

# Community Advisory Group Minutes

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Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

## Community Advisory Group Members

### Present

Senator James N. Robey  
Lori Lilly  
Beth Woodruff  
Ron Peters  
Debbie Slack Katz (Conference)  
Angela Tersiguel  
Gary Maule  
Simon Cortes  
Andy Hall  
Frank Durantaye  
Kevin Bloom  
Timothy Kendzierski  
Bruno Reich  
Tammy Beideman  
Andy Hall

### Not Present

Don Reuwer  
Reverend Joan King  
Ken McNaughton

### County Staff

Councilmember, Jon Weinstein  
Joseph Herr  
Ryan Miller  
Jahantab Siddiqui  
Val Lazdins  
Raj Kudchadkar  
Lisa Crow  
Phil Nichols  
Jeff Bronow  
Kristin O'Connor  
Kate Bolinger  
Mark Miller  
Paul Milton

## Discussion Topics

**Welcome** – Chair, Senator James Robey

- Senator Robey emphasized the purpose of the group, which is twofold: 1) to serve as a sounding board for the County's overall recovery process.
  - For example, last week the group provided valuable comments in modifying the County's video on the July 30<sup>th</sup> Flood before public release.
- 2) To provide additional project ideas beyond brick and mortar that include community input for making Historic Ellicott City a model resilient town.

## *Historic Ellicott City Recovery Community Advisory Group*

- Additionally, Senator Robey stated how community input from the Town Hall provided the County with a better understanding of the community's needs and will be discussed in more detail from the County Executive's Office later in the meeting.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes – Chair, Senator James Robey**

- Minutes from last week's meeting on 9/8/16 were approved.

### **Discussion on Main Street Plan – County Executive's Office, Jahantab Siddiqui and Councilmember, Jon Weinstein**

- The community provided a lot of suggestions at last night's town hall meeting for addressing safety and security concerns with the end of the Executive Order approaching on 9/20.
- The County has been working all day on incorporating these comments into an adjusted draft plan along with Councilmember Weinstein.
- There is the belief that the Council will support to extend the declaration through Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> (next County Council Session is scheduled for Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>).
- This extension will provide enough time for businesses and property owners to get contractors in and conduct some additional work for securing their property, but it will also allow residents to move back in if deemed safe.
- The draft plan includes the following:
  - Individuals will need to be credentialed in order to enter the no access zone. However, residents can move back in. Businesses can begin occupying their space. Wrist bands for contractors, clients, customers, and guests will be distributed at the Roger Carter Center starting tomorrow.
  - BGE and DPW will still be conducting work at least through Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The County will continue to work with people on an as needed basis.
  - "Local Traffic Only" signs will be posted to discourage commuters.
  - The bridge will open on Saturday.
  - No through traffic up and down Main Street.
  - Lot D perimeter will be shrunk heavily.
  - Parking will be available in other lots.
  - No on-street parking from Ellicott Mills to the bridge.
  - The Police Department will extend security contractors to have 24/7 security presence.
  - Property owners will be notified at some point Friday as to whether residents can move back in. County agencies will be conducting safety inspections on Friday. Signs will be posted on unsafe buildings, and those property owners will be reached out to directly.
  - Security folks will try to encourage outside visitors to be respectful.
- People on Main St. can call 410-313-2900 during business hours.
  - 410-313-2200 is the Police non-emergency line.
  - Joe as the Recovery Manager can also be a point of contact.
- EDA is looking to have a presence down on Main Street for the long-term to continue to assist businesses recover.
- Safety is the number one priority. But specific cases can be handled on a case by case basis.
- Dumpsters can be handled as a micro mission. Call 2900 or EDA to work with DPW.
  - Follow-up on removal of dumpsters owned by the County.

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### **Discussion Overall Planning Efforts - County Administration, Phil Nichols**

- Phil Nichols from the County provided a general overview of the recovery planning process which includes a Case Study that gathers anecdotal evidence from eye witness accounts to be completed by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- This Case Study will then feed into the validity of McCormick Taylor's Hydrology and Hydraulics Study that is a comprehensive analysis of the watershed. The McCormick Taylor Study will take ~6-9 months.
  - Previous studies were conducted solely on the basis of the 2011 event.
- Simultaneous to these ongoing studies, the CAG will be collecting project ideas that can span from brick and mortar to creating a pool of money to subsidize NFIP for individuals.
- These project ideas should be all encompassing and not solely focused on mitigation projects.
- Compiling project ideas is the first step; not everything is going to be feasible and funded.
- Again, the priority is to make EC a model resilient community.
- The final stage will include the transition into the overall planning effort of a land use/zoning and master planning process.
- The Community Advisory Group recommended a modification to the general process to demonstrate that feasible projects can be completed prior to the completion of the various studies.
- The Community Advisory Group began discussion on some potential projects that might be feasible for earlier initiation based on the efforts of the Flood Work Group.
  - It was determined the next meeting will consist of a presentation from the Flood Work Group.

### **Future Meeting Presentations** — Chair, Senator James N. Robey

- The CAG discussed other subject matter experts and presentations that could be scheduled for future meetings to include the following:
  - Flood Work Group Efforts (next week)
  - McCormick and Taylor briefing
  - DPZ Watershed Maps Briefing
  - Other jurisdictions with flood mitigation best practices:
    - Frederick
    - Seattle
    - Boulder

### **The recovery effort for Historic Ellicott City is organized around six principles:**

#### **HEALING**

Foster the healing process for community members through the access of a wide range of social and financial resources.

#### **STABILITY**

Find immediate and long-term housing solutions for residents displaced by the flooding.

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### **ECONOMY**

Expedite business recovery and a return to the long-term economic growth.

### **REBUILDING**

Rebuild Historic Ellicott City with an emphasis on resilient infrastructure through flood mitigation.

### **PRESERVATION**

Preserve Historic Ellicott City's unique and cherished architectural characteristics that have always attracted visitors.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Pursue and implement projects that ensure the continued vitality of our natural resources in pursuit of a sustainable quality of life.

**Closing** – Chair, Senator James N. Robey