

Green Space

A publication of Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc.

Volume 2 Number 1

March 2000

Letter from the President - John Chirtea

Welcome to the new millennium! We hope that with your help we will make a significant impact on the development of our community in the future. In my last letter to you in the Green Space Advisor, I said that we may play a role in the conservation of the green space on Winchester Homes Ashton Preserve development, and that the "Sandy Spring" may be donated to the Sandy Spring Museum. With some assurance, I can now say these events will occur, and that by the next issue of this newsletter, we will say these events have occurred. We have made significant progress on this project, and we fully expect that we will have some involvement in all of the major developments that move forward in the greater Sandy Spring Area in the future.

1999 began as a slow year for GSSGS, but as the year moved on, the pace of our activities accelerated. This was due in a large part to our finding an excellent Executive Director. Beth Brent has brought a new sense of order and direction to GSSGS, and with her help I believe you will see some outstanding achievements in the coming months.

We were fortunate to receive the offer of a \$7,500 matching grant by the end of the summer, but the catch was we had to raise another \$7,500 in order to get the matching funds. This seemed at the time to be a major hurdle, but with your help we not only made the match, but it was tripled. We ended the year with over \$35,000 in our treasury, and entered the new millennium on sound financial ground. Special thanks go to the Gordon Smith Family Foundation for the matching grant, Anita Virkus for the wonderful fundraising party she hosted in December, to the Friends House Residents Association for their continued generous support, and to the many other members and donors who contributed to make "GREEN SPACE A REALITY AND NOT A MEMORY."

Update on the Ashton Preserve

At our last annual meeting in March 1999, two representatives from Winchester Homes gave us a presentation on the proposed development called Ashton Preserve. The total project consists of two tracts of land — the Dematatis property and the Hoffman property. This development will contain 74 residential units on approximately 175 acres of ground for an overall density of one unit per 2.4 acres of land. The Sandy Spring/-Ashton Master Plan created a new zoning category entitled the Rural Neighborhood Cluster (RNC) Zone, and Ashton Preserve is the first development to be built under this new zone. The purpose of the RNC Zone is to require clustering of development into neighborhoods and ensure preservation of large areas of rural open space. The zone requires preservation of 65-85 percent rural open space, and Ashton Preserve will have approximately 75% of its total area in open space. (cont on page 3)

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

- * **The Greater Sandy Spring Green Space Annual Meeting will be held on March 28, 2000 at 7:00 pm, at the Sandy Spring Museum.**
- * **Michael Ma of the Maryland National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission will speak on the new Rural Legacy Trail.**
- * **There will be a short business meeting with elections of the Board of Directors. Everyone is welcome.**

Advisor

We Are On the Web!

The 21st Century has delivered us into the arms of the World Wide Web. Our eternal gratitude for creating a home for us on the Web goes to Barry Newton and his daughter Meridel. Barry was brave enough to persistently encourage a somewhat reticent Board to take the big leap, and his daughter spent more hours than we probably realize designing and setting up our new web space.

So please look for us at **Sandyspringgreenspace.org** The public will soon also be able to access the site via the Land Trust Alliance web site at www.lta.org.

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About the *Green Space Advisor*

The GreenSpace Advisor is published by Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc., P.O. Box 92, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. (301) 260-8860.

Website: sandspringgreenspace.org

Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, established in 1997 to promote the preservation, protection and balanced use of natural and historical resources in Eastern Montgomery County through public education and the placement of conservation easements.

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Editor
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The Board of Directors meets at 7:30 pm the fourth Tuesday of each month at our offices above Garcia's Service Center (next door to Sandy Spring Museum). All are welcome.

Welcome to New Board Members

In addition to a new Executive Director, Green Space is fortunate to have 3 new Board members, Tony Cohen, Amy Townsend, and Roger Wolcott.

Tony Cohen, a historian, is perhaps best known for retracing one of the routes of the Underground Railroad, starting from Sandy Spring and making his way to Amherstburg, Ontario. During the journey, Cohen retraced the steps that slaves made along waterways and rail lines to churches and Quaker sanctuaries. His account of this first trip, *The Underground Railroad: A Personal Journey*, will be published by Hyperion Press. A second trip stretched from Mobile, Alabama to Windsor, Ontario, taking three months to complete.

Amy Townsend, an Olney resident, is president of Sustainable

Development International Corp. (SDIC). She consults with companies and governments, in the United States and abroad, that are interested in becoming more environmentally friendly, helping them to develop strategies for sustainable design and business operations. Author of *The Smart Office: Turning Your Company on Its Head*, a comprehensive resource for companies interested in increasing profits and productivity by going "green," she also contributes to such magazines as *In Business* and to *Sailing* magazine's "Standing Earth Watch" column.

Roger Wolcott taught sociology at Westminster College north of Pittsburgh before his retirement five years ago. He is currently active with the Olney Kiwanis, the Friends House Residents Association—and Greater Sandy Spring Green Space. —Barry Newton

Green Space is GROWING!

Thanks in part to our very successful year-end fundraising drive, GSSGS is proud to have increased membership rolls for 2000. We currently have over 150 paid members. We still want to reach more people, so we are launching our 200+ for 2000 membership campaign. Our goal is to have over 200 members by year's end. The more members we have, the more influence we have.

