

Tavistock Civic Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2020  
By Zoom call, 7pm

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**In Attendance:** Annie Baker, Steven Bozzo, Meg Campbell, Dave Gazzillo, Brad Haines, Frank Maderich, Carol Roth, Rose Passarella, Jeff Porter, Charlotte Rouviere, Tim & Kathy Wilson

The president called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the report and highlighted the following items:

- The Association's current balance is \$3,252.53.
- A copy of the budget is attached.
- Taxes were filed on 7/15/2020.

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**

- Area Reps received dues collection materials from the Treasurer over the weekend.
- October 31 is the deadline for submitting dues and directory changes, but residents are encouraged to submit as soon as possible.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Tree Committee**

- The emerald ash borer has hit the whole state of Delaware. It has moved into ash trees on Severn Road and Taunton Road. Fourteen street trees are infested.
- The tree committee conducted an inspection, and reached out to the State Urban and Community Forestry Program. The state is not taking any action at this point, but there may be grants available at the state or federal level in the future.
- The committee submitted an action plan to the Tavistock Board for its consideration. The board suggested certain revisions. Revisions were made and the board approved the plan. The plan is attached.

- The only needed street tree action this year is to conduct fall maintenance. The committee is working on gathering bids to sign a contract and schedule work. There will be no new street tree plantings this year.

### **Deeds Restrictions**

- There have been no new deed restriction requests since March.
- When 703 Burnley Road went up for sale in the spring, the Deed Restrictions chair reached out to the homeowner and realtor advising them to remove the nonconforming fence on the property. The house has since been sold and the new owners have moved in. The fence was not removed, and is falling down. The chair will inform the new homeowners that a new fence would need to be approved by the board and conform to board policies.

### **Columbia Place**

- Construction and landscaping continue.
- The developer's variance request is still on hold pending a meeting between the developer and the Working Group.
- The Working Group is also waiting to meet with the developer regarding landscaping plans behind Tavistock homeowners.

### **Community Safety**

- There have been no new developments to date regarding the developer of Columbia Place's proposal to remove/reorganize speed humps on Garden of Eden Road.
- A number of neighbors have voiced concerns regarding dogs left outside barking late at night and early morning for prolonged periods of time. The board would like to remind Tavistock residents to be considerate of neighbors. Don't compel neighbors to file a complaint with the county.

### **Website/Communications**

- There were no new items to report.

### **501 Mt. Lebanon**

- The builders had come up with a development proposal that they shared with the committee. They also shared it with CCOBH and the historic board, but DelDOT objected to the proposal due to the planned entrance next to the church.
- The builders did a second proposal moving the entrance to the other side of the house, but Land Use objected to the plan.
- The architect is working on a new proposal.

## Old Business

### TCA Archives

- Dave Gazzillo discovered years of old files that document deed restriction activity. He plans to match up consolidate documents regarding deed restriction activity with board memorialization. He will work with Annie Baker on this project.

### Legal action against the Tavistock Civic Association

- The Tavistock Civic Association's check was cashed on May 18 by the homeowner. The judgement was satisfied May 19.

### Directory

- The 2020-2022 directory is in development. Area Reps received lists of homeowners in their areas to check whether information needs to be updated.
- All residents are encouraged to report any information changes to their Area Rep or to a Board Officer.

### Language regarding privacy fences for TCA Policy on Privacy Fences

- On September 5, 2018, The Board of Directors of Tavistock Civic Association amended the policy of the Board with respect to the approval of fences in Tavistock to provide that privacy fences, at a height no greater than that permitted by the New Castle County Code, shall be permitted along rear property lines that abut non-residential properties.

### Area Reps needed

- There are several vacancies for Area Reps on the board. Members of the community are urged to join the board to help support the community and homeowners. Area Reps can represent an area that they live in, or a different area.
- Rose Passarella will become the representative for Area C.

### Tavistock Annual Meeting

- The board discussed plans for holding an outdoor meeting in September, perhaps at the JCC.
- Although the board appreciates the importance of an annual meeting, ongoing COVID concerns may make it impossible for 2020. The board will continue to hold virtual meetings to conduct the business of the community, and continues to urge community members to contact their area reps with questions or concerns.

## New Business

### **Block party and Halloween**

- A resident had inquired whether Tavistock would be able to hold the annual Block Party. The board discussed the issue and concluded that, regrettfully, the TCA cannot support holding a block party this year. It would be too difficult to follow Covid guidelines with food, drink, space, children, and activities.
- A motion was made and duly seconded to cancel the event. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- The president will inform Tavistock's point person and ask them to reach out to Edenridge to communicate the decision.
- A community member will also reach out to Edenridge to learn their thoughts regarding the annual Halloween party.

### **Bikers in Edenridge**

- An Edenridge board officer reached out on behalf of an Edenridge homeowner on Hertford regarding a group of children biking in her backyard. For safety and neighbor consideration, parents are asked to tell their children not to play or ride bikes on private property.

There being no further business to discuss, Tim Wilson made the motion to close the meeting, seconded by Annie Baker. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The president called the meeting to a close at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Meg Campbell

## **TAVISTOCK CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

### **TREE COMMITTEE PLAN FOR HANDLING INFESTATION OF ASH TREES BY THE EMERALD ASH BORER:**

#### **Background:**

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a green beetle native to north-eastern Asia that feeds on ash species. Outside its native range, it is an invasive species and is highly destructive to ash trees native to North America.

Tavistock's tree committee has been watching for the presence of EABs for more than 15 years. It was detected this year.

#### **Givens:**

- Currently, 114 street trees in Tavistock are ash trees.
- The EAB has moved into the ash street trees on Severn Rd and Taunton Rd.
- One home owner's yard tree is badly infested and will be taken down. There are probably other yard trees that are infested.
- None of the ash street trees are specimens that need to be protected by injecting an insecticide.
- Some home owners might consider their yard ash trees to be specimens and worth protecting.
- Kesha Braunschmidt of the State Urban and Community Forestry Program is aware of the spread of the EAB in Delaware and is going to try to obtain funding from the US Forest Service to help communities affected.

#### **The Plan for the Street Trees:**

- Continue our annual assessment of the street trees each June.
- Continue our annual fall maintenance program in September including the removal of trees as warranted.
- Consider and advise the Board if the removals don't fit the budget and plan for alternatives to fund the work.
- Continue our program of identifying and evaluating replacement trees to consider when we re-plant. It will probably not be before 2023 when we will have accumulated enough sites to make another planting project.

#### **The Plan for Helping Home Owners Assess Their Ash Yard Trees:**

- Prepare information and provide it to members through the website, by the email list to those participating, and by flyers in the mailboxes.
- Continue to cooperate with the State UCF Program to keep them informed, bring them to our members as needed, and support their attempt to secure funding.