

MEETING MINUTES
Tavistock Civic Association Annual Meeting
Talleyville Fire Company Memorial Hall
March 9, 2023

President's Welcome

Tavistock Civic Association Board President Rose Passarella began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed community members and invited guests.

Invited Guests

Kristen Hester, New Castle County Police

M/Cpl. Hester, the NCCo community services for the Tavistock area, provided an update on police activity in the region.

- There has not been significant criminal activity in the Tavistock community over the last three months. There have been reports of theft from cars.
- Police are conducting an ongoing investigation into burglaries in the Greenville/Centerville area. Neighbors are reminded to lock homes, vehicles, and not leave keys in cars.
- Vehicle theft is trending upward in the county, primarily crimes of opportunity. There's also been an increase in theft of higher-end Dodge vehicles.
- There's also been an increase in package thefts from front doors. Police suspect a group of individuals. Residents are encouraged to bring in packages quickly or ask a neighbor to bring them in.
- Police received a call regarding a disorderly subject in Tavistock, who turned out to be a solicitor going door to door. Residents don't have to open the door for solicitors, but should make it known that they're home. All door-to-door solicitors are required to register with the State, and should carry a permit. Homeowners can call the non-emergency number (302.573.2800) with concerns, and police will verify the solicitors are registered.
- The police will be sponsoring a prescription takeback day on April 22 from 10-2 at locations throughout the county.
- Residents can register for Reverse 911 to receive alerts from the police. The police have land line numbers, but encourages residents to register cell phone numbers. An information sheet is attached to the minutes.
- New Castle maintains an online crime map that shows criminal activity around the county. An information sheet to access the map is attached to the minutes.
- The police have received a number of complaints regarding construction noise outside of hours stipulated by county code. Police have spoken with the developer.
- Officer Hester provided a Community Venue Reporting log for the last three months. The log is attached to these minutes.

A resident raised a concern about cars parked on the shoulder of Augustine Cutoff creating a dangerous situation for cyclists. Officer Hester said she would pass the concern to the Delaware State Police community liaison officer.

DelDot traffic team

DelDOT managers Sonya LaGrand, Wendy Carpenter and consultant Nicole Lehnert provided information regarding the status of traffic-calming measures on Mt. Lebanon Road.

- Improvements were made at the intersection of Black Gates Road and Mt. Lebanon Road: Trees were pruned to improve visibility; Stop Ahead signs were installed; a stop sign was replaced; stop lines were painted or refreshed on all approaches; red reflective strips were applied on posts under the stop signs.
- A marked crosswalk and signage were installed on Mt. Lebanon Road near the entrance to the YMCA.
- Striping improvements were completed at the intersection of Mt. Lebanon Road and Rockland Road. Signing improvements are pending.
- DelDOT has considered a "striping only" concept that would include lane narrowing and chicanes. However, there is currently no timetable for the implementation, because the road was recently microsurfaced, and removing existing stripes to apply new ones will damage the road surface.

Resident discussion

- Residents asked whether the striping would be effective, and the DelDOT representatives explained it's a new concept, so effects are not currently known. It's been implemented on Polly Drummond Road but no data is available yet.
- Another neighbor questioned whether narrower shoulders created by the striping concept would leave cyclists with less room and prevent certain residents from parking on the street in front of their homes.
- Rep. Krista Griffith noted that she and Sen. Sturgeon requested additional possible options. Another option would be a multi-million-dollar investment in bump-outs, but it's not clear whether the community would support such a measure. More stop signs are not an option, because frequent stop signs along the road could result in drivers ignoring all signs.
- A police officer at the meeting noted that speeding is a chronic complaint, and in his experience, speed cameras have been the only effective solution for getting people to consistently go the speed limit.

Krista Griffith, State Representative

Rep. Griffith provided an update on activities occurring in the state government. The report included the following:

- DelDOT and state police have launched a traffic safety initiative to address an increase in fatalities and hostile driving. Residents around the state will likely notice more state troopers issuing tickets.
- DelDOT is planning to conduct a study on bike lanes, and will be holding public information session.

