



PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #409

GPCA Newsletter

September 2021

Next Meeting: Business Meeting Requiring Quorum of 15

Topic: Bylaw Changes; Vote to change General Meeting Time to 7 PM; Solar Field Update

Monday, September 13th @ 7:30 p.m. – Virtually via Zoom

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except July and August

Everyone is invited to attend. During the pandemic meetings will be held virtually. Details to join the meetings will be communicated using email. Contact gpc21163@gmail.com to add your email address to the GPCA group.

View our Website at www.gpca.net

September General Meeting Topic – General Business Meeting – No Speaker Presentation

The September GPCA meeting will be held virtually over Zoom and will be a business meeting to vote on 2 by-law changes, a changing the general meeting time to 7 PM instead of 7:30 PM as well as updates to the Solar Fields on Hernwood Road, the Patapsco Fields Planned Unit Development and Patapsco Glen II on Johnnycake Rd. See page 3 for information on the proposed changes to bylaws.

A vote to decide GPCA issues requires a quorum of at least 15 paid members. Please join the virtual call on Monday, September 13th @ 7:30 and add your voice. If you are not on the GPCA email blast group and want to receive a link to the virtual zoom meeting please email your name and email address to: **Communications Chair GPCA: gpc21163@gmail.com**. If you aren't sure if you have paid your 2021 dues, please look on www.gpca.net for the most current membership listing.

Hernwood Solar; Wrap Up of June GPCA General Meeting

GPCA welcomed Seth Blumen, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator from Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski's Office to our June General Meeting to provide us with facts about the proposed Hernwood Solar Facility and to address concerns. Unfortunately, the representative from SunPower Corp did not join the call.

Two closed landfill sites--at Hernwood and Parkton--are to be converted to solar facilities that will provide 36% of the energy needs for Baltimore County office buildings and facilities. SunPower Corp., a leading solar technology company, has contracted with Baltimore County to do the installation of these first large scale county green energy installations.

Under an agreement with SunPower, Baltimore County pays \$0 upfront while SunPower and its financiers pay for the installation of the arrays. Over the next 25 years Baltimore County will pay a flat fixed rate per kilowatt -hour, saving millions of dollars that can then be spent on schools, roads, and other needs of the county.

(Continued on page 2)

What's inside?

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Hernwood Solar; June GPCA General Meeting (continued from page 1)

At the same time, the clean energy produced by these large solar facilities will help address climate change by substituting solar power for greenhouse gases. The facilities will be operational by 2023.

Denise Maranto, Secretary

Land Use/Zoning Update

GPCA continues to follow these sites/issues in our general community:

2938 Hernwood Road Solar Site: A virtual zoning hearing via WebEx for this proposed Solar Site will be held on September 13, from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. The Special Exception would grant relief for a solar facility pursuant to BCZR 4F-102 and, for such other and further relief as may be required by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County.

To call in to the hearing, dial US Toll 1-415-655-0001, Access Code: 180 138 6266

Contact Baltimore Co Zoning Office: For additional information call 410-887-3391 reference PAI#01-0607

Baltimore County Solar Site (old Hernwood Landfill) – featured at the June 14th GPCA Meeting

Patapsco Glen II Development on Johnnycake Road –Hearing for Plan Approval and Variances Petition held on 4/29, GPCA filed testimony and participated, notably no nearby communities attended. Plan and Petition was approved by Administrative Law Judge on 5/14, motion to reconsider filed by nearby property owners on 6/7 stating they did not have adequate notice, thereafter, joined by 10 others (2 of which were untimely), denied by Administrative Judge on 6/29, appeal period still pending.

Patapsco Fields PUD on Johnnycake Road - Hearing for Plan Approval held 7/15, GPCA participated, recorded same objections filed with the County Council against the PUD Resolution and testified that Plan did not meet PUD requirements fully, and the final Plan was not available for any actual review by the community, the requirement for which could not be satisfied by the limited virtual hearing. The Administrative Law Judge

Patapsco Glen II: GPCA supports our Johnnycake Road neighbors in appealing the decision by the Administrative Law Judge approving Patapsco Glen II. GPCA sent a written request to join to join the appeal in late August. The Randallstown chapter of the NAACP also sent notice to join the appeal. The Randallstown NAACP is also looking to include GPCA in its growing task force.

The Master Plan 2030 process is now underway. Two virtual “Community Engagement Meetings” for District 4 have been held - 1) on 6/17 with GPCA members and 2) on 7/6 with the Randallstown communities, covering a standard set of 6 questions being answered by communities in all Districts. GPCA specifically emphasized that the Master Plan needs to have much greater effectiveness in the development process, otherwise it remains simply aspirational and mostly ignored.

Continuing compilation of Master Plan data being gathered is available at “Master Plan 2030 Hub”
[Master Plan 2030-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com](http://MasterPlan2030-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com)

Kathy Skullney, Zoning Chair

In Our Neighborhood

Change in GPCA Board of Directors: Rhoda Jones after nearly two years of service as GPCA Director (serving out her late husband George Jones’ term) has decided she can no longer serve on the board at this time. She is well, but much of her time is consumed by the duties of home ownership and maintenance that was once the realm of her late husband George and those as President of the Mardella Run HOA.

