

October 20, 2003 - GHADA Meeting Minutes

by Diane Hagerty

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Conectiv's Response to Outages – Conectiv Vice President S. Lee Frankel presented statistics and steps that were taken to restore power after Hurricane Isabel. He apologized to residents and provided the step-by-step plan that Conectiv put into place after the hurricane. He indicated that 43% of Delaware Conectiv customers were out of power, and that 80% of customer's outages were repaired within 48 hours. The storm was the most devastating in Conectiv's history and the call center received 12000 calls per hour. The most common complaint from customers after the storm was with communication. The automated phone system had the same message 2 –3 days after the storm and customers did not receive updates. Conectiv is currently conducting an internal performance review to incorporate lessons learned and proactively plan for future storms. In summary, Conectiv had a plan that was implemented early, they gathered resources by having stand-by crews from neighboring states, and they are now meeting with customers to discuss individualized problems and resolutions. A public meeting will be held Tuesday October 28th at Brandywine High School at 7:00 p.m.

Hockessin Village Plan –

- GHADA President Ken Murphy gave overview of how the Village steering committee was formed. Alberto and Associates did a pre planning study and information was gathered from merchants, business and property owners and residents of Hockessin.

- NCC Chief Administrative Officer Sherry Freebery spoke to residents and emphasized that the Village plan should only go forward if the residents are in agreement. Upon agreement, the Village plan, it will be submitted to County Council to become law and will rule how future development will go forward in Hockessin Village.

- NCC Project Manager Jim Smith gave a brief overview of the history of the Village Plan and stressed that it wasn't a county plan, it is considered a community plan. The plan will eventually go on the county Website and will have a feedback link for comments.

- Redman/Johnston Associate Consultant, Pete Johnston presented the plan to those in attendance at the meeting. He stated that Hockessin should have a vision of what the town should look like and that Hockessin needs a sense of place. The designated area within the plan can be changed based on resident's feedback. The plan is a concept to show what needs to be looked at and addressed and described a village center that would serve as the physical and symbolic focal point of the community. The plan will accommodate new businesses and homes to attract more people to Hockessin, but will allow a village atmosphere where people can walk to different areas. All current issues will have to be addressed in order to implement the plan. Implementation will depend on community support and residents should talk to elected officials and let them know if you support it.

SR 41 Safety Project –

- Del Dot official Mark Parker provided detailed information on the SR41 safety project that is scheduled to begin in March 2005 and finish by the end of 2005. The project includes 1-¼ miles of route 41 beginning south of School House Road and ending north of Valley Road. The project includes installation of center turn lanes, sidewalks on both sides of the road, raised medians, drainage improvements, a shoulder for bicycles, and a traffic signal at the intersection of Route 41 and Yorklyn Road. The current lane configurations will remain the same. Lighting and landscaping will also be included in the project. A SR 41 meeting will be held Nov. 10 for more detailed discussions of the project.

County Council Activities:

- County Council President Chris Coons provided a brief overview of current council activities that he and Rep. Tansey would like input from residents on:

- o Septic elimination for NCC

- o Hockessin library expansion

- o Recycling in Hockessin

- o Volunteer Fire Companies – there is a process underway to support volunteerism, specifically fire companies

- o Rental code process – A bill about managing the rental process and inspections

Rental Housing Ordinance:

Fred Quercetti, President Delaware Apartment Association described the task force that has been formed for rental housing concerns for NCC. The group feels that there is a need for rental code in NCC. There needs to be education for tenants on who to contact for rental issues as well as registration of landlords. Thomas Gordon, County Executive stated that he did not favor the rental code as currently proposed and will work to develop and support an alternate rental code.

GHADA President Ken Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The next GHADA meeting is scheduled for Monday Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

GHADA

Minutes: April 21, 2003

President Ken Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. This was an expanded meeting in the form of a public workshop focusing on the Hockessin Village Planning Initiative.

Officials present were Councilman Bill Tansey, along with County personnel Marty Kirk, Mary Grace Fariello and the workshop presenters.

Two local businesses, L A Nails and Hockessin Wine and Spirits provided unsolicited gift baskets for a public drawing, while The Okura Restaurant provided sushi for the attendees to sample.

