Community Feedback and Parks’ Responses

1. 12.5.13, via voice message:
Comment: I am pleased to submit my opinion to restore and preserve the wonderful and worthwhile project. It’s important to preserve our heritage and keep building and stories alive! Thank you for this consideration.

Parks Response: Thank you for your support!

2. 12.14.2013, via email:
Comment: We first moved here 10 years ago and soon learned to love and frequent the Poole’s General Store. Reopening it we feel is a very good idea. LOTS of bike traffic on weekends. Increased use of Seneca Creek State Park.

Parks Response: Thank you for your support!

3. 01.07.2014, comment to staff at community meeting:
Question: Could the Parks’ explore providing handicapped access to the front of the store?

Parks’ Response: We are willing to explore providing handicapped access to the front door. It may or may not be a hurdle, as the State and local historic preservation offices would have to approve it. Parks’ also has a mandate to provide access for all and has staff dedicated to a rigorous review of projects for assure universal handicapped access.

4. 01.07.2014, comment to staff at community meeting:
Comment/Question: The new one-over-one windows on the rear addition seem quite bland and cheap in comparison to the other windows on the building. Could Parks’ provide something better?

Parks Response: The Maryland Historical Trust asked us to provide one-over-one windows on the addition. However, we agree with your comment and will explore other options that might be approvable.

5. 01.10.2014, via email:
Comment: I’m sorry to have missed your very thorough, detailed presentation of the proposals for Poole’s Store, and thank you for sending me your report of the meeting.

I would like to urge you to broaden your attention to what food items might be provided to visitors, and how the area surrounding the store might be made more welcoming. Surely you can do better than “hot dogs and sandwiches”. I remember vividly how enjoyable the chili was that my husband and I would take down to the picnic table near the creek, for lunch break on one of our frequent bicycle trips in that area. At least on weekends, a lot of bicyclists might welcome this chili, or
cappuccino and fresh muffins (ordered from Tami’s, at Travilah and Glen Roads) on a lovely patio behind the store?

I sometimes drive on little country roads north of New York City, into the Berkshires, and have noticed a number of old places that have been refurbished as very unique, attractive spaces - cappuccino bar, good bread, cheeses, good sandwiches and wraps. I would think it might be a very attractive site for bicyclists and tourists, especially with that treasure, the C & O Canal, Riley’s Lockhouse, and the historical schoolhouse close by. Maybe the Canal Trust might get involved, as they did in opening up a number of lockhouses on the Canal, which apparently have been very popular.

I am a "level walker" in this area, and so am especially appreciative of its unique qualities. Years ago, there was published a series of pamphlets of bicycle tours in that area. Could that be reworked and made available? I realize this aspect might be outside your bailiwick, but perhaps someone in the County government might respond to this suggestion.

*Parks Response:* Thank you for your suggestions. They will be shared with others and considered with other issues we are working through for the project.

6. 01.14.2014, comments via email:

**Comment/Question:** It was so nice to meet you at the Poole store meeting. I just got an email address so sorry for the delay. I just wanted to send a note to jog your memory about my suggestion for soft serve ice cream served at a walkup window for the possible food accommodation to be added. This is a very nostalgic aspect for the Poolesville community and the Poole store would get great traffic from River Rd. Families that are hiking or even daily commuters would be enticed by ice cream. It would be like the Twisted Cone at Staub's – here is a link to the closed ice cream parlor area- http://twistedcone.com/. I am happy to elaborate or answer any questions. I love my hometown.

*Parks Response:* Thank you for your suggestions. They will be shared with others who are reviewing the food service criteria. As mentioned at the community meeting, we are already pursuing two food service options, “low level” pre-packaged foods and “moderate level” prepared foods such as hotdogs and sandwiches. Parks can find out whether the Health Department’s moderate level criterion allows soft-serve ice cream to be served. If so, a tenant could have the option of providing it. However, at this time, it’s not clear whether Parks’ will specify what type of foods must be provided in the tenant’s lease. It is also possible that Parks’ might consider food truck vendor leases and, if so, soft-serve ice cream might be popular with recreational and heritage visitors.

In addition, a Q&A summary from the meeting and other submitted questions and responses will be summarized and posted on the project’s webpage this week: http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/cip/seneca_store.shtm

7. 01.18.2014, comments via email:

**Comment/Question:** Sorry this is a bit late---my original comments via your website link did not get to you. I’m thrilled that Poole’s will go back to General Store. The location is the nexus of FOUR (4) trails! Seneca Greenway Trail (east side of stream), Seneca Bluffs Trail (west side of stream) (State managed), Dry Seneca Trail (EPIC managed) and the C&O Canal towpath trail (NPS). There are tons of horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers, dog-walkers etc. using these trails and they all used
Poole’s for a drink or sandwich or just the latest community news. So it will be a real service to community—don’t get too fancy! A picnic table and couple of benches are needed, and a portajohn. Also a message board kiosk.

*Parks Response:* Thank you for your comments. We will take them into consideration.