**Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting
of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**
**September 12, 2002**

**The monthly meeting of Seminary Hill Association, Inc., was held on September 12, 2002
at the Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia.**

**The following SHA officers, directors and past presidents were present:**

**Bill Dickinson, President Jack Sullivan, Treasurer**
**R. Mark Quave, Secretary Lillian Patterson, Area 1**
**Tom Kerester, Area 2 Dick Hobson, Area 3**
**Dan Kelly, Area 4 Dick Hayes, Area 5**
**Carol Maxwell, Area 6 Buck Coates, Area 9**
**Joe Fisher, past President**

**Bill Dickinson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.**

**The Minutes from the August 2002 Board Meeting were approved by the Board.**

**Treasurer’s Report: Jack Sullivan reported a SHA checking account balance of $6,979.69, which includes $4,315 in the "no build connector fund", and a saving’s account balance of $7,701.64. From these balances, approximately $2,000 is earmarked for Anti-Connector signs that have recently been purchased.**

**SHA Membership: Mr. Dickinson reported that the SHA membership ranks have swelled to 319 members. This reflects an unprecedented and outstanding growth rate over the past 3 years.**

**Area Reports:**

* **Area 2 – A 7,000 square foot home is being built for resale on the former Grant property on Francis Hammond Parkway.**
* **Area 3 – Equity Homes is finally complying with their obligation to install fencing and tree screens at their Dartmouth Road development project.**
* **Area 9 – Buck Coates noted that the Traffic & Safety Board will meet on 23 SEP 02 and make decisions regarding where to install traffic calming devises.**

**Police Report: Sgt. Bartlet of the Alexandria City Police Department did not have any specific report to the Board but answered several questions of a general nature and took the contact information from several attendees in order to provide answers to their specific questions about criminal activities. A recent incident involving the stripping of what was apparently a stolen car in the early morning on Ivanhoe Place was discussed. Question was raised about Alexandria City Police Department crime reporting.**

**Old Business**

***1. Connector Road* - Dick Hobson and George Foote provided detailed briefs on the progress of the campaign to defeat the connector and the progress of the City’s Connector Task Force. Jerry Frank volunteered to help SHA with media marketing. Other "experts" will be sought from within SHA’s membership to provide a thorough analysis of the Task Force Report and support technical materials once these become available. President Dickinson suggested that SHA not endorse any of the several no connector petitions now circulating in the neighborhood. The Board agreed.**

***2. Minnie Howard School Expansion* – Carol Maxwell, SHA area 8 Representative and former SHA Director Bill O’Neill met with residents in vicinity of the school. The Board voted to support a resolution to write the School Board Superintendent regarding concerns about the existing fence, landscaping buffers, security, noise, parking and construction. Carol will try to meet with ACPS officials before a formal letter is sent.**

***3. T.C. Williams High School Expansion* – Melvin Miller, chairman of the SHA High School Expansion Task Force, said three expansion concepts are under consideration: build on no Chinquapin Park land, build on some Park land, exchange Park land for the existing high school land. There will be a Town Meeting sponsored by the City on 19 SEP 02. On 17 SEP 02, School officials meet with City Council, Planning Commission and Parks and recreation Commission to discuss the need for and location of the replacement facility. Mr. Miller presented the Board with a position letter to go to the School Board, City Council and the School Superintendent. The Board passed a motion to send the SHA resolution. Bill Dickinson will work with Melvin Miller in transmitting the letter and resolution to ACPS and City in a timely manner. This resolution will be posted on the SHA website.**

***4. SHA/INOVA Alexandria Hospital Oversight Committee* – Mr. Dickinson announced the make-up of the committee that will monitor compliance with the Hospital/SHA agreement. Sharon Annear will co-chair this committee together with C. Mahoney of Inova Alexandria Hospital. Other members of the committee appointed by Bill Dickinson to represent SHA and the community include Chuck Schwiddie, Frank Homberger, Carol Griglione, and Carolyn Anderson. This will be a permanent committee and SHA members will be subject to appointment, reappointment, or replacement by the SHA Board of Directors. The SHA Co-chair will – at least once per year – report on committee activities to the SHA Board in writing. As issues and concerns arise, the committee co-chair shall communicate directly with the SHA President. Spencer Annear will represent his wife as Co-Chair until her return from a family emergency. Either Co-chair can convene the committee**.

**5. Update on 2nd Presbyterian Church – Mr. Dickinson informed the Board that the Church and accompanying six acres of R-20 zoned land, located at the intersection of Quaker and Janney’s Lanes, is for sale by the Presbyterian Church. SHA has advised this group that the neighborhood expects the land to be developed as zoned but would be open to discussions to other arrangements if there is clear benefit to the immediate neighborhood.**

**New Business:**
**1. Open Space/Battery Heights - The almost 3 acres of open space easement obtained in large part because of the efforts of SHA will soon be signed. SHA has suggested to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and City authorities that this might be an excellent opportunity for City officials to speak to the broader issue of the need to protect open space throughout the City.**

**2. City Grants – The Board passed a resolution authorizing the President and Cindy Gurne to submit one or more proposals to the City for matching neighborhood Grants. Three grant ideas were considered most favorable: virtual community technology to be added to SHA’s electronic communications network, a neighborhood historical home/site survey, and a project for the further beautification of Fort Williams Parkway. Recipients of the Grants are required to match the up to $5,000 grants with cash or in-kind labor. Pre-proposals are due to Alexandria’s OMB by September 20.**

**3. Skateboard Park at Lucket Field - The City Planning Commission has favorably recommended to City Council construction of a Skateboard Park at Lucket Field (base of Quaker Lane at Duke Street). The matter goes to City Council for approval on 14 SEP 02. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Haynes living on the corner of Quaker Lane but not SHA members due to their location - voiced their concerns to the Board opposing the project and sought SHA support. Mr. Hobson volunteered to further study the matter and as a citizen would attend the City Council meeting. It was decided that SHA would not oppose the location and operation of the skateboard park.**

**4. Parking on Fort Williams Pkwy. – Cindy Gurne detailed area resident concerns with the parking situation on Fort William Parkway. It was suggested that the residents petition the City to restrict parking in the area to three hours. Joe Fisher and Dan Kelly volunteered to look into the procedures required to get this completed and to work with Ms. Gurne is resolving this matter.**

**5. Buzzard Gap – A new developer is poised to build two homes on the upper 2-acre tract of Buzzard Gap, using a northern access road. They will need a SUP. SHA Vice President Gerard is closely monitoring the situation and is meeting with the developer and impacted neighbors.**

**6. Traffic Concerns at Francis Hammond School – School buses and other vehicles exiting Hammond School onto N. Picket are making illegal left-hand turns, causing traffic delays and compromising safety. This will be further explored with ACPS officials and Alexandria’s TES.**

**7. Annual Meeting – The Board agreed to invite Councilman David Speck – a member of SHA, friend and neighbor - to speak at the November 14th Annual Meeting at Virginia Theological Seminary. Dan Kelly and Joe Gerard will coordinate planning and preparation for the meeting. This will mark SHA’s 50th. Anniversary and it is hoped this will be a most special event.**

**8. Presidents Absence – President Dickinson indicated that after three years in office he will not seek reelection as SHA President. He also will not be present for the SHA annual meeting being abroad at that time.**
**The September Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm. The next meeting of the SHA Board will be on October 3 at Immanuel Church Parish Hall.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**
**on September 27, 2002**
**R. Mark Quave, Secretary**