

**McLean Hamlet Community Association  
Annual Meeting  
April 24, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Shivnen, president, at 7:40pm.

MHCA Administration Meeting: Jeff introduced himself and the present board members and committee chairs, reviewing their job descriptions and responsibilities: Tara Vold, VP and head of the nominating Committee; Jack Nightingale, Treasurer; Michelle Blanton, outgoing Secretary; Denys King, head of the picnic; Alan Holmer, former President and current board member; Behram Shroff, LC and MCA representative; Robyn Lighthammer, Sunshine Committee welcoming new neighbors; and Wade Smith, Transportation. He also introduced Barbara Allen, the Snow Meadow representative to the MHCA board. Jeff encouraged everyone to volunteer to help with our community, even if it's just helping with a committee.

Annual Competition for Planting of Native Species: Jeff welcomed Patricia Fry to describe the movement to include more Northern Virginia native species in our yards. She announced Clay Winter of Dunsinane Court the winner of the \$100 annual prize and presented his prize.

Transportation Report: Wade Smith announced that Mclean Hamlet will finally be re-paved! He also described other roads being paved, including Spring Hill Road and major portions of Lewinsville Road. When the final schedule is available, a HamNet will be sent out communicating this information.

Treasury Report: Jack introduced himself and briefed the attendees on the current state of MHCA's income, expenses, and assets. Our Year End Income Estimate is set at \$24,005, with major Expenses being Neighborhood/Community Support and Community Affairs (\$1,443), Financial, Admin, and Legal Fees (\$3,405), Directory Newsletter, Website and HamNet (\$4,704) Major Neighborhood Events (\$7,634), and Entrance Wall and Landscaping (\$7,202.) Finally, our Financial Assets total \$50,032, currently held in Bank of America and Pay Pal checking accounts.

Comments from the audience included congratulations for maintaining a strong savings for the neighborhood, and a question regarding how the annual dues are collected.

Introduction of board Nominees and Voting: Jeff introduced the nominees for the new board, and conducted the election, which was seconded and passed unanimously. Tara thanked the outgoing board members, Michelle Blanton and Jane Severn for their tireless hours towards the MHCA community.

**Guest Speaker, Dranesville Supervisor John Foust:**

1. Paving: When Lewinsville did not make the list to be paved last year, Supervisor Foust explained how he took members of VDOT on a personalized tour to show them the condition of the roads in this immediate area to make sure they were

addressed this year. Swinks Mill Road, Lewinsville Road, and all the roads and cul-de-sacs within Mclean Hamlet are slated to be re-paved.

2. Budget: There was a significant tax rate increase to help address specific issues such as teacher salaries. However, there is not an increase this year, so there will be deficits in certain areas this year. The county has managed to fund some projects addressing mental health (Diversion First), CRISP, and jobs for special needs adults. His long-range plan will work to target more revenue (without raising taxes), infrastructure, attracting businesses to the area, and increase diversity. He used other communities in Northern Virginia as examples to model our growth. Concerns the county has identified are the tax dollars coming in from Richmond (he is not supportive of President Trumps plan), Metro funding.
3. Transportation Updates: Supervisor Foust thanked neighbors for supporting the truck ban on Lewinsville/Spring Hill Road. Going forward, bridge traffic on Route 7 west towards Georgetown Pike will include pedestrian and bike accommodations and its expansion to 6 lanes. Scheduled commencement is May 2018 with completion in 2025. He also discussed a Jones Branch "extender."
4. Downtown McLean: He believes most people believe the area needs to be revitalized. A "Main Street Mclean" plan has been under development going back to the 1990's. A meeting last month regarding the development of this property was attended by approximately 300 people who "voiced support." The "Signet" project (close to the McLean Post Office) will house 123 units and expects completion in 2018. Lewinsville Center (the old Elementary School) which housed seniors, childcare, and adult daycare is currently being torn down and rebuilt. This public/private partnership will provide a housing facility for 82 low-income seniors, with a 2nd building (financed by the county) with a new senior facility for adult day care. The Mehr brothers sold their farm to a company which will put 10 new homes on the property. Dominion Retreat closed and sold their property, as well. The developer plans to build 21 homes.
5. Tysons Development: The Tysons Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2010. He believed that the developers would be fighting us, but that instead they have been building transit-related buildings. The only problem they have had is the number of playing fields (They were supposed to build 20.)
6. Police Recruitment and Retention in Tysons: Established a civilian review panel to allow citizens to review police reports and have an appeals process if they do not agree with a verdict. The Police Chief is 100% behind this project. A Hamlet resident has been selected as a chairperson.

