

Joe Dillon
c/o Resurrection Baptist Church
300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20866

May 14, 2008

Dear Mr. Dillon,

I am writing to you about the site of the new Resurrection Baptist Church that will be built at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Ednor Road in Ashton. As a 30-year resident of the community, I would like to express my dismay at the total clearing of the lot of all mature trees.

It is my understanding that the removal of all the trees was in direct contradiction to a previously approved landscape plan for the site. The tiny replacement trees that have been planted on the site will take decades to mature, and will in no way compensate for the loss of all the mature trees that were removed. This intersection is effectively the gateway to Ashton, which is, according to the Master Plan, "rural" in character. Removing all mature vegetation from a large parcel that serves as the community's entryway is contrary to the Master Plan and to the rural character of our community. It is this rural character that attracted many of us to the Ashton community, and it is a shame to see that character so damaged by the unfortunate transformation of this intersection.

I am writing to request that you work with Robert Kronenberg of the Montgomery County Park and Planning Staff to develop a new landscape plan that will include, among other things, the planting of larger, native trees (2 or 2 1/2" in diameter or more). The trees that were removed cannot be replaced, but as a new member of the Ashton community, I feel that it is your responsibility to respect the wishes of your new neighbors and to do everything in your power to ameliorate the problem.

Sincerely,

Bill & Betsy Madero
20000 New Hampshire Avenue
Ashton, MD

Cc Robert Kronenberg
SSARPC (Sandy Spring Ashton Rural Preserve Consortium)
Isiah Leggett, County Executive