

Darley Civic Association

Highland Woods, Indian Field, Darley Rd

Darley Civic Association Meeting

Wednesday May 3, 2023

Trinity Presbyterian Church

1120 Darley Rd

Treasurer Mark LaVere brings the meeting to order. It has been three years since the last meeting, and the board was dissolved. We are starting new, voting in officers and board members. The following have been voted into those positions:

President, Dan Schmick (Highland Woods)

Vice President, Jackie Bacher (Indian Field)

Treasurer, Mark LaVere (Highland Woods)

Secretary, Ken Velasquez (Highland Woods)

Dan Schmick, the associations newly elected President takes the floor, and asks for new board members. Susan Hartnett (IF), Lois Kennedy (HW), Anthony Uro (IF) voted in, with a possibility of Sean O'Connor (HW) to be confirmed. Dan asks for consensus on doing quarterly meetings, versus previously only meeting twice a year. There is consensus in the room. We will formalize rules for the association in the next meeting.

Dues

Collection of dues is discussed, Treasurer Mark LaVere confirms that July 2023 will be our official start for new dues to be collected. We currently have \$10,637.59 for the association in the bank for plowing, etc.

Anthony Uro, newly elected board member discusses how snow removal works. Anthony has been our point of contact for snow removal.

- We are charged by the inch
- Haven't needed in the past few years
- We have same contract for past two years
- Barrels of sand are placed in neighborhoods, this past year is first year they were covered with lids to protect from the elements
- Residents can ask for a barrel to be placed in their neighborhood - contact Anthony Uro if you want a sand barrel in a certain area. This is only for new barrels, the current ones remain in place.

Welcoming Committee

There is a conversation around a “New neighbor welcoming committee”, and who is on it, as well as thoughts on gifts. The new Welcoming Committee volunteers (discussed later in the meeting) are as follows: Anne Hickey (IF), Lorraine Hewit (IF), Sheila Buckley (HW), and Stephanie Hummel (HW).

Question from the floor

Is the association responsible for getting potholes fixed? Treasurer Mark LaVere remarks it is a DELDOT responsibility (confirmed later by John Cartier, Councilman, District 8).

John Cartier, Councilman, District 8, guest speaker takes the floor

John.Cartier@newcastlede.gov

Phone: 302-395-8348

Mr Cartier welcome back the association, and remarks he will be here for all Darley Civic meetings going forward. He hopes to add value to our meetings. He circulates information from a recent police report, noting that the community is by and large safe, and calls are mostly domestic issues in nature. He makes a point to call local authorities if there is an issue, no matter what. New Castle County Police 302-573-2800. He passes a pamphlet for numbers for services, DELDOT, etc., and state and county numbers. Reminds us that we can call assembly people for things like road repair.

Chancery court

Next subject from Mr Cartier is on Chancery court. New Castle County has been sued for a new property tax reassessment, and is under court order to do so. It revolves around property tax fairness, with similar assessments, and similar taxes. It is underway now at a cost of \$15M to do the assessment, handled by an outside contractor. Assessments will take place by looking from outside of properties, and contractors will have identification on them. There is no charge to tax payers for this reassessment, it has already been paid for by the state, from a \$30M reserve acct. Q: what does it do to current taxes? County is ensuring taxes are fairly assessed, and should be about the same as we are paying, as the county is in good fiscal condition. The county taxes are approximately 80% school, 20% property, though the school districts have their own policies, and are not controlled by the County. Questions regarding school taxes should go to the school district board. Q: resident in room notes her property was already assessed recently, and wants to know if they will be reassessed, and possibly pay more? Councilman Cartier states the county will still assess, but notes that the tax rate will be dropping, so overall taxes should still be about the same amount.

Other questions

Darley Rd.

Resident remarks that Darley Road is not safe exiting the neighborhoods, and asks what can be done. Traffic lights? Who do we talk to? Councilman remarks there may be a need for a

study for possible caution lights, or other means for safety. DELDOT/legislators responsibility to address. New Castle County Police should be contacted for individual driving issues.

Recreational marijuana

A question id posed on how revenue will be used. Councilman remarks it is not county matter, and to contact state legislators. He also notes this is new, and there are still many things to be worked out.

Grub Rd. intersection

A “thank you” goes out to the Councilman for the recent work on the intersection, he remarks that state legislators were responsible for that work.

Tri-State mall

There are questions regarding what will become of that property. The councilman remarks that it will become a warehouse/ecommerce center.

New Claymont Train Station

The new train center will open this September. Q: will SEPTA increase schedule? A: Depends on ridership. The station will have better access, with elevators, more level platforms, and is ADA compliant. They are also working on a 100 acre riverfront park, and how to budget for it.

Dan Schmick, Association President takes back the floor.

The topic of conversation goes back to the Welcoming Committee members (mentioned previously). Names are collected at end of the meeting for that committee. We discuss meeting with the board to figure out what we need for committees for a possible website, signage, potholes, etc., and to ask neighbors, what do we need? A website for neighborhood is a topic many are interested in for a possible directory (email/phone, etc.), used for neighborhood gatherings/parties, etc. Mark notes we used to have a website hosted by Joe Able - Darleycivic.com, but it is now defunct. There is further conversation on the potential for dues payment on the site. There is a question on email collection, the we may discuss in the next meeting. Final remark from the President, Dan will email on potholes on behalf of the civic association.

Motion to adjourn.