



VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS

7013 Brookville Road (Second Floor, Suite B)

Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3263

Phone (301) 656-4112

www.martinsadditions.org

Council Meeting Minutes July 15, 2021 (In Person and via Zoom Conference Call)

Council Members Present: Andrew Kauders; Susan Fattig; Arthur Alexander; Jeff Blander (via Zoom); Katie Filipczyk Howard; Village Manager: Niles Andereg; Building Administrator: Doug Lohmeyer; Village Attorney: Ron Bolt; Residents and other Attendees: Keith Allen (Turner Ln); Tiffany Cissna (Bradley Ln); Marty Langelan (Chestnut St); Paula Goldberg (Bradley Ln); Susan Kahn (Bradley Ln); Alex Ghesquiere (Bradley Ln); George McAleese (Melville Pl); Jean Sperling (Shepherd St); Marc Efron (Raymond St); Mark Shaffer (Shepherd St); Bill Catherwood (Shepherd St); Naomi Naierman (Quincy St); Ahmet Ergene (Turner Ln); Peter Kahn (Bradley Ln)

7:31 PM Call to Order: Kauders

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Andrew Kauders.

7:31PM Officer Election

The Council held elections for new officers at a July 2 administrative meeting. New Council positions are as follows: Chair, Andrew Kauders; Vice-Chair, Jeffrey Blander; Secretary, Katie Filipczyk Howard; Treasurer, Arthur Alexander; and At-large Member, Susan Fattig.

7:36 PM Opportunity for the Council to Hear Residents' Comments

Keith Allen (Turner Ln) gave his weather report. August temperatures and precipitation will be below normal. He welcomed Andrew Kauders and Katie Filipczyk Howard and thanked outgoing members for their dedicated service.

Andrew Kauders thanked Susan Fattig for her leadership on the Council as Chair, Arthur for his service, and residents for their support.

Katie Filipczyk Howard thanked the Community Engagement Committee for a successful Independence Day event, noting that all District 18 delegates attended. She said she is eager to get to work as a new Council member. She also thanked Susan Fattig, Arthur Alexander and Jeff Blander for being welcoming to the new Council members.



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Peter Kahn (Bradley Ln) spoke against Montgomery County's [Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 19-07](#), arguing that if it does not pass, VMA would continue to have local control over placement of towers in its streets, but would lose that control if the measure passes. He urged the Council to contact the County Council and lay out its objection to the loss of local control.

Marty Langelan (Chestnut St) seconded Peter Kahn's comments and thanked Arthur Alexander for his analysis (included in the meeting packet) of the health effects of ZTA 19-07, even though she disagrees with his conclusions. She asked the Council to sign on to letters written by other municipalities opposing the amendment.

Susan Kahn (Bradley Ln) expressed support for previous comments and requested that the Council send a letter to the County Council asking them to delay the vote on the ZTA amendment until September. She offered to share her power point presentation with any interested Council member.

7:49 PM Committee Appointments

Andrew Kauders thanked those who have already expressed an interest in volunteering to serve on the various Village committees. To increase the number of volunteers, he suggested that the deadline be extended to July 31. Arthur Alexander and Susan Fattig supported the idea of extending the deadline. **The Council directed Niles Anderegg to reissue the call for volunteers with the deadline extended to July 31.**

7:51 PM Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer

The Village Council received Building Administrator Douglas Lohmeyer's report on ongoing building projects in the Village. (See attached.) He noted that the State had indicated, in response to his letter regarding improvements to Brookville Road, that they would be looking into adding a crosswalk at the intersection of Brookville and Taylor. The State will work with the County, VMA and Section 3 to decide on a course of action.

Marty Langelan (Chestnut St) thanked the Council and the Walkability Task Force for the attention being given to safety improvements on Brookville Road. She then commented on the gap in the tree canopy in the middle of the block that was caused by trees being clear-cut at 7220 Delfield Street after demolition was complete. She said this



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gap created a wind tunnel during a recent storm that damaged several other trees in surrounding streets.

Arthur Alexander responded that when a Village tree committee looked into this issue some years ago, they discovered that the approval and appeals processes to cut down a tree implemented by some jurisdictions were not very effective. The committee supported instead subsidies for planting new trees and focusing on the future urban forest, rather than protecting the current one. Arthur requested that residents send in any good ideas they have about preserving trees.

