

Anne Arundel County Community Connections meeting
Wednesday, 02OCT13, 4-7 pm, Meade HS
Activity Report submitted by:
David J. Delia, President, POA-AOTB

Representing the POA-AOTB, I attended the now quarterly AACo Community Connections gathering sponsored by our County Executive, Ms Laura Neuman, and most if not all of her department heads. From 4 until 6 pm I spoke with several service chiefs and their staffs as well as Ms Neuman, then stayed for one of several town hall meetings that addressed the Executive's and the County's response to and implementation of the Stormwater Tax and bay restoration program.

Although I intended to speak first with AAPD Chief Kevin Davis (410-222-8500, kevin.davis@aacounty.org) to thank him for Southern District Commander Capt. Michelle Simpson's (410-222-1967, msimpson@aacounty.org) meeting with us last week, he was not immediately available. So I met with Major William Krampf, Commander, Patrol Services Bureau of the AAPD (410-222-8057, wkrampf@aacounty.org) I spoke about how much our community appreciated Capt. Simpson's visit and the subsequent actions she was taking w/r the several issues we raised. I then took the opportunity to discuss an issue the Board has raised several times: the status of Mike Harris, our supplemental security officer. Major Krampf was very respectful of Mike--a Deputy Sheriff **and employee of AA County**--not PG County as was previously believed by some including me. Although the Sheriff's Office was **not** the AAPD, certain of the same rules applied. Major Krampf assured me that Mike, even when he was performing this "secondary employment" (his term), was still covered under the umbrella of police insurance.

Next, I met with Chief Davis briefly, no relation to Dep. Chief Pam Davis who I met last week at the Exec's open house and who set up the Capt. Simpson meet. I reiterated our gratitude for the Capt. Simpson meeting, then mentioned how well communications were going between AOTB and the AAPD. He immediately responded that he was pleased but that not all officers handle everything optimally every time. Like any other hierarchal institution, if we ever had needed to go one step (or more) higher on any issue, he encouraged us and every citizen to do so. In fact he was so enthusiastically supportive of a citizen's right to know stuff (much like our new County Exec) he volunteered to address our association on whatever issues we might think relevant. When I said our next meeting was on 23 NOV, he thought about it for only a brief second and said sure, he'd be there, just like that! I called his office manager Sandy Robertson (sandy.robertson@aacounty.org) and confirmed his attendance.

Then I met with Department of Inspections and Permits Asst. Director, George Eberle (410-222-7790) and his Code Administrator for Forestry and Compliance, Bob Winchester (410-222-7445) to discuss our current beach grading permit. George sent me the links to MDE forms that will enable us to eventually dump the 60 tons of sand and whack a few weeds at the beach, but it'll probably take a while. Bob also offered his help w/r plantings and that of another forester Jennifer Fisher (410-222-7441) but asked that we not task her for a while until she finishes dealing with some personal issues.

Onward to the Animal Control folks
(<http://www.aacounty.org/AnimalControl/index.cfm#.Uk3GrRbTbU8>) who were very

responsive about our unleashed and potentially threatening dog issues. In addition to the usual advice to call ACS at 410-222-8900 I got several printed complaint forms (<http://www.aacounty.org/AnimalControl/Resources/Complaint.pdf>) and a few brochures. Since many problems evaporate before they arrive, a person who is either attacked or witnesses an attack can get something done by filing this complaint.

I also wanted to chat w/the smoke-eaters, but the new Chief, Michael Cox, who just replaced the recently retired Bob Ray, was otherwise engaged. Division Chief H. Lee Cornwell (410-222-0605, fdcorn@aacounty.org) was very accessible and we spoke for a while, about the drafting sites, Station 8 and Capt. Donohue, truck familiarization rides through AOTB, etc. He was also present at the Oyster Harbor conflagration and appreciated our self-help actions.

As it was nearing 5:45, I took a shot at speaking w/ Ms Neuman again and although battling a cold, she held up well. I mentioned that we appreciated what her departments were doing for AOTB and any encouragement her office could give BGE to deal with **and report on** our end-of-the-line problems. Her exec and Chief of Constituent Services Ashley Ricker (410-222-1241, exrick22@aacounty.org) assured me that she knew BGE's Bonnie Johansen (Bonnie.I.Johansen@bge.com) well and would so encourage them. FYI, Hope Stewart (HStewart@aacounty.org) has replaced Bea Poulin (who went over to DPW) as our l/o with the County Exec office.

Just before I went over to the Stormwater Tax Town Hall meeting at the nearby auditorium, I spoke with Larry Tom (410-222-7450, PZTOM264@aacounty.org), AACo's chief Planning and Zoning Officer. Although Larry's sphere may not be not immediately relatable to AOTB, he is the guy whose department rules on the big, long-term developments that builders love and most of us don't.

After I moved to the auditorium, we heard from Laura Neuman as to why she vetoed the Stormwater tax bill that was passed by an overriding County Council vote. It's way too complex to encapsulate completely, but we (AACo and nine other bay-bordering MD counties) are being tasked to plan a cleanup and taxed by the State of MD for between 35 and 170 bucks/ individual property (and more for businesses) a year to remediate about 27 million bucks worth of tributary and stormwater drainage problems in the county per year, and that cost will escalate over the next decade upward. Although an environmentalist like many of us, Laura thought it unfair to just tax these 10 counties and put the burden on many folks who had been taxed several times in the past few years already, to address what was essentially a statewide, regional (NY, DE, PA, NJ, MD, and VA--within the Chesapeake Bay's watershed), and national problem. After Laura fielded several questions and comments, she turned the briefing over to her Public Works Department Director Chris Phipps whose 51 slides addressed the plan, the techniques, the costs, and a formula to breakdown who pays what w/i AACo.