

**Tavistock Civic Association**  
**Quarterly meeting agenda**

January 9, 2025

616 Kilburn Rd.

7:00 PM

- **In attendance:** Annie Baker, Brad Haines, Carol Roth, Dave Gazillo, Frank Maderich, Andrew Conine, Tim Wilson, Charlotte Rouviere, Lottie Zapisek, Eileen Measley, Robert Measley, Jill Boova, Meredith Stewart-Tweedie
- The president led the meeting and called the to order at 7:04 PM
- **Treasurer's report-** Annie Baker
  - Dues collection: For 2024, 100% of homeowners paid. 2025 dues will be sent out in March; fiscal year starts in April.
  - Tree Committee collected \$14,000 from homeowners to cover Ash take-downs
  - A new expense for this year was \$270 for 3 neighborhood Happy Hours
  - Current budget balance: \$15,909.68
  - Vote: Approve treasurers report, moved by Brad, seconded by Dave, no objections, all in favor.
- **Committee reports**
  - **Street tree committee** - Robert Measley
    - Ash tree removals started second week of September and went well, finishing by 9/17, except for 2 trees done a few weeks later, for a total of 23 trees.
    - Stump grinding was observed by tree committee members and was done according to our contract. It involves removal of all grinding debris to a certain depth and replacement with topsoil. In addition, a layer of straw was used to protect the grass seeds. Overall, the sites look good with good growth.
    - Final payment of \$21,518 was sent out the second week of October.
    - The committee did a walk-through on November 16 to assess potential planting sites. We identified 64 sites on Severn and Taunton.
    - On November 4 the Delaware Forest Service Urban Community Forestry program approved our status as "Tree Friendly Community" for the next 2 years. This makes 24 consecutive years that we have earned this distinction.
    - We reached out to Forestry Service on November 22 with questions about a new requirement for soil testing and the grant application. We were informed that soil testing must be done at each site after the grant is approved. This is a new requirement. They have partnered with Agrolab from Harrington, Delaware to supply the kits, which will cost \$30 each but is a reimbursable expense.
    - On December 18, the tree committee did a trial run on soil testing at the sites where the Serviceberry trees were lost (3 sites, 4 samples). The UD Extension

was closed for the holidays until January 2 and we will not get results for another month.

- Partly because of the new requirement for soil testing and the additional effort that would entail, and a tight deadline of January 31 to submit, we decided to hold off on applying for a grant this year. We still have a busy year with another major ash tree takedown in the fall, with approximately 25 trees left. We can still do a small planting of 10 trees this spring if the budget allows. By 2026 we should be able to shift our focus back to maintenance and planting.
  
- **Columbia Place-** Frank
  - Nothing new to report
  
- **Block Party** – Lottie
  - Edenridge 3 Civic Association has agreed to contribute \$400 to the block party this year. They would like us to track online RSVP's as well as who actually shows up and report Tavistock vs. Edenridge attendance. Two committee members from Edenridge have agreed to be on the committee again for this year. Possible dates for the block party are Saturday May 3 or 17.
  
- **Deed Restrictions** – Dave
  - 2 people contacted us, one for an awning for a barbecue/outdoor kitchen and another for replacing a raised patio. Neither require any approval or intervention by the committee.
  
- **Storm Drains/Swales** – Eileen
  - Residents again are advised to keep up with the raking of the street gutters to keep the storm drains clear of debris and prevent flooding. We advise residents not to blow leaves into the street as it can wash into the storm drains and block drainage, leading to floods and formation of ice. Residents are also advised to keep the backyard swales clear of leaves and debris to allow proper drainage.
  - Sinkhole working group - no further work has been done by DelDot. They did not respond to our inquiries yet. Per our representatives, the Conservation District has received funding to help with issues of drainage mitigation.
  - One member has observed that the last speed bump on Garden of Eden Rd near the trail head seems to be sinking. The board will contact DelDot to look into it.
  
- **Community Safety** – Dave, Annie, Andrew
  - 1 domestic dispute called in on Taunton Road and was resolved peacefully with no arrest.
  
- **Website/Communications**
  - No report for this meeting
  
- **Old business**

- Taunton Circle update- drivers observed going the wrong way around the circle. A work order was submitted to replace the signage with larger, clearer signs (as of this writing, the work has been completed). The Board will ask the County police to monitor and issue tickets for a few weeks. A suggestion was made to send out e-mails reminding residents not to go the wrong way in the circles.
- Community outreach
  - The 3 summer happy hours were considered a success and the committee voted to fund more for 2025. Total Expenditure was \$270. Tim moved, Meridith seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- **New business**
  - There have been several recent power surges, one in the summer due to a underground transformer fire, and the most recent on December 19 due to a tree down, which caused widespread damage to resident's appliances and other electrical equipment. Dave Gazillo provided further information and will call Delmarva for an update. It was suggested that an email be sent out to homeowners once we obtain more information about the power surges. It was suggested to invite Delmarva to our annual meeting in March for Q&A.
  - We have acquired original deeds for Tavistock from Woodlawn Trustees. More historical material may be available and we may be able to distribute them to current homeowners in the future.
  - Edenridge 3 Civic Assoc. informed us that their yard sale will be held on March 29.
  - Lottie has volunteered to be the Edenridge "liaison" to facilitate improved communication between our neighborhoods. All members were in favor.
- **Next meeting date:** March 3, 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 8:05 PM.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Robert Measley, Secretary.

