

## TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

July 20, 2006

Council President Mary McCarthy called the work session to order at 4:00 p.m. in the first floor meeting room of the Goodwill Fire Company. The following members and staff were present: Mary McCarthy, Council President, Norman Pinder, Council Vice-President, Mary Roby, Council Member, Lori Peddicord, Finance Officer, Chief Pignataro, and Jane Saulsbury, Administrative Aide.

### Mary Margaret Goodwin

County Fair – Mrs. Goodwin reported that the double-sized tent is here and that the exhibits will be hung from the piping that supports the tent. An opening ceremony is planned during which the trophies will be awarded to participants of the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. The exhibit will be open from 3:00 p.m. until approximately 9:00 p.m. from August 7<sup>th</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Goodwin requested that the members of the Town Council take turns in manning the booth with her.

Mrs. Goodwin announced a great “find,” what is thought to be the original town bell. There is a foundry mark on it and she is waiting confirmation from research of the old foundry records (1821 – 1850) to verify that it is the original bell. The company that made the town bell also made the Liberty Bell.

The first DVD of Town history will be available for sale during the County Fair. The designation of price for the DVD will be left to the Town Council. Mr. Kehoe will check to see if it is necessary to charge sales tax.

Christmas Parade – Mrs. Goodwin proposes that the weekend of the Christmas parade be Centreville’s embarkation into a major tourism event. Some of the goals for the parade and weekend are: (1) to get descendants from all of the founding families to participate; (2) to have a fife and drum corps; (3) to have Clydesdale horses; (4) to create a Town pamphlet for a walking tour, house by house and store by store; (5) a showing of the DVD (perhaps at the Armory); (6) brunch on Sunday for out-of-town historic families & guests.

Mr. Pinder said that a Marine Corp band and honor guard are interested in coming to the Christmas parade and will attend a parade planning meeting on July 26 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. It was noted that Mr. Pinder will chair the Christmas parade and Mrs. Goodwin will work with him.

### Cemetery Affairs

Mrs. Goodwin gave the proposed changes to the Cemetery rules and regulations to the Town Council for their review. Mr. Kehoe advised that changes and additions to the regulations in the code are done by repeal of the ordinance (in this case, Chapter 42) and re-enactment by a new ordinance. He proposed to have it ready for the Council’s August 3 meeting. He said that the Town Manager can create a committee to oversee the

cemetery without the ordinance. Mrs. Goodwin then distributed recommended guidelines for a pamphlet to be formulated to provide information on the care and cleaning of monuments. She noted that there are a tremendous number of graves in need of care.

#### Final Approval on Entrance to Millstream Park

Mr. Jeff Anthony highlighted the costs relative to the stone entrance wall proposed for the Millstream Park. Gomoljak Block is donating the stone for the project and Natural Concepts Landscapes is providing the labor to construct the wall as well as providing plantings along the wall. The labor will cost \$9592.70. Gomoljak has requested a letter stating that the Town will allow a sign saying they donated the stone for the wall. Natural Concepts Landscapes would also like a sign recognizing their participation. It was proposed that a sign of a bronze-type material be installed on the back of the wall facing the trail. Pavers ten feet (10') wide and twenty-four feet (25') deep will be installed across the entrance road.

The sidewalk is proposed to be extended from Liberty Street down to the park. Mr. Pinder suggested that the proposed improvements be reviewed by Mr. Roby Hurley, Circuit Rider for the Critical Area Commission. After discussion, it was moved and seconded by Mr. Pinder and Mrs. Roby, respectively, to approve the contract bid from Natural Concepts Landscapes for \$9592.70. The motion passed unanimously. A letter will be send to Gomoljak thanking them for the donation of stone for the entrance wall.

There was discussion about the need for the posting of rules and regulations for the trail.

Mrs. Stephanie Thompson of Chesterfield Avenue added that there is an increasing problem of people with boat trailers parking beyond the wharf area parking lot.

