

Tavistock Civic Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2021  
By Zoom call, 7pm

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**In Attendance:** Meg Campbell, Andrew Conine, Luis Colon, Dave Gazzillo, Brad Haines, Frank Maderich, Carol Roth, Rose Passarella, Jeff Porter, Charlotte Rouviere

The president called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer provided a report highlighting the following items:

- The Association's current balance is \$8,648.53.
- Total expenses to date in this fiscal year: \$14,637.50.
- The report is attached.

Dave Gazzillo motioned to approve the treasurer's report, and Jeff Porter seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous vote.

### **2020 Dues collection**

- \$440 in dues are currently outstanding for 2020. Six homeowners have not yet paid.

### **2021 Dues collection**

- The board decided to begin dues collection in late spring/early summer again this year and use September 1 as a deadline. In 2022, the board looks to return to a June deadline to align dues collection with the association's fiscal year.

**ACTION ITEM:** Treasurer will provide area reps with collection materials; materials will include due date for 2021, and plans for 2022.

- E-payments of dues: This item was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Tree Committee**

- The emerald ash borer (EAB) has continued to spread in the ash trees on Severn and Taunton Rds.
  - This was anticipated since 2007 as the EAB moved east from Michigan.

- It manifested in June 2020 when the committee found 14 trees infested. Nine of those trees were removed in the fall of 2020.
- Reports from residents and observations say that the EAB infestation is spreading.
- Plan of action
  - The tree committee did its regular inspection of all street trees on Saturday, May 28 to assess the condition of each tree. Inspection results will be used to prepare a tree list for a bid request for work to be done in the fall.
  - The committee will expand the assessment of each tree. In addition to considering issues like clearance, deadwood, and need for structural pruning or removal, they'll conduct a fuller assessment to learn about the rate of spread and the rate of failure of infested trees.
  - Ratings will be made of canopy loss, canopy density, EAB hole density, and density of sucker growth and woodpecker activity.
  - The board will hold a special meeting in later summer/early fall to discuss the committee's findings and discuss the possibility of raising dues to meet additional expenses for taking down and replacing infected trees.
- Several area arborists were asked to provide pricing for treating ash trees, and also to address spotted lanternfly infestations. At the time of the meeting, only one arborist had provided information:

Davey Tree Service

Bill Graham, [bill.graham@davey.com](mailto:bill.graham@davey.com)

#### **EAB**

- A community-wide price per yard is not available, because homeowners have different landscaping
- Davey will charge Tavistock homeowners \$12 per diameter inch to treat infected trees. If a tree is 50% infected, they won't treat the tree. For trees that are under 50% infected, treatment consists of a root-borne insecticide which is repeated every two years.

#### **Spotted lanternfly**

- Treatment and pricing depend on the type of plants and other factors.

#### **Columbia Place**

- New construction and landscaping continue at the site.
- The developer provided detailed drawings to support the proposed deed restriction regarding the architectural features on the roofs of the condo buildings. Working group members will provide suggestions for deed restriction language to supply to developer.
- A neighbor on Severn Road reached out to the Area Rep to report problems with a large flock of geese in the backyard coming from the stormwater pond on Columbia Place, and also complained of bugs. A Working Group member reached out to the developer. He said he is aware of the goose problem and is looking at different solutions, among them contracting a border collie

service to scare away the geese. He also said an aerator would be installed soon in the pond, which he said would solve insect issues.

- A meeting attendee that noted the JCC is also contending with the same gaggle of geese, and has used the border collie service, which has been effective.

### **Deeds Restrictions**

- Homeowners have reached out to discuss plans for fences and additions to the committee chair, but none had submitted projects for review and approval at the time of the meeting.

### **Swales and stormwater drains**

- The chair reported that there have been no issues since the last meeting, and that swales and storm drains appear clear.
- Neighbors are reminded to inspect their backyard swales and keep them clear of yard debris.

### **Community Safety**

- The community is waiting for word from Rep. Griffith regarding a stop sign at the corner of Kilburn and Taunton.
- There is a request for another stop sign at the corner of Burnley and Kilburn. The committee chair will share the request with elected officials.
- A homeowner has offered to work with the committee to address traffic issues at the circle. Committee co-chairs will follow up.
- New homeowner Andrew Conine will join the Community Safety committee.

### **Website/Communications**

- The board discussed the memorandum provided by communication committee members regarding upgrading the Tavistock website and email alert system.
- The memorandum is attached.
- Dave Gazzillo motioned to approve the committee's request for additional funds to create an official email and more robust email alert system, and Carol Roth seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**ACTION ITEM:** The treasurer will include the increased expense in the budget for the new fiscal year.

### **501 Mt. Lebanon**

- The developers notified the community that they will no longer pursue their project, after the historic preservation commission denied their request for added square footage. They are putting the property back on the market.

#### Old Business

- **Traffic calming plan for Mt. Lebanon Road.** No new information was available at time of meeting.

#### New business

- **Noise request.** A resident reached out to their area rep to ask that homeowners be reminded to be considerate when playing music outdoors.
- **2021 Annual meeting.** The board agreed to hold an in-person meeting in the fall at the Talleyville Fire Company Hall.

**ACTION ITEM:** The secretary will call to get availability for the Fire Hall in September and October.

There being no further business to discuss, Dave Gazzillo made the motion to close the meeting, seconded by Carol Roth. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The president called the meeting to a close at 8:20 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Meg Campbell