



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

### **Summary**

The Federation received updates on a number of issues from Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and Mount Vernon District School Board Representative Mateo Dunne. Several long-standing priorities were addressed with both positive and negative repercussions. The Land Use Committee share local updates and a recap of the presentations from the November meeting. The Transportation Committee is seeking input from the membership on traffic signals in need of review. The Public Safety Committee shared the retirement of Lorton District Commander, Major Alan Hanson, and other recruiting news. The Federation wished everyone happy holidays and a joyous new year.

### **Call to Order- Ms. Wendy Henley, President**

Ms. Henley called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

### **Approval of the Minutes (Secretary position vacant)**

Ms. Henley presented the October minutes and motioned, seconded by Vice President Nick Firth, approved by show of hands.

Ms. Henley presented the November minutes and a note by Nancy Wilochka of the Mason Neck Citizens Association concerning the report by Park Authority representative Lynwood Gorham. After a discussion, the motion was made by Corresponding Secretary Keith F. Shovlin to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Henley, approved by show of hands.

### **Treasurer Report- Mr. James Fenton**

Mr. Fenton presented the treasurer's report, indicating a healthy balance in the checking and money market accounts.

Truist Checking	\$1,191.07
Income	\$20
CD	\$5,064.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,255.95</b>

### **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Report - Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck**

Supervisor Storck apologized for his sore voice and followed up on several issues brought up in previous meetings and gave a year in review for Mount Vernon District. On the various issues:

- We have a food drive to support Gunston Elementary School in partnership with Reworld and Neighborhood and Community Services, which fed 20 families. Thank you to everybody who donated.
- **Commercial Vehicle Parking Reporter.** Shared in October. It's a pretty simple process, while we have more work to do legislatively at the State level in order to deal with Route 1.



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

- Our First Hike 2025 will be on January 1st at 10 am from Collingwood Park.
- The Mount Vernon town hall meeting is February 8th at Mount Vernon High School, televised on channel 16.
- **Alpine X.** Mentioned at the last meeting that the Alpine X agreement expires at the end of the year. Alpine X is still looking at options and potentially will re-engage with the County when they're ready.
- **Lorton Road and Silverbrook Road intersection.** Latest from County staff is that we have a pre scoping document to send to our transportation design team to start the design and exploring the funding options. The project is only partially funded from the Federal allocation, and they are continuing to look for more funding for the project.
- **Lee Chapel Road.** There was a meeting being held tonight virtually with VDOT. The County and the State, put up extra money to try to fix the major hump after the major tragedy. Tonight was to talk about the two major options and get input from the community:
  - To close the road down for a period of time, which is the fastest, cheapest way, or
  - To leave the road open and try to route traffic while they're fixing the road, which will cost a lot more money.
- **Pohick Road Sidewalk.** The latest from County staff is that they're coordinating with VDOT to establish a project administration agreement, which is required before FCDOT will start expending the Federal funds that they've gotten. Waiting for the the authorization from VDOT and but we're ready to go. We're not allowed to submit for any additional money for this project, but we do have enough to get it started, and obviously we'll need to identify more to fully fund it.
- **The Mason Neck Trail.** The latest from County staff, on November 13th they provide a response to comments from the property owners. November 19th they facilitated a design coordination meeting between VDOT and FCDOT. Then on November 20th, coordinated the geotechnical subcontractor work regarding infiltration and groundwater tests. Finally, on December 6th we performed a site visit to document where we stand and to identify the points of interest in locations where some of this testing should go. We're developing the scope and the fees to actually do the construction. There is more information in the transportation design report.
- **The CSX Bridge Replacement.** County staff advises the Newington Bridge design is 95% complete. The funds were limited from the Franconia to Lorton Third Rail Project deferring that portion that includes the bridge replacement over Richmond Highway to Phase 2. I don't know when phase 2 will happen, probably 5 to 10 years out.
- **Silverbrook at Southrun Traffic Intersection Study.** Delegate Tran's Office has been leading this initiative with VDOT. In October they asked for a new study of the intersection to reflect the increase in traffic that we're all seeing. The study identified that a further signal study would need to be conducted, and they should receive an answer in mid February. Where that stands.
- **Expansion of Silverbrook,** staff has confirmed with that VDOT does not have any information on any plans on widening Silverbrook, even though we know that that needs to be finished. We've verified that with FCDOT as well.
- **Furnace Road Dumping.** More complaints recently, we're looking to address that, be more diligent and monitoring that, as well as getting more signs and reinstallation of signs for "No Dumping."
- **Synchronization of traffic lights.** Review done initially back in August 2023. VDOT advises that everything is functioning properly. although it never feels that way. Provide exact intersections or