- Rep Griffith is continuing efforts to get a data privacy bill considered. She and colleagues are looking at the legislation other states have enacted, but noted that Delaware can't enact a patchwork of legislation that would affect the state's corporate citizens.
- Rep. Griffith is sponsoring a bill that aims to better protect the welfare of abused children in the State.
- The DE House of Representatives voted to legalize and tax marijuana. The bill has gone to the Senate. A similar bill was vetoed last year by Governor Carney, but legislators are now confident they have enough votes to override a veto. Rep. Griffith acknowledged the legalization of marijuana will bring challenges that will likely require additional legislation.

Senator Laura Sturgeon, State Senator

Sen. Sturgeon provided a brief update on activities occurring in the state government. The report included the following:

- Sen. Sturgeon announced classroom teachers in DE public schools will receive a 9% increase in salary in order to compete with neighboring states for teachers and substitutes. Teachers will also be given more flexibility to apply unused sick days for personal and bereavement days.
- Sen. Sturgeon plans to vote in favor of legalizing and taxing marijuana, and said that this time it will pass in the senate and won't be vetoed. She believes it's a shame to lose that revenue to neighboring states that have already legalized it, and agreed with Rep. Griffith that it will require careful regulation.
- Sen. Sturgeon is co-sponsoring a bill to ban single service plastic utensils and polystyrene containers in food establishments.
- The Senator hosts monthly coffee sessions at Brewhaha Avenue North every first Saturday from 1:30 to 3:00.

A resident asked how the additional revenue generated by taxing marijuana would be used. The Senator responded that part of the funds would go towards enforcement and to a social justice fund to mitigate how drug laws disproportionately affected certain communities.

Joe Day, New Castle County Land Use

Assistant Land Use Manager Day provided a brief update on activities occurring in the county. The report included the following:

- Code enforcement report: Tavistock is a nice neighborhood with few code complaints.
- There are two vacant properties in the community. One was cited for a debris violation and had asked for an extension to remove the debris.
- The County has issued 38 residential permits for Columbia Place to date. Of those, 17 have certificates of occupancy and 21 are under construction.
- Community members interested in information like this can search the County [Parcel Search](#).
- All vacant property owners are required to register those properties with the County and pay an annual fee. The County intends to raise annual fees to discourage owners from keeping properties vacant for more than a year or two.

Election of officers

The president opened the floor for nominations for officers. Upon nominations duly made and seconded, the following officers were elected:

President: Eileen Measley
Vice President: Lottie Zapisek
Treasurer: Annie Baker
Secretary: Rob Measley

TCA Board as of March 10, 2023

Position	Name	Email
President	Eileen Measley	emmeasley@gmail.com
VP	Lottie Zapisek	Lovezap2018@gmail.com
Treasurer	Annie Baker	Abaker12@msn.com
Secretary	Rob Measley	rmeasleymd@gmail.com
Area A Rep	Carol Roth	chirsch143@yahoo.com
Area B Rep	Andrew Conine	andrew.conine@gmail.com
Area C Rep	Rose Passarella	rosepass@comcast.net
Area D Rep	Tim Wilson	timew98@yahoo.com
Area E Rep	Brad Haines	haines@comcast.net
Area F Rep	Maria Jose Pacheco	mjpachecor@yahoo.com
Area G Rep	Dave Gazzillo	davegazzillo@gmail.com
Area H Rep	Stephen Bozzo	colsjb.home@gmail.com
Area I Rep	Charlotte Rouviere	charlotteg.r@comcast.net
Area J Rep	Lottie Zapisek	Lovezap2018@gmail.com

Treasurer's report

TCA treasurer Annie Baker reported on income and expenses for the year.

- Fiscal year 2023-2023 ends in April. The community started the year with \$7423.18 and ended with \$13,292.30.
- The community incurred \$15,000 in street tree care expenses, but some of that was offset with homeowner reimbursements.
- The treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2023-2024.

