

Report from Town Council -- for Planning Commission Meeting, January 7, 2009

Master Plan Status -- Ordinance No. 2008-09 was introduced by the Town Council and the public hearing is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup>. This ordinance is for Council adoption of the Master Plan as previously approved by the Planning Commission.

Geocache Trail -- The Maryland Municipal League Geocache Trail was launched January 1<sup>st</sup> and includes hidden caches in 78 cities and towns around the State. This is a “treasure hunt” based on using hand-held GPS units. There were recent articles in the Washington Post and Frederick News to announce the start of the Geocache Trail. The Town Council adopted a resolution to authorize the Town’s participation. The Washington Grove hidden cache is at latitude/longitude N 39° 08.473 W 077° 10.453; but folks are given the coordinates for parking near McCathran Hall and told to walk to find the hidden cache. Check out website <http://www.geocaching.com/> I’ve attached a copy of log entries for our cache thus far -- fun to read.

Webcams? -- In response to concerns for traffic and public safety, we began an exploration of possible webcam(s) to monitor pedestrian and vehicle traffic along Chestnut Road near McCathran Hall. There are various webcams already operating in Town, some of which can be collectively viewed on George Paine’s website <http://www.pacerfarm.org/gsn.htm>, and others are being considered. This exploration has involved Neighborhood Watch and residents with experience and expertise with such webcams. We have gathered some preliminary information on what’s possible and cost estimates. The Town Council will discuss important policy issues involving privacy and viewing public areas as part of evaluating this proposal.

LOS Field -- The January Town Bulletin provides an update on the LOS condemnation suit and Town funding. Many residents may not be aware that the Town has spent about \$300,000 in legal fees for this field thus far. The Town Council is evaluating what cuts to make in other Town services in order to pay the legal bills with the budget ceiling approved at Town Meeting.