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

locations that we can ask, they can ask traffic operations to review the signal timing. If the Federation has other intersections or areas that they would like for us to have do a study

- **The Gunston Cove Road/Lorton Market Street Thru Truck Restriction.** The Commissioner recently approved the restriction on November 25th. VDOT sign crew is currently in the process of utility checks for the sign placements, should be up by the end of the month, weather permitting.
- **Year in Review.** We've been busy, and hopefully the community has seen the difference not only in the new Bunnymen brewery and the cafe, the many new thriving businesses at Liberty.
  - Laurel Hill central green restrooms, Linwood's probably cheering louder than anybody else to get that off his agenda
  - Completed Committee work on Lorton Envisioning. Thank you very, very much, Nick Firth, for your leadership, and Dale, Linwood, Wendy for your regular attendance and feedback.
  - Continue work on the Overlook Ridge Park. We are absolutely almost there. I'm not going to say anything more. But we are incredibly close, and but hopefully have an announcement very soon.
  - Thank you very much for your work and support with the new signs up at the Shoppes of Lorton Valley.
  - Gunston Fire Station planning. They'll start construction on that next year.
  - To the Federation leadership, your leadership on monthly meetings, Wendy, and frankly, the whole crew. You guys are awesome in terms of how you have led the community and your engagement.
  - Our senior safety summit at the Lorton Community Center. which was one of the heaviest attended ones.
  - We've had over 900 filled backpacks distributed to our second annual back to school event at the Lorton Community Center and Library.
  - The Mount Vernon Nights Summer Concert Series at the Workhouse,
  - the busy Lorton Farmers Market,
  - National Night Out,
  - Tour de Mount Vernon from the Workhouse,
  - money for the New Glass Blowing Facility at the Workhouse
  - South County Church, signed their lease at the Closed Reformatory Chapel,
  - 1st community meeting at the Lorton Police Station,
  - The great work that Don Camera at Reworld has been doing with us to communicate and notice what's happening.
  - So again, I look forward to many, many other things with you in 2025, and if I missed anything I'm sure you'll let me know last couple of points.
- **Hotel Purchase by the Board of Supervisors.** Ms. Henley had asked about the public hearing to purchase a property in the Sully district, and it's something that the Board approved at a public hearing. It was in Pat Herrity's newsletter. Pat didn't support that, he's been critical of it. I think he's flat wrong about that. I think it's a great opportunity. I know some of the concern. Caution is that the purchase price of the property is about 300% above what the assessed value of the property is. I talked to Jay Doshi today about that. Asking about how could it be off that much? Because, frankly, for the County that means revenue that we've lost, the appraisals that have been done are very close to what the County's paying. It's a couple million dollars more, and part of that has to do with some of



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

the discussions that we've had in closed session, that I'm not at liberty to explain or express further. There's opportunities at that property that go beyond the physical structure that's being acquired, and the benefits that that will have for families who need emergency housing. We cannot house all the families that need emergency housing on any given night. We have the same problem with adult individuals, and we have to have more capacity. This will only save us substantial money, because what happens now with families at least, is that we put them up in hotels and motels, and I don't think that's a very good option. The services and supports that those families typically need cannot be provided very well in that way as well. I've asked for more information from the County. There is a Q&A on the County website and there will be another hearing on January 19th.

Ms. Henley thanked Supervisor Storck and his staff for the preparation for this month's report.

**Question from Dale Rumberger**, when does the Reworld contract expire? It is a five year contract.

**Answer**, we will get that information for you. There was an environmental hearing today on the County's Zero Waste Plan. Looking at setting up franchise areas to target waste and to lower costs of trash and recycling pickup in certain areas. It will take five years to set up.