Questions from Audience:

1. *"Are the tax dollars we collected for teacher retention helping?"*
  - a. I don't know. We are trying to eliminate the difference between our pay scale and the pay scales of surrounding schools. There is a 3-year plan.
1. *"The majority of our traffic is coming in from Loudon County. Are we asking Loudon for money to help pay for the traffic they are creating?"*
  - a. No
  1. *"We are grateful for the road construction but what is being done to alleviate the Balls Hill Road/Lewinsville Road Traffic issue?"* Many neighbors in the audience voiced concern over this intersection, even noting that the intersection is right in

front of a police station and nothing is being done to alleviate the clogging created by cars blocking the intersection, running red lights, etc.

- a. There is a "BIG FIX" coming. Despite recognizing the problem, Supervisor Foust said there is simply no money in the budget. Also, he claimed ticketing these people would create an even bigger traffic problem. When the example of Vienna's strict police force was brought up, he had no comment.
  - 1. *A neighbor commented on the homeless man sleeping next to the soccer field and asked what we can do in this type of situation. She is concerned not only for the safety of the children who may be using the soccer field, but also the homeless person's safety.*
- a. Call his office. The Baptist church was trying to help this woman over the weekend. There are services available
  - 1. *"Concerning Tyson's Development: are there any long-range plans for condominiums for seniors who may be looking to down-size their house?"*
- a. Not currently, but he thinks there will come in the future. There is some space behind Chipotle which may become a condominium unit.
  - 1. *"Follow-on to the Senior Facility: Has any progress been made for the Sunrise Senior Center on Westmoreland and Kirby?"*
- a. This is very contentious. Supervisor Foust is against the project and will vote it down, because it is too big for the 3 acre-site. They have looked at studies.
  - 1. *"Is there any talk to let Tyson's become a municipality?"*
- a. Absolutely not. Fairfax County needs the revenue. We can't ever let that happen.
  - 1. *"Regarding more fields, is there the possibility for the county to use one of the parks in McLean?" "Why are they interested in building fields instead of schools?"*
- a. Maybe. Supervisor Foust said the school board has not communicated their need to build a new school to his office.
  - 1. *"Regarding the fields: how can we protect Hamlet Park?"*
- a. Supervisor Foust will look into it.
- i. A neighbor followed on with the explanation that we have labor through Scouts and volunteers.

## **Guest Speaker: Audubon Society representative Margaret Fisher**

### Audubon at Home Program

Nationwide we are losing songbirds. Why? Looking at developments, many new lots contain species of plants originating from other continents. This non-indigenous planting disrupts the natural diet of Virginia birds, bugs and insects. The Audubon at Home "Healthy Yard Pledge" has the goal of reducing pesticides/fertilizer use, planting native species, conserving and protecting water quality, remove invasive exotic plants, and helping birds, pollinators, and beneficial wildlife.

What do we need to do? We need to feed the birds. Not seeds, necessarily...because the adult birds need to feed their babies insects! Mowing our lawn and killing mosquitoes kills the birds and frogs.

How can you help? Consider becoming a Wildlife Sanctuary. There are currently 2 in Mclean Hamlet! If you can find 10 native species of animals on your property, you can be certified! A volunteer can even come out to help you by making suggestions to your property. Margaret

provided resources for free and for sale to assist members. She also asked our neighborhood to help by spreading the word to neighbors and friends.

A neighbor commented that they used Mosquito Squad to get rid of the mosquitos, but their property's plants were overtaken by aphids. They had to replace all their plants as a result.

Jeff reminded the members of the invasive species program.

Jeff reminded residents of the following dates:

Yard Sale: May 20

Large Trash Pick-up: July 20

2017-18 Membership year begins July 1, 2017

2017 Hamlet Picnic in September, TBD

The meeting was closed at approximately 9:40pmb