The motion was made by Andrew Conine and seconded by Tim Wilson to approve the treasurer's report and approve the proposed budget. Meeting attendees voted to approve the report and budget with a show of hands and with none opposed.

Dues collection for FY 2023-2024

- The treasurer informed residents that dues collection starts with the Annual Meeting. The deadline to submit dues is May 31, 2023. The timeline is necessary to have funds available when signing the annual tree maintenance contract.

- Homeowners are asked to pay dues promptly, and to submit dues/directories forms to Area Reps or the treasurer.

Committee reports

Block Party

Committee chair Lottie Zapisek provided updates to block party planning for 2023.

- The board agreed at the November meeting to host a block party in Spring 2023. The committee chair asked residents to choose from three potential dates to hold the event: 4/22, 5/13, or 5/20.
- She asked for volunteers to join the committee to help plan the event. Volunteers will be asked to:
 - Meet in person 1-2 times before the party, and communicate via email as needed
 - Brainstorm/organize events, food, set up and clean up, promoting the event

The motion was made by Luis Colon and seconded by Dave Gazzillo to select the date of May 20, 2023 for the Tavistock Block Party. Meeting attendees voted to approve the date with a show of hands and with none opposed. (Rain date would be the next day.)

Deed restrictions

Committee chair Dave Gazzillo provided updates to deed restrictions activity in the community.

- The board was asked to consider and approve multiple requests for changes in the last year. All requests were approved. There are currently two open requests waiting on additional information.
- Dave noted that homeowners know to call their area rep or him to kick off a deed restrictions issue, adding homeowners can do what they like with their homes, as long as the plans conform to the deed restrictions.
- Homeowners don't need to bring work done inside the home to the board, but Dave cautioned that homeowners should make sure projects are compliant with New Castle County codes, and that they've obtained, and posted, the appropriate permits.

Tree Care

Committee chair Frank Maderich provided updates to tree care activity in the community.

- The Emerald Ash Borer infestation of the ash trees on Severn and Taunton Roads is still the major impact on the committee's work. More than 40 ash trees have been removed over the last few years; this will continue.
- There are two major efforts for this fiscal year:
 - The biennial replanting program begins this spring. Planting will take place before the end of April. The civic association has applied for a \$4,600 matching state grant to plant 23 trees. The state will notify the association about whether/how much grant money we receive at the end of March.
 - Plans for annual tree maintenance are in motion. Tree committee members will do a walkthrough in early July to look at each of the community's street trees and assess their condition. Main factors are clearance over the street and sidewalk, need for pruning deadwood, and need for takedown. That information is used to solicit bids for the work,

and then final work decisions are made based on costs and budget. Work is scheduled for after Labor Day.

Columbia Place

Committee chair Frank Maderich provided an update on Columbia Place activity.

- Reybold has all the plans approved by County Land Use to build out on the site.
- Working Group members speak with the owner, Jerry Heisler, from time to time to maintain contact.
- The pace of work on the site is very slow compared to other builders. It seems this isn't unusual for him.
- His emphasis has been on single-family detached homes.
- Work on the attached townhouses was held up in 2022 because of delivery issues of materials.
- He might begin work on the two four-story condo buildings by year-end. These have half of the total dwelling units for the site.

Swale and Storm Drain Maintenance

Committee chair Eileen Measley provided an update on swales and storm drain maintenance.

- Neighbors were reminded that swale and storm drain maintenance are homeowners' responsibility. Each home in Tavistock is built adjacent to utility easements that serve as drainage swales, and many homes also have a storm drain located on or in front of the property. These areas should be kept clear of leaves, branches and other debris to allow water runoff from neighborhood to escape properties and help prevent homes from flooding, and to prevent flooded streets from freezing and creating hazardous driving conditions.
- Before digging on property—and especially in swales—contact Miss Utility at 800.282.8555, or via the website: <https://www.missutility.net/homeowner/--> to identify and mark underground utility lines and cable lines.
- Swale issues between neighbors should be addressed directly with your neighbor. Residents can also call DeIDOT and/or the committee chair Eileen Measley at 215.380.4503 to discuss concerns.

