

MEETING MINUTES

Tavistock Civic Association Annual Meeting

Talleyville Fire Company Memorial Hall

March 19, 2024

President's Welcome

Tavistock Civic Association Board President Eileen Measley began the meeting at 7:05 PM. She welcomed community members and invited guests. There were 25 in attendance.

Invited Guests

Kristen Hester, New Castle County Police

M/Cpl. Hester was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Contact her at 302-395-8059.

Joseph Day, Assistant Land Use Manager

Mr. Day provided a brief update on activities occurring in the county. The report included the following:

- Currently there is 1 open case and 1 vacant house. There have been very few complaints.
- Residents are encouraged to report code violations issues by calling 302-395-5555. You can also report them online and by e-mail.
- New legislation in the works include one for Pollinator gardens and one addressing fencing guidelines
- Pollinator garden rules are being revised and expanded: up to 25% of front yard and 50% of back yards allowed; at least 2 native species, and no height restrictions
- Fencing codes being re-defined. Height will be reduced from 6 ft. to 4 ft. in front yards, which is superseded by deed restrictions such as we have in Tavistock.

A neighbor asked about the vacant house on Kilburn and mentioned that there was break-in on 01/30/24, which the police confirmed. Mr. Day replied that he stopped by before the meeting and noticed that there is a code violation now (brush debris in front yard). He re-iterated that while it is not against the law to have a vacant house, but it must be adequately maintained. He also mentioned that the owner attended a hearing last year and stated that he comes to the house every weekend.

Krista Griffith, State Representative

Rep. Griffith provided a brief update on activities occurring in the state House of Representatives. The report included the following:

- The House has been in session since January
- Bills to require a permit to purchase handguns requiring a firearms training course passed; an amendment to allow voting by mail; an A.I. use in government operations bill is being introduced by Rep. Griffith.
- Although her newsletter has lately been dormant, she is planning to start it up again at least quarterly. Residents may e-mail her at krista.griffith@delaware.gov to get on the list.
- State budget is being balanced as required by the constitution; an extra \$70M was found but will be used to cover higher than expected medical costs.
- You may also contact Ryan Bond, her aide at ryan.bond@delaware.gov for any issues or questions

Resident discussion

- Residents reported a large pothole at the circle of Severn and Taunton
- The VP thanked her for the recent Mt. Lebanon repair project; she also asked about any legislation around school policies re: student gender issues, there wasn't any legislation, recalled Rep. Griffith.
- Another resident asked about the Mt. Lebanon traffic study since installing the "smiley face" sign at Severn Rd. A report has been completed and will be forwarded to the Board.

Senator Laura Sturgeon, State Senator, 4th district laura.sturgeon@delaware.gov

Sen. Sturgeon provided a brief update on activities occurring in the state government. The report included the following:

- A busy several months; there will be a balanced budget, an additional \$14.8M will go towards healthcare costs.
- Road projects will be affected by the lower revenues
- She welcomes inquiries at the above e-mail regarding concerns such as potholes, road paving projects, trouble with state agencies, etc.

- Discussed her efforts to obtain pay increased for teachers, now almost on a par with surrounding states. Referendum reform is needed in DE, but school boards voted against it.
- Education, energy and environment are her main areas of focus

Election of Officers

The president opened the floor for nominations for officers. Upon nominations duly made and seconded, the current officers were unanimously re- elected for another year’s term.

TCA Board as of March 19, 2024

Position	Name	Email
Officers		
President	Eileen Measley	Emmeasley@gmail.com
Vice-President	Lottie Zapisek	Lovezap2018@gmail.com
Treasurer	Annie Baker	Abaker12@msn.com
Secretary	Robert Measley	rmeasleymd@gmail.com
Area Reps		
Area A rep	Carol Roth	Chirsch143@yahoo.com
Area B rep	Andrew Conine	Andrew.conine@gmail.com
Area C rep	Rose Passarella	resepas@comcast.net
Area D rep	Tim Wilson	Timew98@yahoo.com
Area E rep	Brad Haines	haines@comcast.net
Area F rep	Maria Jose Pacheco	mjpachecor@yahoo.com
Area G rep	Dave Gazillo	davegazzillo@gmail.com
Area H rep	Stephen Bozzo	Colsjb.home@gmail.com
Area I rep	Charlotte Rouviere	Charlotteg.r@comcast.net
Area J rep	Lottie Zapisek	Lovezap2018@gmail.com

Treasurer’s report

TCA treasurer Annie Baker reported on income and expenses for the year.

- Fiscal year 2023-2024 ends in April. The community started the year with \$16,833.75 and ended with \$11,243.68.
- The community incurred \$33,074 in street tree care expenses, which was offset by \$13,111 in homeowner reimbursements, and \$4600 in a matching grant by the state for plantings.

- The treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2024-2025

The motion was made by Meg Campbell and seconded by Karen Gripp to approve the treasurer's report and approve the proposed budget. Meeting attendees voted to approve the report and budget with a show of hands and with none opposed.

Dues collection for FY 2024-2025

- The treasurer informed residents that dues collection period is from March 18 through May 31, 2024.
- Homeowners are asked to pay dues promptly, and to submit dues/directories forms to their area reps or the Treasurer.

Committee reports

Deed restrictions/Community Safety

Committee chair Dave Gazzillo provided updates to deed restrictions activity and community safety in the community.

