

## TAVISTOCK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### AGENDA

Thursday Sept. 12, 2024

616 Kilburn Rd.

7:00PM

- **In attendance:** Annie Baker, Brad Haines, Carol Roth, Dave Gazzillo, Frank Maderich, Rose Passarella, Andrew Conine, Lottie Zapisek, Eileen Measley, Rob Measley.
- The President led the meeting and called it to order at 7:05 PM.
- **Treasurers Report** - Annie Baker
  - CCoBH checks will go out for last year and this year
  - paid circle maintenance today by Zelle
  - [2024] dues collection review
    - All but 2 homes collected; one house is for sale, realtor contacted
  - Current balance is \$26,958; \$125 checks not cleared
  - **Vote:** Approve treasurer's report - moved by Dave, seconded by Brad, no objections, all in favor
- **Committee reports**
  - **Tree committee**- Frank Maderich
    - Anticipated costs borne by the Committee for this year's work will be around \$20,000
    - Work on our fall tree maintenance project (nearly all takedowns) started on Tues., Sept. 10. Two phases: takedowns of tree, then stump grinding.
    - Some neighbors have questioned whether Stein is grinding the stumps deep enough to allow growth of grass afterwards. Stein has assured us that they do. Members of the tree committee will make extra effort this year to observe and verify the stump grinding and debris removal. We added a feature this year to provide a straw cover for the grass seed in the final step to help promote grass take.
    - Frank mentioned as an aside that we require at least \$500,000 liability insurance by the tree company; Stein has \$1 million
    - We met with the Extension Service at UDEL to begin preparation for soil analysis to try to define the problem with tree death in the new plantings at 722 Severn Rd (3 of the 4 trees planted died quickly). The soil is rock hard now and we are discussing options with the Extension Service for controlled watering/hydrating enough soil to obtain the soil samples. Each sample cost \$22. Preliminary attempts at obtaining soil samples have been unsuccessful due to the hardness of the soil. They advised us not to water the soil as it will artificially alter the soil samples; wait for the rains to soften the soil.

- There are 6 varieties of trees that we plant; the Serviceberries are the species that we have had problems with, although many are doing well in other locations.
  - Dave mentioned that there was a gas leak in that location a few years ago and wondered whether that could be contributing to the problem.
  - Frank brought up the nomination of Rob Measley to take over as Tree Committee Chairman as of Oct. Annie nominated Rob and Rose seconded and voting was unanimously in favor.
- **Columbia Place-** Frank Maderich
  - No new communication with the developer. The pace of construction is still slow.
- **Block Party-** VP Lottie Zapisek
  - Edenridge 3 has agreed to give us \$400 for the block party next year with the stipulation that we track RSVP & attendance of E3 members. Last year 2 of the members of the committee were from E3. Lottie will follow up.
- **Deed Restrictions-** Dave Gazzillo
  - No official requests submitted.
- **Storm Drains/Swales-** Eileen Measley
  - Residents advised to keep up w/ the raking of the of the street gutters to keep storm drains clear of debris & minimize flooding. Advised not to blow leaves into the street as they can wash into the storm drains and block drainage leading to floods.
  - Sinkhole Working group- work has been observed on Kilburn by DelDot, “routine” maintenance per verbal communication with one of the workers.
- **Community Safety-** Dave, Annie, Andrew Conine
  - A neighbor is concerned about wrong way traffic on the circle at Taunton. Working with Dee Durham and Kristen on possible options. Considering “splitter island” to direct traffic in correct direction at the circle.
  - Considering a 10-spot parking lot into the woods for the National Park to better accommodate hikers and bikers and reduce congestion at the circle
  - Andrew Conine reported a resident on Taunton on an un-registered gas-powered mini-bike riding in the street. This is against the law and the resident was issued a warning.
  - CVS continues to be a problem, with shoplifting, potential loitering and drug use observed.
- **Website/ Communications committee-** Maria Jose Pacheco and Meg Campbell

- Directory update due for 2024-2026, still collecting the forms, many have been submitted so far
  - A question was raised whether the directory could be published every year, or should we set up a password-protected site?
    - Objection raised that a yearly directory would be too much work
- **Old business**
  - **Community Outreach**
    - TCA Summer Happy Hours- update. Had 2 so far- Zapisek's and Measley's. Annie will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> one on Fri. September 20.
    - TCA Welcome Committee. A new handout made for new residents by Eileen and Meg was distributed to the Board for review. Feedback would be welcomed from the Board. One member of the Committee reached out to ask for help in distributing the information packet when too busy or away. Eileen volunteered to fill in if needed.
    - Suggestion made to publish the new handout in the Directory also, for future reference for our neighbors.
- **New business-**
  - Plan to move the minutes and other TCA documents onto a cloud-based drive such as Microsoft OneDrive. Meg Campbell has offered to do this in the past. The Secretary plans to reach out to her for guidance and help.
- **Next meeting date:** TBD, January 2025
- **Meeting adjourned**
- There being no further business to discuss, the motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The President adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Robert Measley, Sec'y