Community safety

Committee chair Dave Gazzillo provided an update on community safety committee activity.

- A neighbor has asked that the board consider asking DeIDOT for speed humps on Burnley Road. Dave said the board will discuss the request at the next meeting, but noted that similar requests have failed two times because the thresholds for volume/speed were not met.
- Dave and attendees also noted that much of the in-neighborhood speeding comes from neighbors. Community residents are asked to follow speed limits, and be mindful of children, pedestrians, and cyclist who also use our streets.

Communications committee

Committee chair Meg Campbell provided an update on communications activity.

- New bylaws were distributed in the fall that reflect the new annual dues ceiling approved in the 2022 annual meeting.

- New directories were distributed in the fall. A new edition will be published in fall 2024. Residents with new contact information should provide it on the dues/directories form, or notify their Area Rep. Updates are made to the email distribution list several times a year.
- Urgent and important messages are shared on the Tavistock website and with emails. Community members wishing to share information on the website or via email must submit it to a board officer for review and approval. Board officers will work with the webmaster to expedite the communication.

501 Mt. Lebanon

Committee chair Carol Roth provided an update on 501 Mt. Lebanon activity.

- Residents have likely noticed renovation and cleanup of the 501 Mt. Lebanon Rd. historic property is progressing rapidly.
- The builder appears to be taking extraordinary care with the renovations and preserving the home's historic elements.

New Business

Joint yard sale with Edenridge

- Edenridge III is holding a community yard sale in April and has invited Tavistock to participate. The board will gather additional details and update the community.

Adjournment

There being no other matters to discuss, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:31.

Next Tavistock Board Meeting

The next TCA board meeting will be held on [day/date/time/place].

Respectfully submitted by,

Meg Campbell
Secretary
Tavistock Civic Association

Attachments:

Police Community Venue Reporting Log
Emergency Notification System Self-Registration Portal
Smart911.com
Senior Roll Call Lifeline
NCCo Crime Map
Mt. Lebanon Road (N227) Traffic Studies & Calming History June 2022

New Castle County Police

Community Venue Reporting

* Note: Rows displayed in bold font are Officer initiated items

Create Date Time	Location	Venue Name	Sector	CAD Type	Final Incident Type	Source
12/17/2022 2:13 PM	700 Block BURNLEY RD	Tavistock	NCC 12	Disorderly person	Disorderly person	CAD
12/19/2022 2:53 PM	700 Block TAUNTON RD	Tavistock	NCC 12	Suicidal Person w/Weapon-In Prog	Transport to Hospital	LEISS
12/29/2022 10:05 PM	700 Block TAUNTON RD	Tavistock	NCC 12	Fraud	Fraud	CAD
1/9/2023 7:41 PM	700 Block SEVERN RD	Tavistock	NCC 12	Suspicious vehicle	Suspicious vehicle	CAD
2/3/2023 10:34 PM	BURNLEY RD @ KILBURN RD	Tavistock	NCC 12	Traffic Violation	Traffic Violation	CAD
3/3/2023 8:43 PM	700 Block TAUNTON RD	Tavistock	NCC 12	Suspicious vehicle	Suspicious vehicle	CAD

What if There's an Emergency? Will 9-1-1 know about them?



Help 9-1-1 protect you and your animals

Smart911 is a free national service provided to you by your local 9-1-1 agency. Create a Safety Profile for your household that includes the vital personal and medical information you would want response teams to have in the event of an emergency. Then if you dial 9-1-1, your profile is immediately available allowing call takers and first responders to assist you faster and more effectively.

Smart911 is a free national service brought to you by the
New Castle County Department of Public Safety
Private and Secure.



Smart911.com™

CREATE YOUR SAFETY PROFILE



Facebook.com/Smart911

Twitter.com/smart911



"By entering critical information online before an emergency, you can help ensure that 1st responders are better prepared to serve you when you call 9-1-1. Help us, help you. Create your Safety Profile today."



