



January 2021 Issue

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 3rd, from 7-9pm on Zoom. Link and details will be sent via Listserve a week before. Councilmember Will Jawando is set to speak on the proposed zoning amendment

2021 SOECA Membership Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held remotely via Zoom, until further notice. **Please signup if you haven't already – instructions are below.**



Use the video option or just call in and listen. A link and dial-in information will be sent out via email listserv in the days preceding the meeting.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 from 7-9pm

March TBD, 2021

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 from 7-9pm

Will Jawando's proposed zoning amendment: Councilmember Jawando is proposing a change to the County's zoning code that will affect much of SOECA. The text of his amendment can be found at <https://bit.ly/3pmNOTN>

and the current zoning code can be found at <https://bit.ly/3cjXstz>

More information will be sent out via listserv before the next **SOECA meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd.**

Committee Openings: There are still two committees that need a chairperson: the Silver Spring Library Development Committee and the Social Committee. If you are interested in leading either one of these, please email the board at soeca.board@gmail.com.



News: From what we have read, vaccines are coming in weekly and signup availability is limited. One source of information may be found here: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COVID19/vaccine



This time of year and going into the Spring, there can be rather large amounts of stormwater runoff during rains. The county helps communities like ours by paying for personal stormwater retention/reduction grants, which a few people in the neighborhood have used.

More information on the **RainScape Program** can be found here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/index.html>

SOECA Officers

Chris Reynolds President
Tom Armstrong, Vice President
David Hartmann, Treasurer
Claire Zietz, Secretary

Highlights for the February Meeting

1. Councilmember Will Jawando to speak on the proposed zoning amendment

2. Q&A

3. Neighborhood business

**If you have suggestions, ideas, or would like to speak yourself, please contact us at soeca.board@gmail.com*

In This Newsletter

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6. Transportation Updates
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SOECA Boundaries

Colesville Rd on the West;
Cedar and Fenton Sts on the South;
Bonifant St and Wayne Ave on the East;
Franklin and Caroline Aves on the North.



Check Us Out Online!

www.soeca.org
facebook.com/SOECASilverSpring
twitter.com/soecatweet

LISTSERV SIGNUP INSTRUCTIONS

Go to <https://groups.io/g/SOECA/join> and fill in your email address; OR
Email SOECA+subscribe@groups.io and include your name address in the email.



Do you have ideas for our next newsletter?
Want to send a Shout-out to someone special?

We'd love to hear from you! Send an email to soeca.board@gmail.com



COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ISSUE REPRESENTATIVES

Butterfly Garden – Betsy Mendelsohn
Bus Rapid Transit CAT – Brian Feit
Downtown Plan Committee – Chris Reynolds
Environment – Anne Vorce
Mosquito Abatement Project – Karen Kuehl, Carol Leventhal
Land Use – Chris Johansson
Membership Committee – David Hartmann
Montgomery County Civic Federation– Jean Cavanaugh
Neighbor's Help – Michael Gurwitz
Purple Line CAT and Wayne Ave Group – Erin Johansson
Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes
Silver Spring Library Redevelopment – **Open**
Social Committee– **Open**
Technology Committee – Jonathan Bernstein
Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh

SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM NOV. 17th, 2020 MEETING



Note: In an effort to save space in this newsletter, a summary only will be provided here. Full meeting minutes are sent out after every meeting to the neighborhood listserv and also posted to the website: soeca.org/category/membership-meetings/

TREASURER'S REPORT

The current account balance is \$10,765.00. A few additional membership checks are still coming in. Expenses from this past month were for the printing of newsletters and flyers.

COMMITTEE REPORT: DOWNTOWN PLAN COMMITTEE

This new committee was formed this past month after the last SOECA meeting and has met a few times. The purpose of this committee is to monitor the DTSS and Adjacent Communities Planning Process and keep the neighborhood informed of updates and developments.

The plan area does include a portion of SOECA. You can find a copy of the latest notice at the back of SOECA's last newsletter, which can be found here:

<https://soeca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SOECA-Newsletter-Nov-2020-Email.pdf>

The planning committee will evaluate and make recommendations about zoning, transportation, community facilities, and infrastructure. It is important that our neighborhood voices are heard during this process (which could be 2-3 years). Now through the end of December is the "listening" portion of the plan, followed by recommendations in Spring 2021. A working draft will be developed in the Fall of 2021. Fall/Winter 2021-2022 will consist of planning and working sessions, and finally a formal plan adoption is to take place in the Fall of 2022.

