



January 19, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Board of Managers of Chevy Chase Village has appointed a Building Code Review Committee to recommend changes to the Village's Building Code. Because your business has worked on projects subject to the Building Code in recent years, we are asking for your help.

Over some months, the Board and the Village staff have identified certain inadequacies, confusing provisions, illogical order and inconsistencies in the Building Code. These issues have made the Building Code challenging for architects, contractors and residents to understand and follow, and unnecessarily difficult for the Village staff to administer and enforce. The Committee was established to address these concerns and to recommend revisions that will result in a Building Code that is easy to understand, to administer and enforce, and which will lead to community compliance.

The Committee is seeking input from a variety of sources, inside and outside the Village. As professionals who have received permits for building projects in recent years, we are particularly interested in your views. Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire and share your thoughts with us.

You may sign your name at the end, or return the questionnaire anonymously, whichever you prefer. We would be grateful to receive your response no later than February 15. Please attach additional sheets if necessary to complete your answers. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Thank you,

The Building Code Review Committee:

Greg Dixon Tom Jackson Rob Josephs Marc Weller
Jim Durham David Jones Mary Sheehan Pat Baptiste, Board Liaison

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Building Code Questionnaire

1. Briefly describe the nature of your recent building project(s) (e.g., new home construction, two story back/side addition, kitchen/bath renovation, outside deck/patio, etc.)

2. Check the type(s) of Village permits that were required in connection with your projects(s):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs | <input type="checkbox"/> Driveways and Features at Grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heaters, Generators, Air Conditioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Dumpster | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Storage Unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fences and Walls | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Right of Way License | |

3. Was a variance or special permit from the Board of Managers required for your project? If so, what is your opinion of that process?

4. Was there anything in particular about the lot that complicated the permitting process for you? Corner lot? Irregularly shaped lot? Particularly small or large lot?

5. In planning your project, did you consult the Village Building Code? _____ If so, what was your reaction to the Code? Did you find it helpful? Confusing? Easy/hard to understand?

6. Did you consult “*The User’s Guide to our Municipal Permitting Process for Village Residents and Contractors*”? _____ If so, what was your reaction to the User’s Guide? Did you find it helpful? Confusing? Easy/hard to understand?

7. What was your reaction to the permits that were required from the Village for your project? Were the permits appropriate? Overreaching? Was there any aspect of your project that did not require a permit that you think should have?

8. What is your opinion of the fees that were charged for the Village permits you needed? Reasonable? Too high? Too low? Would you recommend that the Village’s fee schedule be changed? If so, how?

9. Did you experience any Code enforcement issues during the construction process? _____ After construction was completed? _____ If so, please explain and give your opinion of that process.

10. Are there particular sections of the Building Code that you think should be changed? _____ If so, which sections? And what changes would you recommend?

11. Are there provisions that you think should be added to the Building Code that are not currently included?

12. How would you describe your interaction with the Village staff, and Board if applicable, concerning your permitting process? Do you have any recommendations in this regard?

13. Please share any other comments, suggestions, concerns you have with respect to the Village Building Code.

Please return your completed questionnaire, no later than February 15, in the enclosed stamped return envelope to Committee Chair Mary Sheehan, 30 West Kirke Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. If you prefer email, send your comments to MSheehan246@aol.com, or call Mary at 301-652-5726.

Your name, company and telephone number (optional): _____