8:01 PM Montgomery County's Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 19-07 Telecommunications Towers – Limited Use (5G)

Andrew Kauders expressed his concern about amendment and advocated that the Council go on record about the loss of local control. He also spoke in favor of seeking additional information from an attorney with specialized knowledge about the issue.

Arthur Alexander noted that the issue goes back five years (see attached memo). The County Council's primary concern was to make Montgomery County more business-friendly by keeping up technologically. The second motivation was to bridge the digital divide. In terms of the impact on VMA, he reviewed the language in the Village code that regulates telecom and agreed that specialized expertise might be needed to determine if those provisions would be affected by the amendment.

Peter Kahn (Bradley Ln) reviewed legal cases in support of his position that the ZTA amendment is not required by existing law. He expressed his concerns about the loss of local control that would result from the ZTA 19-07 and his support for communicating with the Montgomery County Council about the need to delay ZTA. Andrew commented that the status quo has been working for the Village and that additional 5G towers and antennae are not needed for telecom service. Arthur noted that if the service is adequate, telecom companies would not add unnecessary towers.

Jeff Blander thanked Susan and Peter Kahn for their work on this issue and called for the Village to hold a public forum with an expert before the County Council voting takes place and send a letter of concern to the County Council about changes that might override Village regulations. He asked if there could be some cost-sharing



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arrangements with other jurisdictions for legal and advisory assistance and recommended looking at chapter 10 of the Village Code as it relates to this issue.

Katie Filipczyk Howard agreed that the Village should make its concerns known to the County Council about loss of local control and include a request to delay the vote.

Ahmet Ergene (Turner Ln) described the research project he did on electromagnetic compatibility when he worked at General Dynamics as an aerospace engineer. Based on his research, he believes there is no more danger from a 5G tower than from holding a cell phone to your ear.

Susan Kahn (Bradley Ln) commented that the County's decisions on 5G are not required by law but are instead discretionary. In her view, ZTA 19-07 would take away local control and does not even ensure notification when a new tower is being placed in the Village. She urged the Council to pay attention to the actual wording of the ZTA text and to get more telecom expertise as soon as possible.

Jeff thanked residents and Council members for their input and again recommended that the Council hold a forum to inform the Village community about the issue and reexamine the code.

Motion: Arthur Alexander moved to expend funds to hire a specialized telecommunications lawyer to review the VMA's code and to brief the community on any necessary action. Susan Fattig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Village Attorney Ron Bolt noted that there is an opportunity for savings by partnering with other jurisdictions to hire an engineer or specialized counsel as the Village reexamines the code adopted in 2019 to make sure its technical standards are sufficient.

Susan Kahn noted that the County Council is scheduled to vote on ZTA 19-07 on July 27. She recommended that the Village Council request that the County Council delay the vote to September to allow the Village the opportunity to give input on the amendment.

The Council directed Niles to contact a telecom attorney to assist in a review of the Village Code and to separately draft a letter to the County Council and



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County Executive encouraging the County Council to preserve municipal rights and to delay the vote on the ZTA.

8:51 PM Discussion of the Future of the Martin's Editions Newsletter

Katie Filipczyk Howard led a discussion about the Martin's Editions monthly newsletter. She compared the current newsletter format to the previous format. She described the current newsletter as informative, but would like to explore ways of making the newsletter a hybrid of the old and current format, possibly under the direction of the Community Engagement Committee. Possible additions might be a "Comings and Goings" section, a Resident Recognition section, or special features on nonprofits. Arthur Alexander noted that the former newsletter used to take a significant investment of time to produce and the switch to the current format was a cost-saving measure. A new format would need to be staffed. Tiffany Cissna (Bradley Ln) explained that the current newsletter evolved in response to evidence that a lot of the former newsletters were not being widely read so the Council chose to go with an e-template that allows the Office to see what residents are clicking on. She further noted that some new residents did not want to share personal information other than with the Office. Katie commented that she was not proposing a return to a print format and offered to work with staff to enhance the newsletter. Marty Langelan (Chestnut St) suggested that young people could interview older residents, as previously recommended by Naomi Naierman, and urged that the newsletter become a community resource rather than just an information sheet. Jeff Blander thanked Katie for taking the lead on this. He noted that there are restrictions in the code about what can be put into the newsletter, e.g., who can contribute, how many words, and the use of photos that would need to be addressed. Niles added that the Council had adopted a policy in 2016 that laid out those restrictions and that policy might need to be reconsidered. He further noted that Constant Contact had generated a new format that might incorporate some desired changes.

