

RIRA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2-16-23

President Joyce Brown presided at the Venetian restaurant. 18 people were present, including 2 guests (Harford County Director of Planning and Zoning Shane Grimm and his assistant Christa), 9 RIRA Board members and their related parties, and 7 general members.

To allow maximum time for our guest to speak, the meeting preliminaries were suspended. Mr. Grimm explained the planning and zoning processes and answered many questions. The County Master Plan will be updated, although it is just a guide for development. Long term detailed plans are developed by the County's Development Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Land Use Plan. Ultimate authority rests with the County Council. Two housing projects are in the development process:

-Ridgely's Reserve at the corner of Rt. 40 and Mountain Rd--- 200 detached homes plus 180 townhomes. The project is in the permitting process.

-Foster's Run between Trimble and Magnolia roads--- 233 homes. The project is in the conceptual development process.

New developments abutting tidal shorelines will require a 150 ft. buffer. All runoff from any development must be managed before being discharged. New storm drain water must also be treated before being discharged. The County website has an app residents can use to track the progress and associated public meetings regarding these and any projects and zoning issues. Anyone can request to be placed on a notification list.

Regarding the muddy water in Foster Branch, Mr. Grimm opined that most of it is coming from the new construction upstream (several stop orders have been given, requiring corrective action, and fines have been levied against the contractor), but some silt may come from washed-out storm water drain channels. As residents, we can request the County to study improving the storm water management system for Rumsey Island. He suggested we contact Councilman Dion Guthrie on this effort.

Barbara Risacker requested the County plan trails from Joppa into Gunpowder Park. Ralph Comenga requested a trail be planned from Joppa to Havre de Grace. Mr. Grimm explained that newly installed HC Executive Cassilly is focused on southern HC, and that here-to-fore ignored property upkeep issues and zoning regulation violations will now be enforced.

Several members expressed concern about deteriorating bulkheads. Apparently, one resident paid \$50,000 to replace a failed bulkhead. Most other bulkheads have some degree of damage. (Note that bulkheads are the responsibility of the home owner.) Mr. Grimm will look into possible funding sources for bulkhead repairs. Anita Sands will follow-up.

Many thanks to Mr. Grimm for taking the time to address our meeting.

Submitted by John Berry