

Tulip Hill Citizens Association
Spring Meeting – Saturday, May 19, 2007
Minutes

Michael Burack, President of THCA, called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

Michael began with a remembrance of Sally Moore, the THCA former Treasurer. He then proceeded to the business of the meeting.

1. **Officers' Reports.** Michael asked for the reports from the officers, beginning with Toni Grayson, THCA Vice President, and thanking her for organizing the spring meeting. Toni reported that she hoped to get more people involved in planning the two THCA events each year, and also asked for ideas on how to generate more responses and higher attendance. A member asked about the cost of doing the event at the Cuddle-Up Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. The only cost is the \$200 donation to the Glen Echo Partnership for the Arts for the use of the Pavilion.

Christine Enemark, THCA Secretary, summarized the minutes of the fall meeting. She noted that they are posted on the THCA web site.

Jos Verbeek, the newly appointed THCA Treasurer, was out of town, so Michael reported on the state of the THCA finances. The current balance is \$3,451, down from the balance before the Association paid landscaping bills and made its annual contributions to the Glen Echo Rescue Squad and the Little Falls Library. Michael thanked all members who have paid their dues and encouraged anyone who has not paid to do so.

Michael then gave the President's report, reflecting on his first year in office. He counted among the Association's successes the Halloween Party of last October, which he hopes will become an annual event; a more regular e-mail network that improves communication among the Association's households; the new directory which will now be available to all Association households regardless of their dues status; and the progress on Massachusetts Avenue.

2. **Reports from Standing Committees.** For the Directory Committee, Cate Bergesen announced that the new edition of the THCA directory could be picked up at the close of the meeting and that copies will be delivered to the Association households not represented at the meeting later. She thanked Howard Solomon and Chris Bergesen for their involvement in updating the directory information.

Howard took the floor for a moment to say that he had available for distribution copies of a residents' guide to services published by Montgomery County, the schedule for the #29 Ride-On bus (which is free for seniors between 9:30 and 3:00 Monday through Friday), and yard trim stickers for the yard waste cans.

Margaret Greene reported for the Traffic and Safety Committee. She identified the pedestrian crossing of Massachusetts Avenue at Bent Branch Road as a significant safety

issue. The state plans to install striped crosswalks and signs telling drivers to yield to pedestrians there. We had asked for pedestrian-activated flashing lights as well, but so far those have not been incorporated into the plans. Another issue she identified is the difficulty of crossing Massachusetts Avenue at Goldsboro; the state is reportedly “studying the issue” and they said the study will take 90 days to complete. Margaret has posted the name and address of the State Highway Administration’s district engineer on the THCA web site and urged all households to write to him about these safety issues. In response to a question, she said she is not sure whether there will be crosswalks at the locations on Massachusetts Avenue where the sidewalks switch from one side of the street to the other, although she expects there will be.

3. **Massachusetts Avenue Construction and Landscaping**. Michael reported that a Landscaping Committee had been formed to review what will happen with the landscaping at the neighborhood entrance on Massachusetts Avenue. In addition to Michael, the members are Rasma Plato, Steve Kahn, and Lenore Clarke. Michael reported the following:

- The state’s current plans involve putting in curbs on the Mohican Hills side that will run to the top of the hill, so that the only sidewalk on our side of Massachusetts Avenue will run between Bent Branch and Mohican.
- The curbs will be finished in 2-3 weeks, followed by the final asphalt surfacing.
- At that point, the only item to be completed will be the landscaping. The State Highway Administration has drawn up plans which are generally nice, but have two problems: first, the proposed trees near the bus stop would overwhelm the path to the bus stop; and second, the proposed large trees at the margin of Massachusetts Avenue would block the view of cars coming up the hill. The committee met with the SHA landscaper who will revise the plans to take account of these suggestions.
- The state will smooth out the entrance area and put sod down. The Association may want to re-landscape the area with ground cover. The Association may contract with a yard-care company to pull the weeds and clean the area up the hill, with the intent that some new plantings will be put into that area.

Michael suggested that the Association plan a volunteer planting day in the fall as a nice neighborhood event and an inexpensive way to clean up the neighborhood entrance. The suggestion was well received.

One member asked whether the Tulip Hill sign at the Mass Ave entrance would be put back. Right now, the sign is in Michael’s garage. Michael proposed to have a discussion and poll at the fall meeting regarding the preference for the sign, including whether to have no sign, to reinstall the old wooden sign on posts as before, or to incorporate the old sign into a more upscale enclosure, possibly stone.

One member asked about the diagonal clearing where the state’s heavy road equipment is being stored near Goldsboro Road. Michael replied that this area is part of the state’s right-of-way, which used to be a cut-through ramp to Massachusetts Avenue that was eliminated some years ago because of neighborhood complaints. The Landscape Committee has

proposed to the state landscaper that the shade trees originally planned for the entrance on Massachusetts Avenue be planted instead in the right-of-way.

4. **New Business.**

- The officers have discussed two possible changes to the THCA bylaws. The first would change the dues year from a twelve-month period starting on October 1 to the calendar year. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and the proposal was approved unanimously. The second change would state that all households in Tulip Hill would belong to the Association. Currently, the bylaws provide that only households that are current with their dues are considered members. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and the proposal was approved unanimously. (Under the bylaw provisions governing amendments, both proposals must be discussed, voted upon and approved at the fall meeting in order to become effective.)
- A question was raised about the status of the Leland Phillips property (the 5-acre plot across Macarthur Boulevard from Glen Echo Park that includes an abandoned stone house). Michael said that the land had been put up for sale earlier this year with an asking price of \$4.5 million. A recent magazine item appeared to indicate that the property was recently sold, but we don't know for sure. According to current zoning, up to five single-family homes could be constructed on the site. Leland Phillips also owns the empty lot on Tulip Hill Terrace at the top of the hill; we don't know if that was included in the parcel that was up for sale.
- Michael noted that from time to time there is trash on the streets in the neighborhood, and he asked neighbors who come across trash while walking to please pick it up and put it in their trash containers at home.
- Michael noted that poison ivy is unusually abundant this year and urged everyone to learn what it looks like and take care to avoid it. He noted in particular that the vine hanging at face level from the leaning tree near the bus stop on Goldsboro Road is poison ivy, so users of that bus stop should be especially careful.
- A question was raised about the possibility of clearing and using a pedestrian right-of-way that runs from the Bent Branch cul-de-sac to Macarthur Boulevard at Glen Echo Park. Michael said that the right-of-way is shown on the relevant plats, noted that the process could entail significant expenditures (for a survey, among other things), and said he would look into the matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 2:00 p.m.

Christine Enemark, Secretary