**Question from Larry Clark**, what's the next step with Alpine-X? **Answer**, our contract with them is over on December 31st. We can do whatever we want. Our objectives are still the same which is to adapt and reuse that, and if they want to come back and offer, discuss or negotiate they can do all those things as well as anybody else who would like to do the same. **Follow up**, asked for clarification on the CSX Bridge over Route 1. **Answer**, clarified and brought up the Newington Road Bridge, which is currently being redesigned. The hope was for two lanes plus sidewalk and bike lane, but will most likely still be one lane each way. **Follow up**, have you seen the JLARC report on Data centers in Virginia? It appears to be a negative evaluation. **Answer**, We'll definitely be taking a look at it. It just came out today.

**Question from Marty Schirmacher**, asked about County's sanctuary policies concerning illegal migrants. He has a list of cases of immigrants being released from jail. **Answer**, to the best of my knowledge and understanding, and I've talked to the sheriff about this, anybody who has been convicted and or has been charged with a serious crime is probably still in jail. They're not being released. There's a lot of misinformation out there about it. We're not a sanctuary county by any stretch of the imagination. If the police encounter somebody on the street, and they don't have any convictions or any other criminal charges, they aren't going to be arrested. **Follow up**, asked whether Sheriff Stacey Kincaid said she would not cooperate with Federal officials. **Answer**, that's not accurate.

**Ms. Henley thanked** Mr. Schirmacher for his question and asked that he reach out to the Supervisor in advance of the meeting with specific issues.

**Fairfax County School Board Report - Mount Vernon Representative Matteo Dunne**

Mr. Dunne apologized for missing previous meetings due to scheduling conflicts. Three items to share with the Federation:

- We have successfully implemented the biggest curriculum change in the past 20 years, a new science of reading, research and evidence-based literacy curriculum in Grades K-6. Now we are entirely phonics based. We have provided extensive training this past summer, will provide additional training throughout the course of the year and in the coming years. The change did necessitated a resumption of a discrete number of early release Mondays, not lasting forever, but there may be another year or so of that as we do implement this very important change.



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

- **Second, the Hayfield football scandal.** Advocating since August for a comprehensive, independent investigation into all aspects of that scandal. This past Thursday the School Board agreed. There's alleged wrongdoing by certain individuals at Hayfield, but there are also systemic issues that have been raised. I've received reports of very concerning allegations about other sports at other schools. FCPS can't solve the problem by addressing Hayfield alone. In addition, advocated successfully for the School Board to look at its whistleblower protection.
- **Third, school boundaries.** I have been doing presentations all across the Mount Vernon District and I am available to do a special presentation to the South County Federation. If you're interested, or any constituent organizations within the South County Federation. First comprehensive countywide reassessment of school boundaries in 40 years. Creation of the South County High School boundaries was a piecemeal change. Piecemeal changes have not made sense on the larger systemic basis. Focused on fixing the problems, trying to work with the existing boundaries and make adjustments. Expects the Hayfield boundaries to change somewhat to more compact and contiguous. Advocating to change Gunston Elementary, which is a split feeder. All those students should go to South County. There are opportunities to participate and provide input. There will be a virtual meeting in January. The meetings right now are to gather input from the community. Once the consultants develop boundary scenarios in May through September there will be a series of meetings at every high school, both in person and virtual. Once all that input is gathered and final revisions are made, the School Board is anticipated to vote in January 2026, with most of the changes being implemented in the fall of 2026.
- Certain changes may be phased in over multiple years, like moving 6th grade to middle school. We have three 6-8 middle schools in our county. Most middle schools in the U.S. are grades 6-8, and that will take some doing along with any changes to Middle School start times. A study presented recently on start times but want to align that with changes to middle school boundaries.

**Question from Larry Clark,** for years the Fairfax County Public Schools have complained about the low level of compensation we've received from DOD to offset the cost of military students. Why haven't we sued DOD? **Answer,** I appreciate you raising this to my attention. I would welcome any information you can provide. We're looking to be one of the purple star school systems in the country. Suggested working with Congressmen before filing a lawsuit.

**Question from Linwood Gorham,** are teachers getting a 7% raise? Do you have updated vacancy statistics? **Answer,** didn't have information on statistics, asked for questions in advance for future meetings. We used to have a serious problem filling vacancies, much less true now. The superintendent has been very proactive in expanding the pool of teachers through alternative training programs. Virginia Department of Education has provided automatic one-year provisional licenses for staff interested in teaching. As to the raise, it is in the collective bargaining agreement that hasn't been ratified yet. Would be an across the board raise. Teachers and school based employees are underpaid relative to the market while non-school employees are paid at above market rate. Ms. Henley invited Mr. Dunne to present on the school boundary process at the February 11th meeting.