I know you all join me in wishing Rhoda our best regards and thanking her for her service on the board since 2019. You will be **missed** Rhoda!

Cathy Wolfson

A GHS Spring Hike to Marcella Chapel



Much of the information contained in this article was drawn from Joe Tatarewicz's 2001 Report on the Worthington Site.

This article is available at

www.granitehistoricalsociety.org. Please note, there is currently no public access to the site of what was the Marcella Chapel and its crypts and burial markers; for more information, please reach out to the GHS.

One of the region's oldest Methodist chapels was built in 1827 on an acre of land belonging to the Worthington family. The chapel was located on a wooded hill along what was then known as Court Road, opposite the current location of Edrich Lumber. Named Marcella Chapel after its benefactress Marcella Worthington, the small stone building measured about 50' x 30' and served both free and enslaved persons. Two crypts were constructed alongside the chapel building for use by the Worthington family, and over the years the land surrounding the crypts and chapel began to serve as a community burial site. Two other local Methodist churches were founded later in the 1800s for Granite's growing community, and the small chapel transitioned for a time into an African Methodist Episcopal church before falling out of use.

The Granite Historical Society worked with other community organizations and members in 2001 to prevent the destruction of what remained of this historical site. The land on which the chapel, crypts and burial sites were situated is currently owned by Baltimore County and is virtually inaccessible due to overgrowth. On Saturday June 26, 2021, the Historical Society hosted a hike to this site. About 25 people followed Earl Griffith and John Brantley through the woods to view the one remaining crypt and handful of burial markers. We were fortunate enough to hear stories from community members who remembered the way the site looked decades ago, and we enjoyed their stories as we viewed the very few remaining burial stones and building markers.

The Marcella Chapel and its burial site is one of three local burial sites that the Granite Historical Society would like to see recognized and/or restored. We are in the early stages of exploring options for this site, for a local Quaker burial site, and for what may be a burial site for enslaved persons. These are large projects with many opportunities available to those interested in contributing their skills and time. Please reach out to us at info@granitehistoricalsociety.org if you would like to be kept apprised of the progress on these projects.

Likewise, the Historical Society focuses on hikes each year to sites of local interest. These hikes are often attended by people who remember Granite from a different era and are a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and learn about our town. Hikes will be publicized on our website, www.granitehistoricalsociety.org, and in this newsletter. We hope to see you at our next local trip.

Emma Lehman, GHS Secretary

Reflections from Offutt Ridge Farm

The Summer Storm - August

The weather forecast is for severe weather and thunderstorms. The coming storm is welcome because the last few days have been over 100 degrees in heat index without cool mornings. Gradually the wind starts to blow a bit, and I see clouds forming in the western sky. After all day being still and oppressively humid, the little excitement from a breeze and the sun disappearing feels good. I still need to move the horses from the barns to the run-in for overnight. I hurry because I do not want to get caught outside. If I get stuck in a barn it is OK, but I am not a big fan of getting totally soaked in the rainstorm. I try to explain to the horses why we are hurrying, sometimes these storms move fast. Fortunately, I get the horses out, stalls cleaned, and am back to the house before the wind starts to pick up. My mostly decorative wind chime is not very lively, but the wind is getting strong enough to make it chime a bit.

In the house I prepare a cold beverage and go out to the back screened-in porch to enjoy the show. I know that as the cold rain pelts everything the air temperature can drop 15-20 degrees quickly. By now I start to see leaves blowing through the air and the sky is darkening. Usually, the first volley is a lightning flash and then thunder. From that I try to calculate how far away the lightning is. About then the skies open and rain falls like a curtain. I think about how this display of nature is just as exciting as any Fourth of July fireworks display- in its own way. I have taken the two dogs out with me, and Repo climbs into my lap as the booms keep coming. Grif is Ok to just lie at my feet. Neither is super terrified

of the storm. It is almost like the storm is my reward for putting up with two or three days of uncomfortable weather. I feel the air temperature dropping and I love it.

Meteorologists say that we would not want to live in a world without hurricanes. This is because the globe builds up imbalances of energy. These forces need to be released or there would be a catastrophic event like the world has never seen. It is like the way the electric forces between the earth and the sky build to a level that requires lightning to equilibrate the energy between the sky and the earth. I trust that nature knows what it is doing and that the current thunderstorm is a balancing event in the grand universe that exceeds my understanding.

Likewise, humans develop pent up energy and emotions that need to be released. People locked up in homes leads to locked up emotional energy. The isolation and inability for people to gather and talk to each other is damaging. Sharing groups like alcoholics anonymous, 12 step programs, cancer survivors, AL anon, Griefshare, and churches are groups where emotional energy is dissipated.

There are beneficial ways to discharge emotional energy and there are damaging ways. Suicide, drug overdoses, self-medication, child abuse, and other self-inflicted damage increased when people were deprived of human interactions. There are many different human costs associated with the covid pandemic. People need people.

