

LMPC Annual Meeting

November 6, 2019

Our meeting began promptly at 7:00 p.m. Representatives from four of the five neighborhood associations were present, but with few others in attendance.

Chuck Poole, Superintendent of Wicomico County Parks and Recreation, started off in describing activities regarding pond environmental maintenance. As in the previous year, weed chemical were selectively applied during the month of June to control growth of hydrilla. No surface weed treatment for duckweed was applied in August, due in part to a shortage in staff as well as the fact that surface weed conditions were not as severe as in previous years.

For summer 2020, Chuck indicated that as with this year, only a third of the chemical applied would be needed for new treatment of hydrilla. The cost of a \$1,400 drum of chemical has already been built into the 2020 budget.

In terms of pond water levels, we all agreed that we plan no further requests for water lowering. Residents who may wish to undertake waterfront and dock maintenance will do so with normal water levels. As to storm events, Chuck indicated that when a clearly known storm is indicated, Parks and Recreation, working with Lee Outen of the State Highway Authority, may choose to make a pre-emptive lowering, but he expects such decisions to be few and far between. He noted that when alerted by the LMPC as to an excessively high water level that they will continue to undertake emergency measures, notably when a log jam has prevented the sluice gates from either failing to open or to open to such an extent as to lower pond levels beyond normal.

In terms of the much discussed mechanical harvester, it was noted that the Pentex land parcel development that has been annexed by the City of Salisbury has not indicated that planning will include a separate ramp area on the east side of the Route 13 bridge for purposes of launching. Moreover, as the mechanical harvester appears to have yet to be used once on any waterways or ponds in the City, it may be that the mechanical harvester will be sold, thus foreclosing a shift in LMPC pond maintenance from chemical to mechanical weed treatment.

In terms of the Pentex land development, as many have observed, now that the former Exit Realty building has been demolished, further activity is likely to focus on tree removal in anticipation of the construction of Ripieno's restaurant on the eastern section of the property now annexed by the City of Salisbury. Several pine trees already have ribbon markings for removal.

Though the former Exit Realty and Beracah model home structures have been removed, further ground preparation will be needed for integration of new septic and water systems to the City of Salisbury lines. This would include removal of existing well and septic systems, about which we have no further information at this time.

LMPC representatives re-iterated our standing concerns about risks to the environmental quality posed by the planned construction and operation of both Ripieno's and a Panera Bread drive-through restaurant. As has been noted previously, we participated in planning and design with Becker Morgan, the firm hired by Pentex to develop the property.

Our concerns regarding noise, light, and tree and growth cover have been noted by Becker Morgan and Pentex, with assurances expressed that environmental preservation would be a hallmark of building design and operation. A proposal put forth this year to

create a nature conservancy along the waterfront did not receive sufficient support among residents, even though were a change in commercial enterprises on the property could pose environmental risks.

What is clear is that building commercial firms on the property represents a fundamental change in the traditional environment in which wildlife have been able to thrive. To what extent environmental quality will be reduced as a result has yet to be determined, even though residents have been informed and testimony has been delivered to City authorities.

Representatives asked that the two current volunteer leaders continue to serve on behalf of the LMPC: Marilyn Booth, of Pine Knoll II as Treasurer, and Phillip LeBel, as Volunteer Coordinator of Chestnut Hill.

As Marilyn was not able to attend the meeting, I reported on LMPC finances. With no expenditures undertaken nor revenues received during the past year, the balance of \$9,334.05 remains unchanged from last year.

Following informal discussion of waterfront maintenance issues among property owners, the meeting was concluded at 8:00 p.m. A copy of these minutes will be posted on the LMPC website at:

<http://msuweb.montclair.edu/~lebelp/LeonardMillPondAssociation.html>

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