



Ashton Village Center Implementation Advisory Committee

Meeting: November 19, 2024, 7 PM

Microsoft Teams

The meeting came to order at 7:06

Members Present

Julia Roberts – Vice Chair

Nadine Mort – Recording Secretary

Jessica Sidar Roth

Kathleen Wheeler

James Meehan

Paul Mangus

Members Absent

Amy Medd - Chair

Stephen Faehner

Leianne Clements

Other Attendees:

Jamey Pratt – Montgomery County Planning Department

Ali Azimi Bolourian – Guest and future member

Agenda

Old Business

1. The September 17, 2024, minutes will be reviewed, corrected and approved via email.
2. Jamey has submitted Ali Azimi's name to the Planning Board as a new member of this committee and is expecting confirmation shortly. Members of the committee introduced themselves and welcomed Ali Azimi as a guest and potential future committee member.
3. Regarding the proposed Korean Mission Church Adult Day Care Center Jamey reported that Jeff Server is now covering for Jonathan Casey as the Planning Department reviewer of this proposal. As per the last meeting the Recording Secretary composed a draft letter for the IAC to the Planning Board expressing specific concerns about this large-scale commercial development on Ashton Rd. The committee voted unanimously to accept the draft and submit the letter to the Planning Board. Nadine will finalize the letter and send it to Amy for her signature and to submit to the Planning Board. Jamey shared several slides with the group displaying recent changes that the developer has made modifying the original parking and landscaping plan. However, the committee again expressed concern that this development is a commercial endeavor presenting as a religious organization. And that allowing this to go forward will open Ashton Road to further large-scale commercial development with negative environmental and traffic effects.





4. Following up on the Cricket Book Shop redevelopment: We learned that the building is being constructed as a two-story office building. An image of the final structure is shown at the building site.
5. The committee heard feedback from several IAC members about the October 11th Sherwood Pedestrian Safety walk-about. State Senator Craig Zucker was present for the walk and today he sent an email with information on the status of the crosswalk that the group requested that day. Nadine will follow up with Criag Zucker about the progress of the crosswalk. Kathleen reported that she spoke with County Council member Will Jawando about constructing badly needed sidewalks on New Hampshire Avenue.
6. Jim Meehan reported on his tour with the Greater Washington Walking group which viewed a mix of attainable and regular housing in our area. He expressed concern that the cost of attainable houses is quite high.
7. Paul addressed the Olney Winery concern and shared that it has been closed due to licensing issues. However, it will be reopened with adjustments required by the county.

New Business

1. Julia asked if the Sandy Spring Bank merger will have any effect on the future development of the land on the southeast corner of New Hampshire Avenue and Route 108 that the bank owns. No one was aware of any specific changes at this time. Paul indicated he would talk to Greater Olney News reporter Judy Hruz about writing an article to raise awareness about the merger.
2. Dawn Luedtke our District 7 Councilperson has invited the community to her birthday celebration at the Lone Oak Brewery on December 5th from 6 to 8pm.

Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Jessica inquired about the properties recently put up for sale on Ashton Rd. Paul reported that a 7-acre forested lot was cleared illegally, and the county has charged the owner. The property now appears to be for sale.
2. Paul asked if Ashton is a Village? Jamey said it is unincorporated as are most small villages in Montgomery County. Paul went on to say he is interested in forming an Ashton Beautification committee. Jamey suggested that Paul follow up with Jewru Bandeh – Director East County Regional Services Center.
3. Jamey mentioned that the Montessori school on Mink Hollow Road had requested a meeting with Planning staff to discuss a project on their property. Jamey did not have any details of the project. Jessica will try to see if she can find out anything.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16

