

TAVISTOCK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AGENDA

Thursday, June 5, 2025

616 Kilburn Rd.

7:00PM

- **In attendance:** Rose Passarella, Carol Roth, Dave Gazillo, Frank Maderich, Charlotte Rouviere, Lottie Zapisek, Eileen Measley, Robert Measley, Jill Boova, Meredith Stewart-Tweedie, Andrew Depenbusch
- **Meeting called to order at 7:05-** President Eileen Measley
- **Treasurers Report** – Robert Measley (for Annie Baker)
  - 2025 dues collection – \$10,130 so far collected; 74% of total; \$4470 outstanding.
  - Annie proposed to increase Talleyville Fire Co. contribution to \$100 yearly; there were no objections
  - Current budget review- current balance is \$27,220
  - Vote: Approve treasurer's report
    - Dave motioned to approve, Carol seconded, all in favor
- **Committee reports**
  - **Tree committee-** Robert Measley
    - Spring/Summer Walk-through to be scheduled for end of June or early July.
    - Preliminary observation suggests there may only be only 10-12 Ash tree take-downs in the fall. Some of the Ashes are hanging in there longer than predicted!
    - Waiting on Brandywine Nurseries to deliver and plant two warranty replacement saplings.
    - DE Forest Service informed us on May 23 that applications for the "Tree Friendly Community" awards will only be accepted on "even" years for a 2-year status duration. We have been applying every 2 years all along. We are good until 2026.
    - Planting is being postponed until 2026, after the bulk of the Ash take downs have been completed.
  - **Columbia Place-** Frank Maderich- talked to Jerry Heisler, all permits in. Building continues to proceed slowly.
  - **Block Party-** VP Lottie Zapisek reported a great turnout this year- about 140 attended. E3 meeting next week, they will make a decision after the meeting whether they will continue to participate.
  - **Deed Restrictions-** Dave Gazzillo- Re: deed restrictions bill currently moving through the legislature, although currently it has an exception for deed restricted

communities, Dave recommends that we advocate for an improved bill, because if they pass the bill with the exception of deed restrictions this year they can just move to change it or remove it next year.

- An elevated deck is being built at a residence on Kilburn Rd. Vote: Dave moved to approve, Meredith Tweedy seconded
  - A new patio is being built with an outdoor kitchen at another residence on Kilburn Rd. No issues of concern.
- **Storm Drains/swales-** Eileen
  - On Burnley – a neighbor noted pooling of water in a swale, neighbors are reaching out to NC Conservation District ([www.newcastlecd.org](http://www.newcastlecd.org)). Eileen and Frank met with the neighbors to assess the situation and make recommendations.
  - Eileen is working on a new informational handout for the neighbors
  - We welcome Marc Kaplan to the committee as a new member
- **Community Safety-** Dave, Annie, Andrew Conine
  - Police have been parking near the Severn circle and have been ticketing people for cutting through the circle the wrong way
  - A member asked about the curb markings appearing on Taunton, Dave informed the Board that DelDOT will be doing curb repairs in the near future.
- **Website/ Communications committee-** Meg reminds all area reps to inform her of any changes in their areas (residents moving in or out, etc.)
  - Eileen discussed that we would need to pay \$150 extra to upgrade our web-site subscription in order to add other administrators to cover when Maria or Meg are unavailable
  - Lottie mentioned we could use our Facebook page for quick communication also.
- **Old business**
  - Light pollution- Follow up on issue brought up at the Annual meeting by a neighbor. Eileen has been in discussions with the neighbor.
  - Community Outreach (Eileen)
    - Happy hour Pop-ups- first one scheduled for June 20, watch your e-mail for additional dates this Summer
- **New business**
  - “No solicitation” signage with Edenridge (Lottie)- approved by e-mail prior to the meeting. Will use Edenridge signage to stay consistent.
  - Tavistock Facebook page (Lottie)- Edenridge has a Facebook page; we have one already, Lottie volunteered to investigate it for the Fall
  - Distribution of meeting minutes- discussed elimination of paper copies (Jill)
    - Agree to primarily use e-mail to distribute copies, with paper copies for those without e-mail access.

- Roaming neighborhood cat problem (Dave) – No requirements for leashes or shots per the New Castle Co. regulations. Residents are encouraged to keep cats indoors as much as possible in consideration of their neighbors and to minimize negative effects on our songbird population.
- **Next meeting date:** TBD in September
  - **Adjourn meeting:** There being no further business to discuss, the motion was duly made by Dave and seconded by Lottie to adjourn the meeting. The president adjourned the meeting at 8:25PM.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Robert Measley, Secretary

## SWALES AND STORM DRAINS

**BACKGROUND:** We have two interconnected swales systems, the first is in the street in front of your house, the second is in the easement strips behind your properties, both swales flow into the street drains. In a few places on your properties, there may be underground storm sewers (maintained by Del-DOT) that are connected directly to the street drains. In several spots in the neighborhood, you will see catch basins in the backyard swales. Neighbors need to keep the grates clear of debris to enhance drainage.

The swales and sewers were built over 50 years ago. After a time, several things have happened to drainage swales that cause problems. In a few places in Tavistock, the swales are eroding into ditches. In more places, the swales are being blocked by debris, vegetation, silt, and changes made by the homeowner. Some of these blockages are causing wet spots and some ponding or standing water.

The swales are located in easement strips, typically 10 feet wide with 5 feet of the width on each of the abutting properties. If an issue occurs, adjacent homeowners need to work together to correct any problems that have occurred on your shared swales.

Tavistock is a civic association and not a maintenance corporation. Homeowners are responsible for maintenance of the swales. The association can help the home-owners address a problem, but cannot itself correct the problems.

**IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, WHAT CAN BE DONE?** Contacts and discussions have been held with representatives of DelDOT and the New Castle Conservation District. That said, DelDot has stopped assisting homeowners in 2012. In some cases, technical assistance and some times financial assistance can be available from The New Castle County Conservation District,( NCCCD). They still responds well and send a staff member here to look at the drainage swales with us.

In the places where the swales are eroding into ditches, the NCCCD will be able to give advice for controlling the flow and stabilizing the swale floors and edges. In the places where the swales are blocked, the debris and vegetation will have to be removed. There will still be problems where slit and other materials have changed the

slope of the swales and these will have to be removed. If changes have been made by the homeowner for flower/shrub beds and play areas that affect the drainage, then correction will probably have to be made.

This might not be easy. We are fortunate in Tavistock that we have the easement strips behind our properties so that we have buried utilities. Delmarva's electric cables, Verizon's phone lines, Verizon's fiberoptic cables, and Comcast's TV cables are buried in the swales and probably not too deep. While buried utilities certainly enhance the appearance and value of our properties they present problems too. They are in the same easement strips where the drainage swales run. Options for what can be done about drainage will be constrained by these buried utilities. No digging should be done without first getting Miss Utility to mark their locations. Safety first, call Miss Utility before you dig. Call 800-282-8555

The Tavistock Board wants to help facilitate cooperation by our members, provide information gained from the agencies and aid in the consideration of the options. In most cases, multiple neighbors will be involved. If you have a drainage problem and want an opinion on what to do, call Eileen Measley 215- 380- 4503.