9:10 PM Financial Matters, including Treasurer's Report: Alexander

The Village Council received the Treasurer's report. Arthur Alexander noted that VMA and the County did very well over the past year despite the pandemic.

9:11 PM Village Manager's Report: Anderegg



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The Village Council received the Manager's report. Niles Anderegg attended the annual [Maryland Municipal League](#) conference in June, where waste & recycling issues and the [American Rescue Plan](#) funds were discussed. All necessary paperwork has been submitted to the State. The [National League of Cities](#) and [ICMA](#) have both submitted comments on the interim rules that might affect the use of funds by the Village, primarily rules regarding infrastructure. The State will facilitate the Village's reporting on use of the funds. The Public Safety Task Force survey closed last week. Comments are being compiled. Signs have been updated on Raymond, Bradley, and Melville as recommended in the Walkability report and to meet new standards. On July 28, markings on crosswalks will be added and/or updated, also as recommended in the Walkability report. Niles and Traffic Engineer Joe Cutro reviewed how to implement further changes suggested in the Walkability report. The Fourth of July event went well. Movie Night will be held in September. Information on fall tree maintenance will be forthcoming.

In light of the recent condominium collapse in Florida, Arthur asked whether information on Washington Gas and WSSC safety inspections is available, specifically on what they actually do as opposed to say they do. Niles noted that the Council could ask representations from Washington Gas, WSSC, and the Public Safety Commission to brief the Council on their processes. Ron Bolt added that state law regulates what utilities can do in the rights-of-way. Jeff Blander added that preemptive reviews would be helpful. He also noted that the Walkability report did not cite Turner Lane as a priority. He asked if there was an opportunity to expand the priority list. Niles responded that he had had an informal conversation with Joe Cutro about doing a study on speed and volume of Turner Lane traffic to determine what might need to be done.

9:27 PM Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments

Marty Langelan (Chestnut St) noted that there are stop signs that exist that light up when motion is detected and recommended that current signs be updated with this new technology. She commended Niles for staying on top of WSSC and Washington Gas about their maintenance schedules and urged him to press for details. She also mentioned the problem of water in the gas lines.

Susan Kahn (Bradley Ln) asked whether tours were available at the MML conference this year. Niles reported that the conference did not include tours this year. The Village does not attend a second conference, MACO, since that is aimed primarily at counties.



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Tiffany Cissna (Bradley Ln) commented that the Fourth of July event was awesome. She then thanked Niles for his work on archiving boxes of Village documents. Niles said the Village will be getting a new map soon that includes a [GIS](#) overlay, which was delayed due to the pandemic.

Ahmet Ergene (Turner Ln) spoke about trees being the best protection against 5G frequency waves. He encouraged everyone to plant more trees and keep them healthy.

Marty Langelan requested that the new GIS map be put up on the Village website or the data be made available to residents in another way.

Susan Fattig commented on how nice it is to be at a table together.

9:45 Adjournment

Motion to Enter Closed: Andrew moved that the open meeting be adjourned and that the Council go into closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b), to discuss the appointment of appointees over whom the Council has jurisdiction. Susan seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Present were all Council members and the Village Manager. Volunteer appointments were discussed. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:31 pm.



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COUNCIL MEETING APPENDIX

July 15, 2021

Materials included in this appendix were either included in the Council monthly meeting packet distributed before the meeting or submitted to the Council as part of the meeting. All materials appear as submitted.



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Agenda for Council Meeting Thursday, July 15, 2021, 7:30 PM

The Council may entertain a motion in open session to enter into a closed session, in accordance with Section 3-305(b) of the Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provisions Article).

7:30 PM Call to Order: Fattig

7:31PM Officer Election

7:31 PM Opportunity for Council to hear residents' comments: TBD

7:41 PM Committee Appointments: TBD

7:51 PM Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer **(Page 3-5)**

7:56 PM Discussion of Montgomery County's Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) ZTA 19-07 Telecommunications Towers – Limited Use (5G) **(Page 6-7)**

8:11 PM Discussion of the Future of the Martin's Editions newsletter

8:21 PM Financial Matters, including Treasurer's Report: Alexander **(Page 8)**

8:26 PM Manager's Report: Anderegg **(Page 9-10)**

8:31 PM Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: TBD

8:41 PM Adjournment: TBD

*Please note: Listed times are approximate.



