

SCA Newsletter
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Troubling Gap in Permitting Process

The growing last minute opposition to the construction of the huge Global Mission Church on agriculture lands in Frederick County with access from a 'Rustic Road' in Montgomery County reveals a significant lack of oversight by County Officials. The problem seems to be with the entire permitting process.

If a similar structure was proposed for Montgomery County land, the permitting agencies would notify other relevant County agencies, non-profit watchdog groups and the general public. Community meetings and formal hearings would be required so that at the end of the process, interested parties would have an opportunity to sway the final decision.

The Global Mission Church was able to obtain all of the required permits to build an access road from Route 109 with a bridge crossing a major stream and cutting through a wooded natural area without any public notice, comments from neighbors or even a dialogue between the various county agencies that control aspects of the process. The project planners employed by the Global Mission Church easily obtained the permits by simply applying to each of the relevant departments.

Someone in Montgomery County government should have anticipated a large negative reaction from the community for the sudden appearance of such a large building complex so close to the Agriculture Reserve. It is Montgomery County that has allowed this project to move forward by not questioning the access road to site. Impacted residents and the entire community should have had an opportunity to be heard before this permission was granted. We urge the County Council, the Executive Office and the various permitting agencies to pay more attention and be more open with all matters that impact the residents of Montgomery County.

The final decision for approval of the Global Mission Church will be the subject of a public hearing before the Frederick County Planning Commission on October 14. SCA is hosting a community forum about hearing at 7:30 on September 15 in the Barn at Linden Farm at 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. For further information visit our website: www.sugarloafcitizens.org.