**Fairfax County Park Authority Update- Mr. Linwood Gorham**



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

**The Park Authority Board** have one meeting in November and December, and our December meeting is tomorrow night. The Mount Vernon Rec Center continues to be on schedule, expecting it to open the 1st quarter of next year.

**Question from Keith F. Shovlin**, the NPS have switched Great Falls Park to cashless to reduce costs. Any risk of that at FCPA parks? **Answer**, not hearing any plans for that. I would be completely opposed to it.

### Legislative Updates

**Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th District, represented by Fatima Malik, outreach and operations coordinator**

Ms. Henley noted that Fatima is replacing Anh Phan and shared gratitude to AP for her previous updates and availability. Ms. Malik introduced herself and noted the 119th Congress is starting in January. Congressman Connolly is running for the ranking member position for the House Oversight Committee. In the 118th Congress, the Congressman was able to pass an act which requires the VA to have a more comprehensive look on factors that prevent veteran suicide. She will look more into military aid funding for FCPS with liaisons and legislative team. Congressman Connolly is still the acting president for NATOPA. He will continue to advocate for our allies, including Ukraine.

**Scott Surovell- 34th District, Virginia State Senator, represented by Patrick Giallorenzo, Session Aide**

Not replacing Fatima Dandashi, just filling in for her this evening. Here to learn more about the district and get to know local leaders as he's new to the Senator's office. Let him know of any issues ahead of the next session in 2025.

**Kathy Tran- 18th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Ben Hermerding, Chief of Staff**

Mr. Hermerding provided updates on three big points, and two smaller points:

- First, **General Assembly Session** begins on January 8th. It's a short session, we'll only be there for about 45 days as long as everything goes well,. Anticipate discussions on data centers JLARC report, a casino in Tysons, and the budget. It's a two-year budget, passed earlier this year. We don't have to make amendments to the budget but we have a surplus. Most of that money is spoken for, because of a special session where that money was committed elsewhere. We do still have some money to play around with. There's going to be an amended budget and then there's a couple of constitutional amendments that would go for their first read. Constitutional amendments have to pass twice in two successive General Assembly sessions with an election in between. This is the year to pass the 1st read. We're committed to getting kids educated, keeping the lights on, and making sure that families can afford their bills.
- Second, **Pre-Session Town Hall**. It will be on Zoom next Thursday, December 19th at 7 pm.
- Third, on January 4th, there is the **Fairfax County Public Hearing**, which is the entire Fairfax County delegation all together. We were, and then, you know you can.
- **Lee Chapel Road Town Hall** tonight happening at the same time as this call. Supervisor Herrity has put out options that they are discussing on that call.
- Supervisor Storck had brought up **Southrun and Silverbrook**. Last month we asked for a traffic study. That traffic study took 45 days, ended just after the last South County Federation meeting. They found that it warranted a signal warrant study that takes 90 days. So we are looking for the results of that





General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

study in mid to late February. I will be back next month and the month after, and I'm hopeful that I will have an answer on that intersection.

**Rozia Henson - 19th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Max Jenkins, Chief of Staff**

Delegate Henson asked that I go over 3 of his initiatives that he plans to pursue for the 2025 session. But first want to thank Diego from Supervisor Storck's office for reaching out to us earlier this afternoon so we could collaborate on some of our overlapping transportation projects.

- The bills that Delegate Henson wants to bring up, first to **allow the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to have greater oversight powers**, so that the State can intervene in local and regional jail issues as they come up within the district. In House District 19, there have been a couple issues in the Manassas Detention Center. We are looking into those and trying to make sure that the State actually has the authority to look into those with greater detail.
- Working with Prince William County, we're working on a bill to allow localities the authorization to **establish by ordinance a Soil and Foundation management fund**. This bill actually comes from 2 communities, both in Prince William County, where their communities were built on silt and clay soil. Their homes are experiencing some foundation issues that we're hoping to give Prince William County the option to establish a fund to help those communities out.
- We're revisiting a 2024 initiative that was spearheaded by Senator Lachrecse Aird to provide **overtime pay for domestic workers**. That bill did pass the House and the Senate in the 2024 session. However, the Governor did veto it. Looking at the Governor's veto explanation, our office has tweaked this bill draft in an effort to get his signature.
- **Voter roll purging**. The Delegate is working with the Privileges and Elections Committee to establish a mandatory quiet period 90 days before any general election to prohibit voter roll purging, except in the cases where a voter may have been deceased, or may have moved from their location and need to update their registration.
- Last, but not least, working with our retired former law enforcement officers. Right now, current law enforcement officers have the ability to petition for their private information from being posted online by the Commonwealth of Virginia. We want to **extend that option to retired law enforcement officers within four years of their retirement**.