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Virtual Meeting Information

Below is the information for those residents who wish to dial in remotely or video in to the Council meeting.

1. Dial-In Option

Call: 1 301 715 8592

When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: **883 3117 5094#** (you must enter the "#")

Passcode: **525784**

2. Web/Video Option:

- a. Go to the Zoom meeting

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88331175094?pwd=OFNvZkFzbnA4c0ovdWI4KzA1Q2JjUT09>

- b. It will take you to Zoom to download, which is free. Then the meeting will launch. You can view the meeting or just listen in and talk when prompted.

Meeting ID: **883 3117 5094**

Passcode: **525784**

Topic: VMA Council Meeting

Time: June 17, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time

TO: The Council at the Village of Martin's Additions

FROM: Doug Lohmeyer

DATE OF MEMO: July 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Building Administrator's Report

3506 Bradley Lane.

Demolition and building permit applications were submitted to the Village office. The staff has initially reviewed the information. Waiting for MCDPS approval. The resident's information meeting was held on Wed. June 17th. The County has not issued their building permit and the project is on hold.

6609 Brookville Rd.

The applicants have submitted an application to remove the existing porch and add an addition to the existing house. The County issued their building permit on Nov. 18th. The Village building permit was issued on Dec. 7th. The MCDPS closed their building permit on July 13th and the Staff is scheduling a final site visit.

7200 Chestnut

The applicants applied for a Village building permit to construct an addition to the west side of the existing house. The County issued their building permit on Sept. 3rd. The Village building permit was issued on Oct. 9, 2020. The construction is ongoing.

7200 Delfield St.

The property owners have applied for a Village demolition and building permit for a new house. The County issued their building permit on Oct. 23rd. The Village issued the demo and dumpster permits on Dec. 14th and the building permit on Jan. 4, 2021. The old house has been removed and the new house is under construction.

7220 Delfield St.

The applicants have submitted an application to demolish the existing house and rebuild a new house. The plans have been revised and are waiting County approval. The Village information meeting was held on Dec. 14th. The County issued the building permit on April 20, 2021. The Village demo and building permits were issued on May 17, 2021. The house has been removed and the contractors are constructing the new basement walls.

120 Quincy

The homeowners have submitted concept plans for the Village's review. The plans propose to construct several additions to the existing house. They have not applied to MCDPS or a Village permit.

159 Quincy

The applicants have submitted an application to remove the existing rear deck and replace it with a new one. The County issued its building permit on April 9. The Village building permit was issued on April 27. Work has begun.

3515 Raymond St.

The applicant has submitted plans to remove the existing house and to construct a new house. MCDPS issued the building permit on Feb. 2nd and the Village issued their building permit on Feb. 9, 2021. The ex. house has been removed and the new house is under construction.

The public hearing for a variance for the Village's maximum 80-foot building length dimension was held on Tuesday July 13th.

3514 Shepherd St.

The homeowner has submitted an application to remove the ex. deck at the rear of the house and to build a new, larger deck in its place. The Village has issued a permit, but the work has not begun.

7200 Summit Ave.

On April 28, 2020, the homeowners submitted a Variance Application for the front and rear setbacks in order to construct a new porch and bay window at the front of the existing house and an addition on the north (right) side of the house. The Variance was approved by the Council on July 16, 2020. The applicants have not submitted to MCDPS or the Village. The Village variance was to expire on July 16, 2021 but has been extended to an additional 12 months.

7203 Summit

The homeowners have submitted plans for re-build the existing detached garage at the rear of the existing house. The plans were approved by MCDPS on Jan. 19th and the Village issued the building permit on Feb. 9, 2021. Work has begun on the garage.

3404 Turner

The applicants have submitted an application for a variance to the Village's minimum side yard setbacks, so they can add a second floor to the existing, non-conforming house. No date for the public variance hearing has been scheduled.

Miscellaneous Items

The staff is presently working with the following properties:

1. The MSHA has responded to the Village's letter regarding water ponding at the Village street intersections along Brookville Rd. The MSHA staff stated they are working with WSSC and MCDOT and will get back to us soon. The Village sent a letter to the State requesting an updated progress report on the outstanding pedestrian safety issues. The State responded and said they will be looking into adding additional pedestrian walkway safety measures at Bradley and at Taylor.