Hockessin Village Plan Steering Group

Jim Smith, Assistant Manager of the New Castle County Land Use and Planning Department presented the planning to date emphasizing that it continues to be a plan in progress and further public input is welcome. Detailed plans and maps are available to the public through GHADA and the Hockessin Library.

Pete Johnston, Planning Consultant, Redman Johnston Associates, Ltd., continued the presentation with a detailed slide presentation of a possible plan for the Core Area which is 1500 feet in radius.

Hockessin Greenways Steering Group

Tim Plemmons, Executive Director, Delaware Greenways, presented, A Walk Through Hockessin, a slide presentation of potential greenway plans for the Greater Hockessin Area. A handout followed explaining the process and 7 recommended projects. He talked about the need for further public input and addressed the availability of land and financing issues.

Request for Board of Adjustment Variances – former Shields property

Jim Harker, Attorney-At-Law, spoke to the reasons for requesting parking and sign variances on the former Shields property. Tom Harvey, Owner, was also present and addressed several questions. After questions and comments, President Murphy asked for a show of hands in support of the variances. A large majority opposed the requests. As a result, John Flanagan, Chair, Land Use Focus Group, and interested members will meet with Mr. Harker and Mr. Harvey to seek a resolution. The meeting will be held Tuesday April 22nd at the Fire Hall.

Red Clay Valley Scenic and Historic Roads Designation

Charles Potter from the Red Clay Valley Association presented a proposal for designating a network of roads throughout the Red Clay Watershed as scenic and historic. It was unanimously approved and will be presented to DelDot.

Status Report – Proposed Valley Road Park

John Flanagan, Land Use Focus Group, presented an overall plan for Valley Road Park, with charts, which will include the new permanent home for Tweed's Tavern and new parkland for the Hockessin area.

Athletic fields and walking paths will be included. Further meetings with Hockessin Greenways and DelDot are planned for April 28th and May 5th respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Eleanor Smith

Acting Secretary

GREATER HOCKESSIN AREA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

March 17, 2003 Board Meeting

The March 17, 2003 Board Meeting of the Greater Hockessin Area Development Association (GHADA) was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Ken Murphy.

The following elected officials and dignitaries were introduced: State Senators Liane Sorenson and Charles Copeland; State Representatives Roger Roy, Deborah Hudson, and Joe Miro; DELDOT Secretary Nathan Haywood and NCC Councilman Bill Tansy.

HOCKESSIN VILLAGE PLAN--STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Consultants Tom Lavash, representing Economic Research Associates of Washington, D.C. and Pete Johnson, representing Redman Johnson Associates of Maryland, presented a Hockessin Village Plan of Hockessin center, which encompasses the area along Old Lancaster Pike from Valley Road to the Methodist Church, west on Valley Rd. to Evanson Rd. and along Yorklyn Rd. to the Stone Mill area.

Details of the lengthy plan with statistics and map are available from GHADA, and a list of the Steering Committee members representing the business community, landowners, residents, civic leaders, government officials, and local churches is also available.

PROPOSED PARK AND TWEED'S TAVERN

DELDOT Secretary Nathan Haywood announced the purchase of 38 acres at the intersection of Valley and Limestone Roads which will be the new permanent home of the Tweed's Tavern and new parkland for the Hockessin area. Two full size soccer fields, a small practice field, walking paths and a preserved wooded area will be built at the site.

Joe Lake, local historian and president of the Hockessin Historical Society, told the group funds will be needed for preservation of Tweed's Tavern for the possibility of using it as a museum in the future. He asked the community members to join the society and help with the project.

NCC COUNCIL EXPANSION TO 13 MEMBERS

NCC Councilman Bill Tansy spoke on the expansion of the Council effective January 1, 2004 in accordance with a bill passed by the Delaware Legislature in 1998.

Dan Blockover, president of the CCOBH, who opposes the expansion, told the group of the expenses involved in increasing the size of council from seven to thirteen members. Each present councilman will be authorized to appoint one new representative for each council district area, which will then be divided between the two.

NVF MILLS

Brian Woodcock reported work of the Hockessin Historical Society and other organizations that are trying to save Building #10 which still has some of the original equipment in place which includes a fiber machine which was made in 1910. People in the community can help by contacting the society and other historical preservation groups and government officials to try and save at least one of the buildings.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Sara Barre

Secretary