**Committee Reports**

**Land Use Committee, Co-Chairs Nick Firth and Keith F. Shovlin**

Mr. Firth discussed the recent committee meeting where three presentations were made. First was a **gold production facility on Terminal Road**. It is the right industrial place for it, though we had questions about security. They will be back in the new year. Second was an application for **multifamily homes on Mim Street** next to the Gunston Cove community. It included the maximum possible density and we have to whittle them down. We gave them a lot of feedback. The third was a presentation from the Noman Cole Water Treatment Facility.

Concerning **Alpine-X**, Supervisor Storck covered that. Our December meeting would fall on December 31st so we are postponing any presentations to the January meeting.

Mr. Shovlin provided updates on local businesses. At **Liberty Market**, F45 Training looking to open before the end of the year, and that's in the one building right next to the dining hall, just across from



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

Ledo Pizza. Jack Perkins reports they were waiting for some final construction work before they'd start moving in the equipment. Yafa Grill has been delayed in opening. In a post on Facebook, they are waiting on the final inspection and hope to be open by February at the latest. That's the the last of the businesses coming into the line of shops across from Lidl.

This Thursday, the **Architectural Review Board** will be having a workshop discussion on a proposal for the dining hall to put in a climbing center. To add a basement level underneath and then have an opening into the quadrangle behind. There would be two climbing walls in the building and one outside in the courtyard, with a temporary covering. This is the first meeting for them to review. They also need to go to the Virginia Department of Historical Resources.

Also at Liberty, Supervisor Stork brought up the leasing of the **Former Lorton Reformatory Chapel by South County Church**. They had their first meeting with the Architectural Review Board two months ago. They will be coming back in the New Year for approvals, and they also will need to go through the Virginia Department of Historical Resources for changes to the building. This week they received chairs from a church that had a few hundred extra in Georgia.

#### **Environmental and Parks Committee, Co-Chairs Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger**

Mr. Rumberger brought up **Furnace Road cleaning**. The whole road was cleaned about 4 months ago, but now driving it just last Wednesday there are 10 truck tires left alongside of the road. There are a couch, bags of trash, all sorts of stuff, and it goes from the entrance at Mordor Drive all the way to the citizen entrance up at the very top of Furnace Road. There's something that's happening there in the off hours, and people aren't seeing that there are four signs that say, "No dumping." That needs some additional enforcement, and if you could coordinate with Captain Stancampiano's office, we'd appreciate that

**Noman Cole update**. We had an excellent presentation from Mike McGrath on the pending renovation and improvements to the Noman Cole Water Treatment plant, located on Route 1, directly across from Gunston Plaza. The scope of it is amazing. I was very, very pleased to see some of the things that are going to be happening there. One of the concerns we continue to hear, and one of the things that is recognized in our 2040 task force is that area immediately across the street is going to receive some intensive redevelopment. Odor is the number one issue there. Not sure what else we can be doing about that. Given the fact that we're going to be receiving more with the piping project that's going from the County down from the Tysons area. We need to call that out and see what can be done in order to get that down to zero odor. If you go by the same water treatment facility in Arlington on Glebe Road, you're not 40 feet from that and there's no smell. I know Arlington is not the same output, but I do think there's probably something else we need to look at. Mr. McGrath is owed a greater amount of money and a greater leeway to get his plant up to the specifications to be able to handle that, or the County needs to redirect some of that waste to other places.

