

## LMPC Annual Meeting

December 5, 2018

The annual meeting of the LMPC took place on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Eight property owners attended, a low figure for the annual meeting.

Chuck Poole, Superintendent of Wicomico County Parks and Recreation provided a summary report on the Leonard Mill Pond environmental status. Weed levels remained relatively low in 2018 and no treatment was applied. However, some new growth has taken place and selective two-stage weed chemical treatment is planned for the summer of 2019. Residents will be alerted on the application timetable. County funding is expected to continue.

On the subject of the mechanical weed harvester that the City of Salisbury has purchased, he noted that it appears so far to have not been used in any area. At the 2017 annual meeting, the LMPC discussed whether we should anticipate a right of way in the still evolving annexation plan off Dagsboro Road to a possible exclusive right of way request. Chuck pointed out that the size of the craft would preclude ready access to harvesting some of the areas of potential weed growth, a consideration not conducive to pursuing a right of way for leasing the craft. In addition, some residents pointed out that were the craft to be used in other areas, it could serve as a vehicle for transmitting other weed species to the pond. While no vote was taken on any of this, the general consensus was that there appears to be no evident environmental benefit from trying to pursue a leasing arrangement for purposes of treating weed growth in Leonard Mill pond at present.

Secondly, Phillip LeBel provided a summary of preliminary findings made by Matthew Gray, a fresh water bivalve specialist working at the Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge, Maryland. Some four species were identified during a dive off the pond. Some communication ensued with Matthew and it appears that a once anticipated second and third round of sampling could non be envisioned at present, given the absence of funding, and environmental priorities at the local level. We still have a vision of documenting the eco-system for purposes of crafting good stewardship practices, and for which the decision in recent years has been to forego in the absence of County mandated drawdowns to request such drawdowns for purposes of aiding resident maintenance concerns.

Thirdly, a general discussion ensued regarding the PennTex proposed annexation and development of land parcels to the east and north of the recently opened Aldi food market. Renewed discussion took place regarding the prospective removal of some 80 percent of the existing tree stock from the property in anticipation of enlarged parking facilities and the installation of two restaurant facilities. The standing concern as expressed in a previous information meeting has been whether this will result in increased runoff into Leonard Mill Pond, whether both highway congestion and noise emanating from restaurant patrons will be magnified across the pond, whether lighting of the two restaurant facilities will produce light pollution on residential properties, and

finally, whether additional highway congestion from the Aldi market and two proposed restaurants will generate substantial highway congestion at the crossing on Route 13 across from the Wicomico County Tourist Center.

Last evening, December 10, the Salisbury City Council adopted resolutions authorizing the annexation of the parcels as proposed by the PennTex Development Corporation. The vote was 3 to 0, with two members absent. A public hearing in which citizens can express their views will be held on January 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Government Office Building on North Division Street in Salisbury.

Fourth, Marilyn Booth, Captain of Pine Knoll II and Treasurer of the LMPC gave a report on finances. No expenditures nor revenues were generated during the past year. The balance of \$9,334.05 on December 5, 2018 remains unchanged from last year.

Residents were asked if they wished for Marilyn Booth and Phillip LeBel to continue in their respective volunteer roles for the upcoming year. They voted unanimously for a continuation.

Finally, a general discussion ensued regarding remaining issues of concern to property owners. The topic of excessive rainfall and sluice gate controls took up much of the discussion. Chuck Poole noted that the sluice gates seem to be working as planned, despite periodic temporary flooding. It was noted that a beaver colony in the north prong have created some logjams at the gate, and once again the question of whether a buffer control east of the sluice gates could help control congestion. As the County does not appear to have funding for such an initiative, it remains an open point of discussion as to how to proceed, and which some residents may consider pursuing with regard to grant funding proposals. It was noted that under regular automatic flows, excessive rainfall this year did threaten the County park area beyond the dam.

The meeting was close at 8:20 p.m. A copy of these minutes will be posted on the LMPC website at: <http://msuweb.montclair.edu/~lebel/LeonardMillPondAssociation.html>

**Addendum to the LMPC Annual Meeting:** Based on a request raised at the annual meeting, property owners endorsed Donna Cooper as a prospective co-signer of the LMPC Treasury account. Following the meeting, in a conversation with Donna Cooper, she agreed to serve as co-signer on the account. Treasurer Marilyn Booth will proceed with having Donna Cooper's name added to the account.

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