work at the shaft at Stoneybrook Drive and Beach Drive.
- Trucks will arrive at the Stoneybrook Drive and Beach Drive shaft location from the south.
- Due to the confined space at the Stoneybrook Drive and Beach Drive shaft, they anticipate closing Stoneybrook Drive briefly while the trucks enter or exit the location.

- There will be some blasting involved during construction of the shafts. WSSC does not expect the blasts to have significant impact on residents near the blast locations. WSSC is willing to conduct a pre-blast inspection, if requested.
- The tunnel will be between 90 and 200 feet below the surface.

New Business:

1. It was suggested that RCHCA write to the Town of Kensington asking them to lift the left turn restrictions at Kensington Parkway and Kent Street and Frederick Street and Wake Drive during the construction of the “Bi-County Water Tunnel”. During the ensuing discussion the motion was withdrawn.

It was felt that the periodic closures of Stoneybrook Drive at Beach Drive were weak justification for removing the restrictions. It is not anticipated that any of the closures of Stoneybrook Drive will occur during rush hour, and the maximum number of trucks per day at this intersection would be 10 trucks.

2. A new RCHCA directory will be published this spring. We are selling ads for in the newsletter. Anyone interested in advertising in the newsletter should contact Joe Rosenberg (jrosenberg@comcast.net). The rates for the ads are:

Business card size	\$50
Half page size	\$75
Full page	\$100

Bids will be accepted for the back page advertisement. We will accept bids starting at \$150. Bids will be accepted until 2/14/2009.

3. There was discussion concerning various methods of obtaining directory updates. Topics covered the range of using public records to sending a letter to current residents providing the information that is currently published.

It was decided that sending individual letters would cause the least confusion and provide the most privacy.

4. There was discussion regarding having speakers at the RCHCA meetings. A lot of effort is expended by the RCHCA Board in soliciting speakers, and the speakers dedicate their time preparing their speech and attending the RCHCA meeting.

The consensus was that most speakers realize that sometimes attendance will be very low and other times attendance will be high, and that we should continue to have speakers at most meetings.

It was noted that the speakers at tonight’s meeting (1/25/2009) felt that the attendance (about 25) was better than they had at most meetings.

5. Since January 2000, the January meeting has been held on a weekend, in conjunction with a pot luck dinner. Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution and Bylaws states, "Regular meetings of the Association shall be held on the second Wednesday in January, May, and October of each year. The date of the meeting may be changed by the President, after consultation with the members of the Executive Committee, upon four days notice to the membership."

Since the January meetings have not been held on the proscribed night since January 13, 1999, it was suggested that the Constitution and Bylaws be updated.

Some of the items covered in the discussion were:

- People have other commitments and having a schedule may improve attendance.
- It is not always possible to schedule the meeting room for the proscribed dates.
- The January pot luck dinners have become a RCHCA tradition.
- The meeting dates and times are posted on www.RCHCA.org as soon as we can schedule the meeting location.

Motion: The Association shall have three meetings per year, in January, May and October. The time and dates of the meetings will be announced at least 10 days in advance.

Vote: Approved

Note: **Following the meeting it was recognized that the motion was not valid under Article IX of the Constitution and Bylaws. Article IX states, "This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association (or any special meeting called for that announced purpose, with ten (10) days notice to the membership) by two-thirds of the members present and voting; provided written notice of such proposed amendment shall have been distributed to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to date of meeting upon which such amendment is to be voted."**

Since the motion was invalid, it will not take affect at this time A comparable amendment will be proposed prior to the May meeting.

6. Joe provided a Train Noise Update. After CSX backed out of the solution involving the use of Wayside Horns, it appears that the use of lane separators without widening the road is getting support. Seven citizens' associations and the Town of Kensington are involved in the effort to reduce train horn noise at the Forest Glen crossing. It was also noted that a Decision Memo supporting a Quiet Zone with the lane separator technology was sent by the County Transportation Department to the County Executive.

7. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Vote: Approved

From the Treasurer's Report:

Total Balance, as of October 1, 2008	33,144.97
<u>Receipts</u> (October 1, 2008 – January 25, 2009)	4,070.39
<u>Expenditures</u> (October 1, 2008 – January 25, 2009)	3,160.78
Balances, as of January 25, 2009	34,054.58