

**Boyds Civic Association**  
**July 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

President Merritt Ednie called the Boyds Civic Association (BCA) to order at 7:35 pm on July 17, 2008. There were 28 people in attendance.

**Minutes** (Maggie Bartlett) approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (Steve Gibson) passed: \$21,554.58.

**Gaithersburg Gazette** representative: Megan Tierny

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Adopt-a-Road:** Does the BCA want to adopt and maintain Barnesville Road from Slidell to the hill near Peachtree?
- **St. Mark's United Methodist Church:** no decision on what is to happen to the property.
- **Mike Knapp (Pres., County Council):** Supports the ban on commercial trucks in residential areas, hearing to come.
- **Recycling:** Olivier de Messier wrote letter concerning recycling, Mike Rubin suggested getting it published in the *Gazette*.
- **Anderson Store:** Carol Opendorf wrote letter to Mark Eldridge about the junk on property. EPA inspected and cited the land to be in violation, with 30 days to get plan to the EPA about how they plan to clean up the property.
- **Executive Report (Merritt Ednie)**
  - Sugarloaf Association elected Gary Valen as president (replacing Jim Brown) and Anne Cinque as vice-president.
  - Clarksburg Civic Association is concerned about the possible ambulance fees by the county.
  - Amy Presley was elected to the Planning Board.
  - Jim Clifford, representing the Miller family on W. Old Baltimore, is waiting to hear about the developer's counter offer.
  - Thank Yous to:
    - o Arthur Virts: maintaining the Post Office bulletin board
    - o Sharon Miller: landscaping the Boyds train station
    - o Harry St. Ours: creating the website for the Boyds Civic Association ([www.boydsmaryland.org](http://www.boydsmaryland.org))

**SPEAKERS**

- **Montgomery County Agricultural Fair** (Marty Svreck and Gene Walker)

The fair is the largest event in Montgomery County, which is managed by a non-profit foundation started in 1949. There are currently 2,600 volunteers (each working at least 200 hours/year) and 7,000 other volunteers. Now 60 years old, the facilities are outdated and in need of new roofs, updated electrical and plumbing for both visitors and animals, and accessibility for the physically challenged and elderly. The planning process will take approximately 5-10 years.

The foundation is looking at major renovations or possibly moving the fairgrounds to a location, preferably with about 200 acres. The Ag Reserve and county Park property are **NOT** potential sites. The fairgrounds in Gaithersburg (62 acres) are not for sale and are not the driving force for the possible relocation. The Linthicum Farm (84 acres), located on W. Old Baltimore Road, east of I-270 and west of Observation Drive and zoned as light industrial, is one potential site with easy access to I-270. The foundation is hoping to keep the fairgrounds rustic and true to agricultural events. It would love to be a world-class facility and able to host cattle and horse shows and even National Dairy Goat Association events. The Sugarloaf Crafts Festival meets three times a year with 15,000 visitors over a three-day period with a total of 25-30 weekends.

It was noted by one BCA member that if the farm was not used for the fairgrounds, there could be high-density commercial instead. Another member stated that fairground traffic would be considerably less than if there were 800 homes with residents making 7-10 trips a day.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Ag Reserve** (Mike Rubin):

In the Ag Reserve, 4,300 acres have been bought and preserved, most of them in Boyds. There are efforts to allow landowners to get their true value of their acres yet still keeping the land designated as agriculture. Buildable Lot Terminations (BLTs) will allow developers to increase the density and buy super TDRs to apply excess density to their project(s). This will result in fewer rooftops and less fragmentation of the landscape.

There is also now a push to certify farms as organic so that crops could be sold in the local Whole Foods and Harris Tweeter food stores. There is a proposed distribution center for the organic foods.

Just a note: some 500 farms in Montgomery County now are home to 15,000 horses.

- **Boyds Historical Society** (Elaine Fors-MacKellar):

Clark Construction has donated many volunteer hours to replace the foundation, floor joists, flooring and other work of the Boyds Negro School. The school was open for Montgomery Heritage Days on June 27-28. It is now available for community use. A new publication about the 20 plus locations with historic significance was just completed and available for Heritage Days. The video, *Boyds Negro School: Historic Lives*, is now available on DVD. Information can be found at the new website at [www.boydshistory.org](http://www.boydshistory.org). The BHS continues to apply for grants to fund future projects.

- **Hilltop Farms Unlimited Partnership** (Alan Noble):

The farm, along W. Old Baltimore and Slidell, is in the Ag Reserve and near Peter Eeg's and Jay Cinque's properties. The owners want to subdivide into Child Lots, but Park and Planning is opposed this idea and continues to defend the Planning Board's decision.

### **Other Plans, Developments and Issues**

- **Elm Street** (Leaman Farm at Clopper and Schaeffer): 69 units are planned, with water and sewage going in now. The BCA is concerned about the impervious surface.
- **Dr. Bill Dyzak** (15130 Barnesville Road): A two-story medical office building with one two-story commercial/retail building is under construction just past the Boyds Country Store.
- **Cabin Branch Development** (Kathie Hulley): The land on W. Old Baltimore is slated to be leveled and two roundabouts are planned. Winchester Homes has approved 430 homes requiring huge retaining walls.
- **Ride-On Bus Depot** (Kathie Hulley): An upcoming hearing will discuss land on Whelan Road (near the Clarksburg Jail) to be potentially used as a maintenance facility for Ride On buses. Community concerns include that a water quality plan and an environmental impact study have not been performed yet. Also, the impervious surface plan used historic property in the calculation.
- **Alleghany Power** (Kathie Hulley): AP is looking to put a new distribution line requiring a 200-foot right of way for aboveground lines.
- **MARC Train Station**: Sharon Miller continues to keep area clean and landscaped. Additional parking might be needed in the future. The "junk yard" or the Presbyterian Church parking lot might be options to handle the overflow.
- **Hoyle's Mill Road** is closed and a new bridge over the ford is being built for pedestrians.
- **Boyds Signs** are in dire need of repair/replacement. Anyone who is willing to help, please contact Merritt.
- **Election Judges** are needed for the upcoming elections in November. If interested, call 240-777-8500.
- **Upcounty Rotary Club**: If interested, call Marilyn or Lisa DeReggi.
- **BlackRock Arts Center**: Free concerts on Saturdays in the summer.
- **White Ground Road bridge** (Mike Rubin): The bridge on White Ground Road is to be renovated without any loss of trees. The "To Rt. 28" sign at Clopper and Clarksburg Roads will be changed to direct people south on Clopper to Rt. 118 to Rt. 28 instead of taking White Ground Road.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**July 28 7:00** (Montgomery College): Germantown Master Plan

**Next BCA meeting: October 16, 2008**

**Motion to adjourn was passed at 9:25 pm.**