#### Mrs. Mary Roby / Planning and Zoning Issues

Mrs. Roby noted that a plan of action is needed to address sidewalk and curb repair throughout the town. Code enforcement is also needed to address those properties that are in obvious non-compliance with zoning regulations, including the Wasserman house on Kidwell Avenue and the Callahan residence on the corner of Liberty and Water Streets. The Callahan permit was issued over five years ago and the scaffolding is still in place. Council wants to see the scaffolding removed. Mr. Kehoe said that the Code is pretty specific about what constitutes a nuisance building, beginning with issuance of a citation by the zoning inspector. He said he would research other codes and noted the need for an ordinance that can move cases of non-compliance quickly to court. Abatement provisions are needed. Clean up could be done by the town or have the District Court issue an order to abate. Mr. Kehoe said that another approach is to require people to get a bond if they want an extension to their building permit. It was moved and seconded by Mrs. Roby and Mr. Pinder, respectively, to approve issuance of a citation to

206 Kidwell for high grass and unhealthy vegetation. After this, the next step can be taken. All being in favor of the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Stephanie Thompson suggested that the town shouldn't focus on one property owner. Mrs. Elizabeth Brice, South Liberty Street, said other properties have been discussed by the Planning Commission. Mrs. Saulsbury gave the Council a list compiled by Mr. Porter, the Zoning Inspector, of properties and zoning issues that have been addressed.

Mrs. McCarthy asked if Council should have Mr. Kehoe draft an abatement ordinance. Mr. Kehoe said he would. It was moved and seconded by Mrs. Roby and Mr. Pinder, respectively, to direct Mr. Porter to survey the town and compile a list of violations, prioritize them and then take action. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kehoe said that State's Attorney, Frank Kratovil, does code enforcement for the County and that he will discuss Centreville's code enforcement with him. He will also speak with Mike Whitehill of McCrone, Inc. about the possibility of some enforcement if it falls under the Corsica River Watershed program. The goal is to enforce code violations to the full extend of the law.

Mrs. Roby asked about enforcement of the noise ordinance and what is the decibel level that is a violation. Chief Pignataro said he is working on it, saying that the ordinance needs to address specific offences with a decibel rating. He advised that the District Court will not find individuals guilty for moderated exhaust systems.

Mr. Pinder reported that he met with Ed Smith of the American Legion concerning the flag pole at the Chesterfield Cemetery and requested that Mr. Smith get approval from the Legion to fix up the area. There may be some state money available through the American Legion which could include some brickwork and benches for sitting. Mrs. Roby suggested the Town could encourage memorial-type gifts for the enhancement of the cemetery and the park.

Chief Pignataro reported that he met with Luke Phipps concerning the reverse 911 emergency system. A survey is to be conducted by phone to determine who wishes to receive non-emergency notices, who may have a household in which there is someone who needs help in case of evacuation, any animals, etc. It was suggested that a survey form be mailed to Town residents. It is vital to get this information into the Emergency Operations Center's system. Citizens can dial in to answer the survey questions or mail them in.

Mrs. Saulsbury reported that, despite a number of phone calls, there has been no response from the company that contacted the Town with an offer to provide a newsletter. An intern at the Town Hall is currently working on the formulation of a newsletter. Mrs. Roby said she has a model format that she will bring in.

Mr. Tim McCluskey asked the status of the Millstream benches that vandals threw into the water. He was told that high water caused by recent heavy rain has precluded retrieval of the benches but that they will be brought to shore as soon as possible.

There was mention of the need for phragmites control and Mrs. Thompson said she knows a company that will spray; she will bring that in. The Fish and Wildlife agency also does this kind of spraying.

There was discussion of the petition of citizens desiring the increase of the Council membership to five members. Mr. Kehoe advised that is not necessary for the Town Council to change the charter as they have agreed they want the citizens to decide. Mr. McCluskey asked the members of the Town Council to sign the petition. Mrs. McCarthy said they haven't seen a copy of it and prefer not to sign something they haven't seen. Mr. McCluskey gave Mrs. McCarthy a copy of the petition.

Mrs. Mary Margaret Goodwin noted that during the recent heavy rains that North Commerce Street was completely flooded due the elevation of the street level after repaving. She had water in her basement for the first time ever. She also requested that the schedule for the street sweeper be changed so that it is not sweeping when children are there. It stirs up a lot of dust and it very dangerous for children with asthma. Relative to the flag pole and the request for memorial gifts, Mrs. Goodwin advised that she has received a greater response from articles in the newspaper than anything else in her search for information on veterans. She reminded Council of the "Honor Your Spirits" day planned for October, an event to commemorate those buried in the Chesterfield Cemetery.

Mrs. Stephanie Thompson reported that the Wharf project is going before the Court of Special Appeals at the end of this year regarding the requested variance for fill. Mr. McCluskey said that on decision has come in yet from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

There being no further business to discuss, the work session adjourned at 5:35 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Saulsbury, Administrative Aide