Make your voices known by participating in the survey found here: surveymonkey.com/r/sslistening

For more information, visit the Downtown Plan website: montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downtown/silver-spring/silver-spring-downtown-plan

To join the SOECA committee, email Kristen Conte at kcl.conte@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Chris Reynolds reminded the group of changes going on at the Old Library site. SOECA is looking for new people to step up and follow the progress there, by signing on to be a part of and/or lead that SOECA committee. Traffic and pedestrian safety are some of the concerns. If anyone would like to sign up, please contact Chris Reynolds at urban.economist@gmail.com.

SOECA is looking for a chairperson for the Social Committee and any virtual social meeting ideas. Please contact Chris with any interest.

COMMITTEE REPORT: NEIGHBOR'S HELP

This committee was started back in March to provide assistance to anyone who might need it (such as during "unnecessary travel" restrictions during this pandemic, anyone in a high risk group, etc). More than 30 people signed up to volunteer, but only a small amount asked for help.

This group is still offering help with anything from grocery or prescription pickup, to snow shoveling, dog walking, a daily or weekly call to people who live alone as a check in, and more. If you are interested in either joining the committee or would like to use their assistance, please email soecanh@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jean Cavanaugh, as part of the Traffic Committee, announced that this evening is the first CAT meeting for our neighborhood and Erin Johannsen, who represents our neighborhood, is attending. The state is breaking up with the P3 partner and taking over some of the contracts to keep part of the work going. More information will follow in the next newsletter.
- Ms. Cavanaugh also wanted to note that the county is still creating temporary “greenways” and you can apply online to have your street closed to local traffic only:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/sharedstreets/>
- Ms. Mendelsohn mentioned a notice about an upcoming meeting for the bikeway on Fenton at the 410 intersection and greenway at Grove Street. More information can be found on the project webpage here:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/fentonvillage/index.html>
- Mr. Reynolds wanted to mention that the Board is looking for speakers and topics. If you have any suggestions, please contact Mr. Reynolds or the SOECA Board.

Our District 5 council representative Tom Hucker is the chair of the T&E committee, so you can write to Tom if you have comments,
councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov

MARTHA B. GUDELSKY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
The County's Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) approved the conditional use permit for the child care center planned for the old Silver Spring Library. The Hearing Examiner approved the project with a list of conditions listed in her report starting on page 54. The conditions address lighting, landscaping, car queuing, hours of operation and community use, and other matters. The only traffic mitigation will be financial contribution to a traffic signal redesign at Colesville and Dale Drive.

You can find the report here:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OZAH/Resources/Files/pdf/2020/CU%2020-08%20Martha%20B_%20Gudelsky%20Child%20Development%20Center%20Inc_%20Report%20\(Robeson\)_Final%20signed.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OZAH/Resources/Files/pdf/2020/CU%2020-08%20Martha%20B_%20Gudelsky%20Child%20Development%20Center%20Inc_%20Report%20(Robeson)_Final%20signed.pdf).

We don't have any information on when construction will begin.

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Montgomery County continues to promote its "shared streets" initiative throughout the winter. Learn more about "shared streets" on MCDOT's website, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/sharedstreets/>. This website also includes information about applying for a shared streets block permit. Residents on several blocks in SOECA have taken advantage of this program.

MCDOT continues to study improvements for Route 29 and Colesville Road between the Silver Spring Transit Center and Burtonsville. Ultimately, they would like the new FLASH bus service to run in dedicated lanes from White Oak to the Transit Center. There are a variety of proposals being discussed. If you are interested and want to weigh in, take a look at the recent report reviewed by the County Council Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee,
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2021/20210127/20210127_TE1.pdf.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: Winter Nature



Even as we head into deepest, darkest winter, you can see a few signs that spring is coming. Near the headwaters of Sligo Creek, Sligo's “first flower” (skunk cabbage) is coming up along

Sligo Creek Trail. (See the FOSC YouTube channel for a neat video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj7FAtVZhQ&feature=youtu.be>)

Closer to our neck of the woods, snow drops have come up in the last few days. A neighbor may have spotted a belted kingfisher. And the amazing red foxes and owls are active, as are the deer, often on the move. Thanks to the many neighbors who are trying to make sure nature is flourishing not only around Sligo Creek itself but also throughout the watershed, including Downtown Silver Spring.

JOIN SOECA



SOECA Membership: Pay by Check or Paypal or Zelle

Annual dues of \$20 per household or \$10 for seniors and single members

- **Online:** from the “About” drop-down menu at www.soeca.org, select “Join SOECA” and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page for Paypal. Or, pay with Zelle.
- **Check:** make it payable to SOECA and send it with this form to: David Hartmann, SOECA Treasurer, 407 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910 - or just drop it off in his mailbox!

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Resident email addresses and home addresses are not shared.