Because we are a small, community based organization whose primary focus is the greater Sandy Spring area, we rely on the support of area community members. As a member you receive our now quarterly newsletter (March, June, September, December), and the satisfaction of knowing that you play an active role in preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the greater Sandy Spring area. If you are not a member, we encourage you to join. If you are a member, tell others about us and enlist their aid.

For more information about membership, please contact GSSGS at our office, 301-260-8860, or at our newly created web site, sandspringgreenspace.org. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

—Aleen Starkweather

Unveiling of Walking Tour

The long-awaited Walking Tour map of Sandy Spring will be unveiled at the Green Space Annual Meeting on March 28. The map features approximately 40 sites of historic interest throughout the Sandy Spring Community. This project was funded in part by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Historical Preservation Commission of Montgomery County, and local realtor, IKO Companies. Maps will be available for free at the Sandy Spring Museum and local businesses.

Eternal Spring

Perhaps you have enjoyed the tranquil beauty of the "The Spring." If not, then take a walk down Meetinghouse Road, past the Quaker Meeting House and out into the farmers field where you will immediately notice an oasis marked by trees, lawn and a rail fence. Thanks to the generosity of Winchester Homes, the Sandy Spring Museum and Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, The Spring is no longer destined to become a fixture in someone's back yard. Winchester Homes has donated The Spring and one acre of land surrounding The Spring to the Sandy Spring Museum, and the Museum has in turn given a Conservation Easement to the property to GSSGS. This means that the Spring will forever be protected from development.

A Special Thank You to Friends House Residents Association

We are very fortunate to enjoy within our community the presence of those at Friends House Retirement Community. Members of the community come from all over the country to make their home in Sandy Spring. One-third of Green Space membership are Friends House residents. This is particularly striking given that many of these people are not native to Sandy Spring, and do not own land here. In addition to supporting Green Space through membership, the Friends House Residents Association awarded Green Space a \$2,000 grant in support of our year end fundraising goals.

John Chirtea and Beth Brent recently had the opportunity to speak at Friends House before a gathering of about 50 residents. We are so impressed by the genuine commitment of this group of people.

A Changing of the Guard

Soon after joining Green Space as its first part-time Executive Director, Claudia Staniszewski was offered, and accepted a full time position in Cape Cod, Mass. During her short time with Green Space, Claudia set up our new office, developed a grant proposal and helped to secure a \$3,000 grant. We are very happy for Claudia and wish her the best in her new job.

If you believe in fate, you won't be surprised that an ideal replacement for Claudia showed up at our door on the heels of her departure making for a seamless transition. Our new Executive Director, Beth Brent, comes to us with over 10 years experience working with non-profit organizations. Most recently she helped to establish an environmental Foundation based in Western Maryland.

Beth will work one day a week with Green Space facilitating our organizational growth and functioning, fundraising, and developing and implementing an education/outreach program. Beth is also the proud mother of her soon to be three years old son, Ryan.

Feel free to contact Beth with any Green Space related questions or concerns at the Green Space office or via e-mail, eabrent@starpower.net.

Welcome aboard!

Ashton Preserve (cont)

The Dematatis portion of the property has received final site plan approval, and it is anticipated that construction will be underway in early spring of this year. The Hoffman property received Preliminary Plan approval on February 3, 2000, and final site plan approval is expected later this year.

The key elements of the Ashton Preserve development are as follows:

- *The overall open space will be approximately 75% of the total area of the project.
- *The Rural Legacy Trail will extend from the Sandy Spring to Woodlawn Manor.
- *The Sandy Spring, with one acre of surrounding land will be donated to the Sandy Spring Museum.
- *The development will contain four large conservation lots, and the balance of 70 units will be clustered along a spine road through the property.
- *Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc. will have conservation easements on the four conservation lots, on the one acre surrounding the Sandy Spring, and on the 51 acres of the land that will be conveyed to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. The specific provision of these easements are currently in preparation.

Ashton Preserve will be the first of a number of RNC Zone projects to be developed in the Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan Area. GSSGS is planning on being involved in each of these developments as they move forward, and we will continue to update you on the progress of each in the future.

—John Chirtea

Update on the Winchester Homes Developments

In our last newsletter we included an article about Winchester Homes' plan for cluster housing in the Dematatis and Hoffman properties. Since that article, Winchester has agreed to grant four conservation lot easements in conjunction with the proposed and now approved developments.

In addition to the conservation lot easements, Green Space will receive an easement on The Sandy Spring which was donated by Winchester Homes to The Sandy Spring Museum, and an easement on the 60 acres of parkland donated to Montgomery County.

—John Chirtea

Green Space Advisor

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Letter..... 1
Update on Ashton Preserve..... 1
We Are on the Web!..... 1
Greater Sandy Spring Green Space Information 2
Green Space is Growing!..... 2
Welcome to New Board Members 2
Walking Tour Unveiling..... 2
A Changing of the Guard..... 3
Update on the Winchester Homes Developments..... 3

Help Preserve *Green Space*

Be part of GREATER SANDY SPRING GREEN SPACE, INC.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone: Home _____ Work: _____

Special Interest: _____

Date of Application: _____ For Year: _____