**Air quality monitoring**. It's our understanding that Reworld had been putting in some new air quality detectors on their boundary, which was announced about a year ago. We don't have any other information on that. We would like to know what exactly is being checked, how it's being checked, and where that's been published. So that's perhaps a separate issue for us to have with Mr. Cammerata from Reworld and find out what's going on there. I asked Supervisor Storck on the Reworld contract, it used to be every 5 years. I very much appreciate the fact that Reworld has been letting us know when they have to do boiler cleaning and so that there would be announced times when there would be a loud





General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

noise coming from there. Living here for 34 years, that's the first time I've seen the regularity of that happening

Mr. Clark discussed **Overlook Ridge Park**. Supervisor Storck stated that they're very close, and there'll be an announcement soon, so I can't say I'm waiting with bated breath, but I'm waiting with bated breath, It'll stay on the agenda for January, February, maybe into March, and we'll see when the announcement and the agreement is actually made. In the meantime, like any good government program, it's slipping to the right.

Mr. Rumberger noted it's too early to give any feedback concerning the park budget. We're looking at whether or not there are monies being included in the operational budget for the Park Authority, for the potential opening of Overlook Ridge, because that will have some budget impact. It'll have a staff and a maintenance component. We haven't seen any numbers on it yet, and haven't seen anything brought up about it, because technically, it's not part of the system yet.

#### **Transportation Committee, Co-Chairs Peter Weyland and Dale Rumberger**

Mr. Weyland noted that Supervisor Storck covered a number of transportation issues this evening as have Mr. Hermerding and Mr. Jenkins.

On Pohick sidewalk, Mr. Rumberger stated the last conversation we had on that with the Supervisor's Office was that VDOT was completing a scoping study. It's 45 days for that study and to see whether or not a signal is warranted as at Southrun and Silverbrook, will go 90 days. 135 days to make a decision is the speed at which we make decisions in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the County of Fairfax. I'm not surprised that we don't have an answer yet on Pohick Road. I'm not surprised that the pork chop on Silverbrook Road at Lorton Road doesn't have enough money. I wish I had more on that. The dismaying part out of it is that the CSX Bridge replacement, which was guaranteed to be a part of the Long Bridge is now phase 2. BRT Study, we are phase 3. If there can be a phase 4. I'll be looking forward to that announcement because everything is not only being pushed downriver, it's not necessarily reflecting anything within our interest to get it taken care of. The barrel bridge just off of Old Colchester is still an issue. On the Pohick Road sidewalk, I'll believe that when I see crews out there, ribbons hanging from trees and dirt being moved.

Mr. Weyland discussed the synchronizing of traffic lights. If anybody has any suggestions, such as the light at Route 1 and Telegraph leaving Old Colchester crossing Route 1. That light is probably like 5 seconds green for 5, maybe 8 seconds. It's not long enough to get across the intersection, if there's more than two cars. If anybody else has any issues with any of the lights throughout the South County area, contact by email.

**Comment from Linwood Gorham**, I don't know if you've ever tried to come Route 1 south and turn left at the light at Telegraph and Old Colchester, but it's really weird after everything else. Turn left when the other left turn from the other direction, goes for a short period of time. If you're talking to them about that extremely short straight crossing, maybe that could be brought up at the same time. **Answer**, will do.

**Comment from Ben Hermerding**, that is something we can have VDOT do through Delegate Tran's office. I'll figure out who represents that area and we'll request a study of that intersection.

**Comment from Miss Campbell in the Zoom chat**, the intersection at Route 1 with the Library also needs to be checked.



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

**Question from Mr. Rumberger to Mr. Hermerding,** An area was assigned a transportation district, and that there were six districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia. There's now at least three citizen-appointed jurisdictional groups that affect transportation. The Commonwealth Transportation Board, the NRVTA, etc., that you can go to except the Secretary of Transportation in order to call attention to something and move it forward, because it seems like there are just conflicting fiefdoms that that you don't understand why it takes so much to get something very simple, a timing of a light, a reduction of a speed limit, a transportation study. Am I misreading that? Because, as I started to delve into this, you'd started to get into whether or not those monies have been allocated through the Commonwealth Transportation Board. You have to ask yourself how much of this is going to bureaucracy, and not anywhere else? **Answer,** that's a great point. I was emailing about a project further west, outside of the South County Federation. He asked us about this project, and it was a FCDOT project. I told him, this is a county project, and this is who you're going to want to contact. He responded with frustration, which I completely understand, saying, all of this is Byzantine, like I can't navigate it. I just want somebody to fix it. VDOT is split into regions and that is just for the administration of VDOT. It feeds up to the Commissioner of VDOT, and then the Secretary, and to the Governor. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was started years ago as a regional mechanism. They found that if we are doing rail projects or bus projects, or some other vary of project varied projects Fairfax County doing it alone, didn't make any sense. Same with Arlington and Alexandria, and all of the other Northern Virginia counties. It was a regional initiative, and that's why that organization exists. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) allocates the funds. The Department of Transportation made their recommendations to the CTB. The CTB responded by saying, "here is what we are going to fund." That process was rife with problems and corruption. Kathy Tran would say, "I want this project done," and they would say, "We like Kathy Tran, we're going to do it," and then Rozia Henson would ask for something and they'd say, "We don't like Rozia Henson, we're not gonna do it." They created this giant funding mechanism that rates a project based off of a variety of factors. They have to vote on projects, but they can make some changes to it. Sometimes VDOT, when they don't want to do something, will delay it by administrative means.