Evaluation of Montgomery County Council (MCC) draft zoning text amendment ZTA 19-07 on telecommunications towers and possible effects on the Village of Martin's Additions (VMA)

Arthur Alexander, July 13, 2021

After reviewing many hours of committee hearings, presentations by opponents of the proposed zoning changes, supporting and critical documents, and VMA's code on small wireless telecommunications facilities, I have tentatively concluded that there is less here than meets the eye with respect to VMA. This note provides the reasons behind my conclusions.

ZTA objectives: The MCC Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee that produced the draft ZTA and its chair Hans Riemer were motivated by several goals: enhance the county's technological attractiveness to business by improving the communications infrastructure; help bridge the digital divide by bringing 5G to as wide an audience as possible; and meet the requirements of the Ninth Circuit Court decision (August 12, 2020) that adjudicated disputes between the FCC and several jurisdictions (including Montgomery County). Since the Supreme Court has did not accept an appeal of this decision, its findings are binding. Two main points of that decision motivate the zoning amendment: (1) local restrictions may not effectively prohibit deployment of wireless facilities, and (2) application must be decided expeditiously (90-day shot-clock).

Relevant changes: ZTA 19-07 would allow poles with antennas as a "limited use" in residential zones when it replaces a pre-existing utility pole. The term "limited use" means that approval is granted automatically if the application meets objective criteria; it does not require a public hearing. To meet the limited use criteria, the replacement pole must be at least 30 feet from the nearest habitable building. (The ZTA reduces this limit from the current 60 feet.) If an antenna is placed on a pre-existing or replacement pole, the height is limited to the that of the pre-existing pole plus 10 feet. For poles less than 30 feet from the nearest habitable building, ZTA 19-07 establishes a modified "conditional use" process that would require a public hearing while still meeting the shot clock. Although conditional use is not automatic, the draft lays out a highly streamlined process that essentially eliminates objections.

Smaller setbacks not a VMA issue: The proposed changes to reduce setbacks to under 30 feet will have little impact on Martin's Additions because VMA requires a minimum 25-foot front setback of a house from the public right of way. Moreover, since the average right of way is 15 feet wide (5-6 feet on Brookville Rd.), the typical house is at least 30 feet from the curb. Therefore, allowing poles closer than 30 feet to a house does not apply to the Village.

Utility poles in VMA: There are about 127 utility poles on VMA's 12,000 feet of streets, or one pole every 95 feet: roughly one pole per 1.5 houses. Currently, neither VMA nor Montgomery County maintains utility pole control or oversight; these are regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission. Consequently, VMA does not now review pole siting, density, height, or attachments. The Village is only notified by pole owners when activities such as replacement or maintenance require traffic control or other Village-related action. Therefore, the draft ZTA process, which essentially ignores municipalities' inputs for poles 30 feet or more from a house, is little different from current practice.

VMA requires permits and agreements: Recognizing that the coming 5G technology may involve antenna proliferation, in 2019 VMA adopted code that regulated small wireless telecommunications facilities. These regulations require a Village permit and right-of-way access agreement to install any communications facility (including antenna) or tower dedicated to wireless communications. These regulations, therefore, provide the oversight of pole and equipment installation that the draft ZTA does not grant.

VMA limits new tower proliferation: Another issue concerning opponents of the draft ZTA is the possible proliferation of new towers. The latest ZTA draft specifies that a new tower must be at least 150 feet from the nearest antenna of the same carrier, a farther separation than the average VMA pole distance; however, since there are at least three companies offering 5G services, each one could possibly erect towers within short distances of each other. The VMA regulation deals with this problem by stating that no tower may be located closer than 1,000 feet from another tower.

Health and safety concerns: When the county's ZTA was first introduced, there was considerable concern expressed over the health and safety issues that might arise from short-wave transmissions. These concerns have abated, though by no means have they disappeared. One powerful reason for the apparent lower level of concern is the appearance of research that has not found harm in the radiation. For example, a meta-analysis of more than one hundred studies found: "no confirmed evidence that low-level RF fields above 6 GHz such as those used by the 5G network are hazardous to human health."¹

Potential problems for VMA: The VMA code on wireless facilities (and similar regulations adopted by other municipalities) may be preempted by county regulations or by possible state regulations.