- There were no new issues to report.
- Jeff Porter is the back-up for deed restrictions.
- A question was raised about sidewalk maintenance. They are not covered by any deed restrictions; they are the responsibility of the owners.
- A question was asked about excess street parking. There are currently no restrictions. Use common courtesy, don't block driveways or mailboxes.
- Another question asked re: temporary storage pods. There are no restrictions in the by-laws.
- The President mentioned the Delmarva website for reporting streetlights out, which is very easy to use and gets prompt results. Another attendee asks about whether they would install any additional streetlights as some areas are very dark at night. Dave answered that those lights were installed in the 1970's as an optional purchase for the homeowners and Delmarva is unlikely to install any more.

Street Tree care

Committee chair Frank Maderich provided updates to tree care activity in the community.

- We planted 24 new trees last year, using a matching state grant from the Dept. of Forestry for \$4600. Our Fall project will involve primarily more Ash tree take-downs. We cut down 17 trees last year; there are about 50 more still standing that will need to come down.

Columbia Place

Committee chair Frank Maderich provided an update on Columbia Place activity.

- The pace of work on the site remains slow. Otherwise, no new updates.

Swales and stormwater management

Committee chair Eileen Measley provided an update on swales and stormwater management.

- Neighbors were reminded that swale and storm drain maintenance are homeowners' responsibility. Each home in Tavistock is built adjacent to utility easements that serve as drainage swales, and many homes also have a storm drain located on or in front of the property. These areas should be kept clear of leaves, branches and other debris to allow water runoff from neighborhood to escape properties and help prevent homes from flooding, and to prevent flooded streets from freezing and creating hazardous driving conditions.
- Before digging on property—and especially in swales—contact Miss Utility at 800.282.8555, or via the website: <https://www.missutility.net/homeowner/> to identify and mark underground utility lines and cable lines.
- Swale issues between neighbors should be addressed directly with your neighbor. Residents can contact the committee chair Eileen Measley at 215.380.4503 to discuss concerns.
- 3 sinkholes associated with a storm drain were found recently on a Tavistock property. Although DelDot used to address and fix these in the past, since 2012 they no longer do. In this case, the New Castle Conservation District had discretionary funds and came out to inspect the site and ultimately fixed the problem, which was caused by leaky pipe joints. As a result of this event, there will be a sinkhole working group formed to include Eileen, Tim Wilson and Frank Maderich. According to Lauren Madeline, DNREC has money to fix sinkholes/debris pits on private property (easements are considered private property).

Communication

Committee chair Meg Campbell provided an update on communications activity.

- The dues and directory update forms will be distributed soon. A new directory is coming out in Fall 2024. Neighbors are reminded to fill out the forms even if you are paying electronically via Zelle.
- The minutes to the Board meetings and the Annual meeting are posted on the Tavistock website. Urgent and important messages are shared on the Tavistock and with emails. You can sign up on the website to receive e-mails. Community members wishing to share information on the website or via email must submit it to a board officer for review and approval. Board officers will work with the webmaster to expedite the communication.

Block Party

Committee chair Lottie Zapisek provided updates to block party planning for 2024.

- Last year's was held on May 20 and was a success, with 125 attendees from Tavistock and Edenridge. **This year's will be on Saturday, May 4 from 3-6PM in the same location as last year's, at Kilburn and Taunton.**
- Lottie is asking for volunteers to join the committee to help with planning.
- Eileen will be sending out a "sign up genius" web-based form to volunteer.

New Business

Joint yard sale with Edenridge

- Once again, Edenridge III is organizing a community yard sale which will be on April 20 this year and has invited Tavistock to participate. Annie will send out more information soon.

Adjournment

There being no other matters to discuss, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:19.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Measley

Secretary

Tavistock Civic Association

Attachments:

2023-2024 Treasurer's Report/2024-2025 Budget

	2023-2024 actual	2023-2024 budget	2024-2025 budget	comments
STARTING BALANCE (04/01/23)	\$ 16,833.75		\$ 11,243.68	
REVENUE				
state grant for tree	\$ 4,600.00			
DELDOT Snow Reimbursement Program				
dues collection	\$ 13,540.00	\$ 17,360.00	\$ 17,360.00	\$3460 of 2023-2024 dues was collected at the end of 2022-2023 fiscal year (March 2023)
homeowner paid tree expenses	\$ 13,111.00		\$ 14,700.00	
TOTAL 2023-2024 REVENUE	\$ 31,251.00	\$ 17,360.00	\$ 32,060.00	
EXPENSES				
Annual Meeting Sign		\$ -		
Block Party	\$ 1,668.19	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,600.00	
Franchise Tax		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	
CCOBH-Dues	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	
Civic League for NCC dues		\$ 25.00		
Copying & Supplies Reimbursement	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	block party flyers
Circle Maintenance-KLS	\$ 620.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00	
Directory & deeds restriction production		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
Snow Plow Contract	\$ 1,210.00	\$ 2,420.00		Ramsey charged half in 2023-2024 due to no snow prior year
Website Hosting Expense	\$ 143.88	\$ 120.00		
Talleyville Fire Company donation	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		
Transaction fees				
Tree Treatments, Plantings, Pruning, Removals	\$ 33,074.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	removal 21825 + planting 9900
TOTAL EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 36,841.07		\$ 25,620.00	
ENDING BALANCE (03/18/2024)	\$ 11,243.68		\$ 17,683.68	
Prepared by Annie Baker 03/18/2024 for annual meeting				
IRS for 990N submitted 06/12/2023				