

Herbert Run – Edmondson Ave. Sub-Watershed Investigation (Tuesday, October 2, 2007)

(Participating Stream Watch Committee Team member Kit Valentine)

On October 2, 2007, an investigation was made along a section of Herbert Run off Edmondson Avenue in Catonsville (ADC Map location 41 F-2). This investigation was based on an inquiry from a nearby resident – JM who had contacted our organization and was concerned about the amount of trash and debris in this section of stream. Kit Valentine walked approximately one-mile section of stream beginning at Edmondson Avenue to the Dunmore neighborhood. Along one side of the stream was a residential neighborhood where private property abuts one side of the stream. On the other side, there are a number of businesses close to Edmondson Avenue and then becomes open space area. Businesses along this stream include: Royal Farm Store, Strober Building Supply and Catonsville Transmission (see contact information below). Kit spoke with the Location Manager of Strober Building Supply. He seemed genuinely interested in what our organization was doing and wanted to know what he could do to help. They discussed the concern about any debris overflowing from their dumpsters, as this could be a problem, but this did not appear to be a concern at this time. There was some trash along the parking area next to the fence, but it is our understanding that the manager is willing to correct it. Kit explained that we are going to clean up the stream because all that trash goes into the Patapsco/Chesapeake Bay, and he could help us the most by getting and keeping trash in the dumpsters. He seemed very agreeable to that.

Kit did not have an opportunity to speak with the Catonsville Transmission staff, however, there are several old car bodies parked inside a fenced off area behind their building back next to the stream which may be a potential problem.

A follow up recon was made by Steam Team Members Kit Valentine and Betsy McMillion on January 3, 2008. This recon was conducted to locate suitable trash pick-up locations for a future stream cleanup and to determine where the stream begins to be piped underground. We discovered that the stream begins to go underground in the Dunmore community. We believe that this section of Herbert Run is piped underground from this location in Dunmore to the National Cemetery next to the Charlestown Retirement community. We have conducted previous recons of Herbert Run from this point downstream to the Patapsco River. A cleanup was scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2008, but was rescheduled due to extreme cold weather. Photos of this recon can be viewed at <http://patapscofriend.myphotoalbum.com>.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

FPVHG will work with stream watch volunteer and past "Project Clean Stream" volunteers who live near this area, planning a future cleanup at this site.