VMA's regulations, particularly the 1,000-foot distance between towers, may be deemed to materially prohibit 5G deployment. However, the president of Verizon in a 2018 broadcast on CNBC "busted the myth" that 5G transmissions were confined to short, line-of-sight distances. He said that Verizon is designing its network for distances of 2,000 feet between transmitters and receivers.² Given this statement and similar ones by Verizon and other providers, it could be difficult to argue that VMA regulations materially prohibit service.

¹ "5G mobile networks and health—a state-of-the-science review of the research into low-level RF fields above 6 GHz," *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology* (2021) 31:585–605.

² Verizon CEO Lowell McAdam on the future of 5G (at 6.0 min.): <https://www.cnbc.com/video/2018/05/15/verizon-ceo-lowell-mcadam-5g-future.html>

**Village of Martin's Additions
Financial Report for June 2021
Arthur Alexander, Treasurer
July 15 2021**

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Revenues | \$ 852,228 | 814,800 |
| Expenses (excluding capital projects) | 633,999 | 753,447 |
| Net Income (revenues minus expenses) | 218,229 | 61,353 |
| | | |
| Capital investment expenses | \$ 43,830 | |
| | | |
| Investment reserves (less expenditures) | 2,456,170 | |
| Emergency reserves | 1,000,000 | |

Current assets less designated reserves: \$ 636,069

In the current month, July 2021, we plan to transfer \$55,000 from the Village's savings account in the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP) to the checking account to cover projected expenses.

The revenues and expenses reported above are for the entire 2021 fiscal year. A few additional transactions will trickle in and our annual audit will present the final amounts. However, these figures are close to the final. Actual income was close to original projections when we first compiled a budget 15 months ago; expenditures in total were about 15% less.

When the pandemic shut down economic activity last year, we thought that Village revenues would fall. It turned out, however, that the loss of jobs was balanced by the rise of stock market prices. Subsequently, the Village's main source of revenue from the state income tax came in just about as predicted last year. Therefore, the overall financial picture is solid.

From: Niles Anderegg, Village Manager
To: Village Council
Subject: Village Office Update
Date: 7/14/2021

Overview

The Village Office has been conducting reviews of internal operating procedures and data clean-up. This included dropping off records with the Maryland State Archives that had been previously approved to be accepted by the state in accordance with the Village's record retention policy.

Public Safety Task Force

The Public Safety Task Force survey closed on July 7. We got 155 respondents; thank you to all residents who participated. I have shared the summary results with the Task Force. The Office is currently compiling the open-ended responses of Village residents for review by the Task Force as well.

Recap of MML Conference

I attended the Maryland Municipal League Conference held at the end of June including sessions related to infrastructure, the American Rescue Plan, and waste and recycling services. During the sessions, I learned more about potential options for the Village for future waste and recycling services. For example, the Maryland Environmental Services is a nonprofit that can provide waste recycling and composting services to small municipalities. They are forbidden by law from responding to RFPs, so I am investigating future opportunities to invite them to submit a proposal to the Village for these services. In addition, I had the opportunity to speak to several state agencies including the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding Brookville Road. There will be a further opportunity to talk to department heads as part of the virtual conference that will take place next week.

Walkability Improvements

Over the last several weeks, the Village has been updating and improving traffic signs to meet current standards and on July 28, the Village will be repainting or adding crosswalk markings to Village crosswalks per the recommendation of the Walkability Task Force. In addition, I have had conversations with the Village's traffic engineer regarding further walkability improvements and will be providing more information on the next steps in fulfilling the Walkability Report's recommendations.

Events

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fourth of July event. I particularly wanted to thank Keith Allen, the chair of the year Community Engagement Committee, and the rest of the committee for their help in putting on this event. The Office is currently making preparations for the Labor Day event, the movie night.

Tree Care

The Village Office, along with the Village Arborist Ed Mulheron, will be overseeing another round of tree maintenance in August. This will follow the work completed in April and the work done after the storm at the end of June. We will let residents know when work will be done on their street.

American Rescue Plan Funds

As part of the MML conference, I attended sessions regarding uses of and reporting on American Rescue plan funds. We are still working with the state to receive the funds as there have been a couple of changes in the requirements from the Treasury Department that meant the state required more information. As a reminder, Village will receive funds from the American Rescue Plan as a non-entitlement city in the state of Maryland and has received further guidance on how to access the money. We are currently working to fulfill the obligations set forward by the state of Maryland. We expect to receive the funds in FY22.