



Sandy Spring-Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium PreserveAshton.net

SSARPC, Post Office Box 518, Ashton, MD 20861

Re: Chevy Chase Bank Building in Ashton
Preliminary Plan Number: 120070580
Site Plan File Number: 820080130

April 9, 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
MNCPPC Planning Board
ATTN: Chevy Chase Bank Building in Ashton
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Chairman Hanson:

The Sandy Spring Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium (SSARPC) Steering Committee commends Chevy Chase Bank personnel for its outreach to the community, presenting the plans, asking for community input, and having a true interactive dialog during the design process. A number of changes were made to the building design because of these community discussions:

- reduction in the number of drive through lanes
- reduction in the size of the building
- change in the type of signage
- moving the building closer to the street, with parking to the rear of the building

There are proposals for development in a number of areas in downtown Ashton. The SSARPC believes that all the developments should be consistent in their design, as much as possible, and conform to the Sandy Spring-Ashton Master Plan. One of the important design concepts that all developments should adhere to is having buildings next to the street and no parking between the buildings and the street. The Chevy Chase Bank design goes a long way towards this concept with an entrance in the front of the building (active store front) and parking in the back of the building. It does include a narrow drive aisle, without parking and made of pedestrian paving, between the building and the street, which is required to accommodate the flow of vehicles on the site.

From the beginning, Chevy Chase Bank wanted to make sure that the appearance of the new bank will fit in with other buildings in the immediate area (e.g., in terms of street landscaping and lighting), and paid attention to details that will make the bank fit into the rural atmosphere of Ashton.

The SSARPC Steering Committee recommends that the Planning Board approve the plan.

Sincerely,

Michelle Layton
Co-chair

Donna Selden
Co-chair