#### **Public Safety Committee, Chair Jonathan Kiell**

Mr. Kiell made a couple of quick announcements. The **December meeting of the Franconia District Citizens Advisory Committee** will be on Wednesday, December 18th at 7 pm at the Franconia Government Center.

**Major Alan Hanson,** who was the commander of the understaffed Lorton Police Station, has retired. Captain Anthony Stancampiano is now in charge and alone, awaiting if another major is to be appointed. Captain Stancampiano stated that at the end of December or beginning of January there will be a bunch of moves that'll be happening in the Police Department, due to retirements. He does think they will replace Hanson. We have 150 vacancies in the police department still, and we have 47 in the Academy that is graduating on Thursday. There are 30 more in the next session that in the middle of their Academy class. That translates to 220+ down on the street, because there's 150 positions vacant. The station was designed for 70 officers, you could understand why it's taking so long. The 47 graduates will go into field training and then once complete they'll be assigned. Deputy chief Jack Herlock, who you may have seen at the in person meeting, will be retiring in at the end of this month as well with 41+ years of service.



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7 pm

Kiell also noted it is the holiday season and people are testing the alcohol limits. We want everybody to be safe, be careful on the roads.

**Comment from Wendy Henley**, attended the West Springfield Community Action Community meeting held this month at the Lorton Police Station. It was an incredible meeting and thank you for hosting.

**Captain Stancampiano replied**, we're trying to more things at Lorton, such as classes and other meetings.

#### **Education Committee, Chair Wendy Henley**

James Fenton gave an update on the **School Boundary Review**. He attended the school boundary review meeting that was at Mount Vernon High School. There was 44 tables set up, and every table had a team and they had to answer 4 questions. Some issues that were stated were a reduction in transportation times, equity between schools and access to programs, schools as the epicenter of the community, include students and get their input for this boundary, keep disruption to a minimum for the staff and students. There were a lot of suggestions, put down on butcher paper, and all the materials were collected at the end of the night.

**Question from Wendy Henley**, how many people attended that meeting? **Answer**, 44 tables, 6 people were at each table. So that was between 200 and 300 people.

Mr. Fenton also noted there has been misinformation about the study. Nothing is in concrete, nothing is preplanned. It's all under review right now. There's a move in Clifton not to change anything and they have an organized group there.

#### **Meeting adjourned**

**President Henley** adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm, wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and happy new year. The next scheduled meeting is on January 14th, 2025 at 7 pm on Zoom.

#### **Action Items**

- Wendy Henley to draft a letter to Congressman Connolly's office regarding the discrepancy in DoD funding for students in Fairfax County compared to other areas like Hawaii.
- Keith F. Shovlin to update the November meeting minutes with the revised language about the dairy facility and post them.
- Henley to send a Zoom invite to Matteo Dunn for the February 11th South County Federation meeting to present on school boundaries.
- Peter Weyland to submit requests for traffic light timing studies at Route 1 and Telegraph Road intersection, and the library and Route 1 intersection.
- Shovlin to present the Sport Rock proposal concerns at the Architectural Review Board meeting.
- Diego Cabrera to follow up on the Furnace Road dumping issue and coordinate with Captain Stancampiano's office for increased enforcement.
- Dale Rumberger to pursue information on when the \$2+ million allocated for playing fields adjacent to the central green (redirected to Mount Vernon Rec Center) will be returned.