The storm is over, it is now 20 degrees lower in temperature, and the rain has stopped. I take my dogs in the house. I think I will send a voice message to my daughter.

John Creighton

Guest Opinion Essay

Of Red Lights, Russian Roulette and COVID-19

Occasionally the Editor will run essays from members. The following does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the GPCA Board, the Chairs, or the Editor.

I don't know about you, but I get annoyed when I am rushing to get some place and I am stuck at one of these red lights that last forever and there is no traffic coming across. I am always tempted to hit the gas pedal, but I invariably wait for the light to turn green. Having to

stop at red lights is in fact one of many infringements on our personal freedom we do not even think about or question because we know that what little freedom we lose is greatly outweighed by the benefits. We know that if everyone stops at red lights, the chance of a crash is greatly reduced. And the chance of getting hurt, or someone else getting hurt, or both, are also greatly reduced. Stopping at stop signs and red lights, not driving the wrong way in a one-way street, wearing a seat belt, etc., indeed getting trained to drive safely and getting a driver's license, are restrictions on our personal freedom we readily understand and sign on without a second thought. We understand that not following basic driving rules is playing Russian roulette with our life and that of others.

Another loss of personal freedom we hear about these days is the need to wear a mask, respect social distancing or get vaccinated to protect us against another sort of crash, that caused by unexpectedly encountering the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, the cause of COVID-19. The risks of not following the current public health recommendations are like the risks of running red lights: serious harm to yourself, to others, or both. Just like not stopping at red lights, not getting vaccinated is playing Russian roulette with your life and that of others.

Can the vaccine harm people?

There are side effects caused by vaccines: the day following the second injection, one may have a low-grade fever and feel tired. These are great side effects to have as they show that your body is mounting an immune response, meaning that you are alive and well! There are also extremely rare adverse reactions that have been disproportionately reported on in the media such as blood clots that can block arteries and cause heart attacks or strokes. But if you compare these with the chance of dying from COVID-19, again there is no comparison. In one study, there were 18 reported cases of blood clotting possibly linked to the vaccine out of about 25 million vaccinated. In the US, over 600,000 people have died among well over 30 million cases. If you do the math, even with rounded-up numbers to be as vaccine-unfriendly as possible, this translates in less than one chance in a million to develop blood clots caused by vaccination versus well over one chance in a thousand to die because of COVID-19.

Do I need to get vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

The answer is yes. Simply put, the antibody response elicited by the vaccines is consistently high in all immunized people, while the antibody response elicited upon infection varies greatly, from a low level that would

not prevent re-infection and possibly severe disease, to as high a level as the vaccine.

If I am vaccinated, do I need to wear a mask?

Medical experts differ on this question, so I'll give you my own answer based on my Mom's life-long advice that it is always better to err on the side of too much safety than too little. There is evidence that vaccinated people can be infected asymptotically. This will most likely be a transient infection involving lower numbers of viral particles in the infected person. The problem is that when a vaccinated individual meets someone who is not vaccinated, he/she can transmit the virus to that person, who can then become severely ill and/or pass it onto others. Therefore, yes, if there is still lots of virus around, my Mom and I recommend that you wear a mask.

Should we make our kids wear a mask?

My answer is yes, whenever possible, particularly in groups. Our kids currently are unvaccinated because they were perceived as low risk of severe disease with the original COVID-19 virus. However, the emergence of variants with high infectivity has turned the game on its head! There are two reasons for protecting our kids: 1, there are now multiple reports of severe disease, including death, in kids and young adults, that did not occur with the original virus; 2, unvaccinated kids currently constitute a reservoir of virus that will be transmitted to anyone around who is not vaccinated, i.e., nearly all other kids and about half of the US adult population.

To summarize, I strongly recommend that you do not play Russian roulette with your own life and that of others: please keep stopping at red lights even if you think there is no traffic coming across, and please get vaccinated even if you think you will not encounter the virus! And please follow my Mom's advice, wear a mask and get your kids to wear a mask when you are in a group of people, and keep a social distance whenever possible!

Patrik, Guest Opinion Essayist

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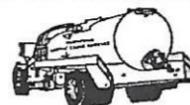
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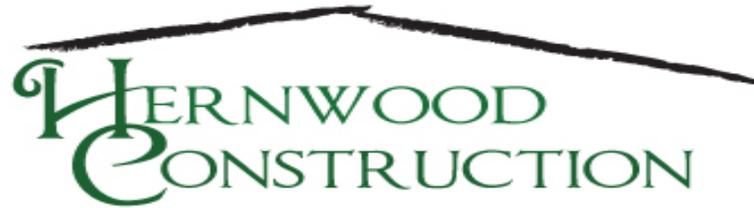
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Please make checks payable to GPCA and note the year of membership in the memo line

Mail completed application form and check to:

GPCA, PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163 or,

drop off/mail to Maribeth Diemer, 10625 St Paul Ave, Woodstock MD 21163