

GPOA Working Meeting at 1707 Pennyroyal Rd.

Thursday, 6 March, 2025, 2:00pm

Roll Call at 2:19pm

Taylor Andersen (TA) absent excused

Renee Brochu (RB)

Julia Burke (JB)

Doug Cheek (DC)

Andy Early (AE)

Vickie Ryckman (VR)

Hoben Thomas (HT) via Zoom

All board members were present except as noted.

1. Old Business

a. Missing Trespassing signs. The location of the signs is unknown. The Board voted 4 to 2 to let the issue die.

b. Dues refund status. Lacking a policy on dues refund requests, DC will write a policy statement for Board consideration.

c. GPOA Website. RB discussed changes to the website, and the matter of credentials for Board members email access.

d. Directory Committee changes. Discussion concerned matters of the logistics of workflows (i.e., who gets what when) for the forthcoming Directory, especially with respect to changes or additions to the Directory.

e. Going paperless. The discussion revolved around how the GPOA could cut expenses and workload by doing so. It was recognized that e.g., budget information might be posted on line, but matters of voting likely would remain a paper ballot affair. No definitive policy was announced.

2. New Business

a. DC reported current balances were \$49,707 checking and \$30,453 savings; the matter of a contingency fund was also addressed, although no dollar amounts or decision rules for fund allocation were mentioned.

b. Wild Fire Preparedness. Last November Hannah Thompson-Welch, a wildfire mitigation specialist, connected with the NC agriculture agency, contacted the GPOA and offered to assist in an educational and planning project. The Board's idea was that she would write one or more informative Gazette pieces, after which some form of community meeting would be arranged by the Board to coincide with a planned visit by Ms. Thompson-Welch. An

8 December email from HT to Ms. Thompson-Welch which proposed this action plan was not acknowledged. HT has sent her another email hoping to reengage her interest in the community.

c. Front entrance lighting. DC detailed his efforts and ideas for restoring lighting to the Greenbrier entrance island. The options appear to be solar lighting which seems unlikely to be favored because it precludes power availability for any electrified Christmas display, and a potentially costly electrical service wire replacement perhaps facilitated by the city of New Bern. Further details are needed prior to any Board action.

d. Membership status. The last day for 2025 GPOA membership for existing residents is 31 March. The current count of paid members is 392 according to DC. This is well below 2024 with 476 paid, and 2023 with 425 paid (according to a 6 May 2024 note by Bill Kirsch). It was noted that obtaining volunteers for committees is a challenge.

The next public GPOA Meeting: 17 March, 2025

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:23pm.

Hoben Thomas, Board Secretary
9, 14 March 2025