Help EMS treat you:

Including information about your family's medical issues – like heart conditions, allergies and stroke history can help to ensure that EMS will arrive with the appropriate equipment and information to help. If you or your family member cannot effectively communicate with 9-1-1, they will instantly know your location and details on what may be causing your emergency.



Help Police protect you:

The more information you provide to responders, the faster they can determine how to assist you. Today when a child goes missing, it takes time for police to obtain a photo of the missing child. With a Smart911 Safety Profile, police will have that photo instantly. By including all the mobile phones that are tied to your home address, police will have your location immediately, even if your call is dropped.



Help the Fire Department rescue you:

In the event of a fire, your Safety Profile can provide detailed information on your home. You have the ability to include information on how many people live in your house, their bedroom locations, if anyone has mobility limitations, and even descriptions of your pets. Additional details can include utility shut off valves, your floor or apt # if you live in a building, and even access points to your home.



Your information is 100% private.

Your family's profile information is completely private and secure. The details you enter on our secure and protected website are only shared with 9-1-1 dispatchers and first responders in the field, and only when you or your family members dial 9-1-1.



Smart911™



NEW CASTLE COUNTY CRIME MAP

Visit the NCCPD link <https://www.nccde.org/238/Police>

CRIME MAPPING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can use the website?

This website is for the use of the general public.

What is Crime Mapping?

Crime Mapping is a free public website that allows police agencies from across the United States to upload their own crime-data so that it can be mapped.

How does it work?

The website provides the public with an easy-to-use tool to view crime information in their communities. The interactive website will allow residents to review crime as well as submit tips in an effort to increase community involvement in investigations. The website also has the option for citizens to sign up and receive crime alerts.

What crimes will be listed on the map?

Assault, burglary, disturbing the peace, DUI, fraud, homicide, motor vehicle theft, robbery, theft, vandalism, vehicle break-in, and weapons charges.

Which crimes' information will NOT be submitted by NCCPD for mapping?

NCCPD will not submit crimes involving sexual assault, drug offenses, and domestic incidents. This does not mean the information will not be released to the public regarding these investigations, but rather that it will not be practice to provide information on these offenses for mapping. Information will be released publicly on a case-by-case basis in accordance to NCCPD standard operating procedures and Delaware Law.

Why not provide crime information for mapping for sexual assault, drug offenses, and domestic incidents?

Until arrests are made, and occasionally even after that, NCCPD does not typically release information regarding sexual assault out of respect for the victim's privacy. Drug offenses, even a minor level arrest, may lead investigators to further information on drug sales in New Castle County; in order to protect those investigations, drug arrests are released on a case-by-case basis. Some domestic incidents police respond to are non-criminal, in the case of criminal domestic incidents- information is not typically released out of respect for the victim's privacy.

How long will information be available on the map?

Crime incidents will be available on the map for 180 days. The default page view shows the user the past 7 days.

Delays in seeing incidents on the map

In order to ensure the information submitted for mapping is accurate, there are a few checks that may cause an upload to be delayed. The incident information must first be written into a report, then approved by a supervisor, and then reviewed by a crime analyst before it is submitted for upload.

**TO VIEW THE MAP FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY, PLEASE
VISIT [HTTPS://ARCG.IS/1UPUGT](https://arCG.is/1UPUGT).**



Emergency Notification System Self-Registration Portal



New Castle County Police Community Services Unit

**Citizen's self-registration is now available
Don't delay, register today!**

The New Castle County Police Department provides the **Emergency Notification System Self-Registration Portal** as a free service to the citizens of New Castle County. The Portal allows citizens to enroll to receive alerts and keep their contact information current. Citizens can remove themselves from the system at any time.

