



## Homeport Farm Park Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Thursday, March 5, 2009 Meeting

LOCATION: Department of Recreation and Parks Conference Room

1. Meeting opened at 7:00 pm.
2. February minutes approved.
3. **Annapolis Rowing Club Proposal Update.** On December 4, 2008 the ARC proposal, including the responses to issues raised to ARC by the Advisory Committee at the November 6, 2008 meeting, was tabled. ARC was asked the status of their proposal. ARC stated that they will not present a proposal until the Advisory Committee produces its recommendations for the Conceptual Plan to the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP). At that time, if it seems appropriate within the recommendations of the Committee, ARC will present their proposal to the Committee. Until then, the ARC proposal remains tabled. ARC, represented by Tom Gallagher, will continue as member of the Advisory Committee.
4. Discussion of Uses of Buildings.
  - Bond Bill Update.** Committee hearings are scheduled for March 14. The Bond Bill is for \$100,000 for the repair of the buildings. A preliminary cost estimate was prepared by DRP staff. Details on the Bond Bill will be emailed to the Committee.
  - FY2010 Budget.** The FY2010 budget requests includes \$100,000 Bond Bill; \$100,000 County match; and \$180,000 for design and construction of roads and parking. Total: \$380,000.
  - Water Source.** Currently water is via well, which may not be usable for a public water source. Connecting to the public water system would cost around \$5000. Water lines would need to be installed leading to the buildings and community gardens. Estimated total cost: \$15,000. The Department is proceeding with acquiring appropriate approvals.
  - Lease of Buildings.** South River Federation announced their interest in leasing one of the buildings for office and meeting room space. Their motor boat would not be stored at Homeport. Their initial assessment indicated that a couple hundred thousand dollars would be needed to renovate the workshop barn. The Department informed SRF of the different types of lease arrangements in place at other parks—but no decisions have been made in regards to the lease arrangements.

The tobacco barn by Homeport Drive could be renovated into a 3-season facility for use by the gardens and to hold workshops.

The Committee raised the following questions. The Department will seek answers from appropriate County agencies and present at the next Committee meeting.

  - Would leasing to an organization inhibit the use buildings? Would exclusive use (such as for offices) contradict deed restrictions? Deeds to the property will be emailed to the Committee.
  - Are any of the buildings eligible for historic protection?
  - Is there lead paint and asbestos present in the buildings?
  - Are the septic systems adequate and functioning properly?
  - Would it be feasible to use the existing well?

5. **Discussion of Waterway Access Including Launch Design Possibilities.** The Committee made the following recommendations.

A. Any design of the walkway to the water, whether natural or built, should follow these criteria:

- i. Substrate should be non-erosive.
- ii. Must accommodate a hand-pulled wheeled boat cart.
- iii. Must be safe in all weather conditions for walking while transporting a boat.
- iv. Should be 8-10' in width to safely accommodate two people carrying a boat.

B. Any design of the waterway access area along Church Creek should follow these criteria:

- i. Shoreline stabilization and protection are primary objective.
- ii. Minimize impact to shoreline vegetation and allow underwater plant growth.
- iii. Restrict area available for launching, fishing and crabbing to minimize shoreline disturbance.
- iv. Minimize conflicts between boaters, anglers, and crabbers, perhaps by providing separate facilities for each of these uses.
- v. Accommodate the variety of 'cartop' boats that would use the site—not just kayaks.

C. The Committee recommends that the Department hire a consultant to develop several alternatives that reflect the above criteria. The designs should be presented to the Committee which will review and provide feedback and recommendations to the Department.

Unresolved questions best answered by the consultant, in light of the above criteria for waterway access.

- Could the waterway be accessible for disabled (not necessarily wheelchairs but other mobility related challenges)?
- How many boats could be launched at one time?

6. A suggestion was made to visit the St. John's College shoreline. In addition, this spring, Chesapeake Bay Foundation will be installing a living shoreline at the Galesville Pier which includes a launch (see [http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/galesville/living\\_shoreline.cfm](http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/galesville/living_shoreline.cfm)).

7. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2009. Same time and place.