Please use the below link:

<https://nccpd.onthealert.com/Terms/Index/?ReturnUrl=%2f>

FEATURING: • SMS text alerts • Emails • Calls on cell & land lines



New Castle County Police

3601 N. DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720
Phone: (302) 395-8050
Fax: (302) 395-8060

Safeguarding our Communities

Stay Safe Stay Independent



Senior Roll Call Lifeline is a **free** service provided by New Castle County Public Safety that helps you or your loved one to remain safe at home.

It's easy to enroll

Call (302) 395-8159

Or visit ***newcastlede.gov***

**New Castle County Public Safety
Senior Roll Call Lifeline**



Help...is just a phone call away

How it works

Senior Roll Call Lifeline sends you an automated call every morning. If the call is not answered after three attempts, emergency contacts are called and police are dispatched to check on your welfare.

- * You choose when we call
- * Use it long-term or short-term

Benefits of Enrolling

- * No cost to you
- * Maintain your independence
- * Give your family and caregivers peace of mind

It's Easy to Enroll

Call (302) 395-8159

Or visit ***newcastlede.gov***

Mt. Lebanon Road (N227) Traffic Studies & Calming History

June 2022



History

- 2004 – Speed Limit Study
 - 35 MPH Speed Limit was found to be appropriate
- 2004 – Traffic Calming Improvement Options
 - Community ballot did not pass; only 52% of homes were in support



Speed Data Collection

- January 2021
 - Radar Speed Data Collection



- May 2021
 - Automatic Traffic Recorder Data Collection



Crash Data Review

January 15, 2018 – January 15, 2021



Crash Type	# of Occurrences
Angle	3
Left-turn	1
Rear-end	1
Sideswipe, same direction	1
Head-on	1
Bicycle	1
Hit deer	2
Hit-fixed-object (HFO)	1
Backing maneuver	1
Total	12

Current Traffic Studies YMCA Crosswalk

- A marked crosswalk was recommended on Mt. Lebanon Rd near the YMCA
 - Median pedestrian refuge island and RRFBs were not recommended
 - After installation, additional studies should be conducted to see if additional alternatives are warranted to further pedestrian safety at this location
 - Implementation is ongoing
 - A Work Order was submitted in May 2022 to install the signage and striping for the crosswalk



Current Traffic Studies Mt. Lebanon Rd at Black Gates Road

- Stop Sign Compliance Review
 - Work orders were placed in February 2022 to:
 - Trim Foliage along NB Black Gates Road, Install "Stop Ahead" sign on WB Mt. Lebanon Rd, Replace stop sign on NB approach, and Install/Refresh stop lines on all approaches
 - Work order placed in May 2022 to:
 - Install red reflective strips on the posts under the stop signs on Mt. Lebanon Road



Current Traffic Studies Mt. Lebanon Rd at Rockland Road

- Hot Spot Curve Study signage and striping recommendations
 - Striping improvements have been completed
 - Signing improvements not yet completed

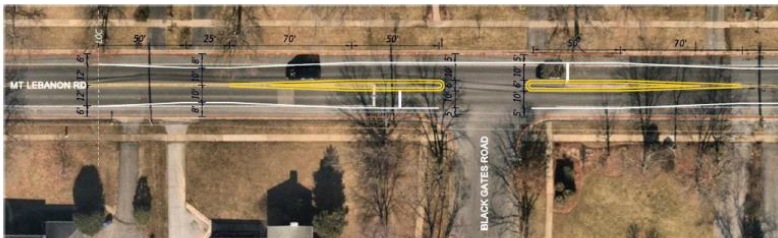


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Current Traffic Calming Efforts

- Previously discussed a Striping Only Concept to include Lane Narrowing and Chicanes at select locations
- After further investigation, it was determined that Mt. Lebanon Road was recently micro-surfaced
 - Striping concepts are no longer recommended, as a means to prevent the deterioration of the roadway



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Future Efforts Pavement Schedule

- Mt. Lebanon Road has been added to the pavement rehabilitation list; there is not a schedule at this time
 - The traffic calming striping concept could be revisited when Mt. Lebanon Road is on the schedule for rehabilitation

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