

Tavistock Civic Association Annual Meeting
Minutes of March 21, 2017
Talleyville Fire Hall 7:30 pm

President's Welcome

Michele Borzio began the meeting began at 7:33 p.m. She asked attendees to consider joining the board, and informed attendees that new directories are now available.

Guest remarks

Lou Hinkle, Aide to NCCo Councilman Bob Weiner

Mr. Hinkle addressed safety issues in Tavistock, primarily some misdemeanor incidents and a few burglar alarms. With the change in weather, Mr. Hinkle suggests residents remain vigilant about locking doors, garages, and cars, and report unfamiliar faces if there are concerns.

Calls can be made to the police nonemergency number, 573.2800; anonymous calls can be made to Councilman Weiner's office.

Mr. Hinkle noted that there is always speculation regarding land use activity, and said that New Castle County officials cannot comment until projects are filed. Residents can call Councilman Weiner's office with questions.

Senator Greg Lavelle

Senator Lavelle discussed Columbia Place, noting that he is hopeful there will be demand for the units, and saying that he is available to answer residents' concerns and questions regarding the construction.

Regarding State activity, Senator Lavelle noted that Governor Carney has not introduced his budget yet, and that the State is facing a \$385 million deficit. Residents interested in receiving regular updates regarding State activity can email Senator Lavelle at greg.lavelle@state.de.us to receive his weekly newsletter. Residents can also contact Councilman Weiner and State Representative Deborah Hudson to receive weekly updates.

Election of officers

Attendees asked about responsibilities of board positions.
No nominations were presented for board officer positions, so no vote was made.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Annie Baker reported that ending balance was \$5,046.03. She noted that the block party and plowing were slightly over budget. An IRS fee was incurred due to reinstate lapsed tax exempt status. Dues participation was 98 percent.

Dues increase for FYS 4/1/2017

The dues increase from \$45 to \$75 (*communicated to the community and approved by the board in 2016—see 3/14/2016 and 5/3/2016 minutes*) goes into effect this fiscal year. The revenue will be used to fund tree care and replacement, which is expected to increase substantially over the next several years, as well as other community activity. Michele Borzio noted that most neighborhoods around Tavistock pay higher dues.

Residents will receive dues/directory forms from their area reps in the coming weeks.

Community safety update

DelDot had previously reported that speed humps would be installed on Severn Road and Garden of Eden Road this spring, but Michele reported that she had just learned from Senator Lavelle that the developer of Columbia Place has requested delaying the installation on Garden of Eden until construction is complete.

Street tree update

Frank Maderich provided background on committee efforts to do planned work on trees in Tavistock.

Tavistock is expecting to receive a grant to plant trees this year, and will plant 12 trees. The committee has worked with State officials to identify tree species that are appropriate for the community. This year, the committee will plant three varieties: Serviceberry, Japanese lilac and Hophornbeam.

Frank noted that the emerald ash borer is a threat to the community's tree population. He also noted that community efforts do not relieve individual owners of the responsibility for their street trees.

Columbia Place update

The Pilot School moved to its new facility in November and developer Jerry Heisler has commenced work on Columbia Place. He has cut down trees and will likely demolish buildings in the next few weeks.

The Tavistock Edenridge 3 Working Group continues to track activity and communicate with the developer. The Working Group has transitioned, and its mission now is to ensure that the developer

adheres to the record plan and to address any concerns that might arise. The group apprises Tavistock's board of activity at each quarterly meeting, which is reflected in the minutes.

At a meeting with the Working Group in December, Mr. Heisler said that he has not yet decided whether the units will be for sale or for rent. He said he is continuing to explore relocating stormwater management to the State Park, and may request a second height variance for the condominium buildings.

The Working Group has requested that residents who are interested in the project contact Working Group co-chairs Meg Campbell, Dennis Chesire or Frank Maderich. Residents can also access the maps and plan on the county website.

501 Mt. Lebanon Rd update

There is currently no information available regarding future plans for the property at 501 Mt. Lebanon Road. The house was built around 1800-1810, and is considered a historic site. A decision would have to be made whether to demolish it. There is hope that some part of it is salvageable.

Back taxes are still owed on the property. The Brandywine Valley Baptist Church appears to have a 3-year option to buy, which they have not exercised to date. The CCOBH has a restrictive right to the property, passed on to it by the Woodlawn Trustees.

Website and Social Media

Maria de la Calle is the new webmaster for the community. Maria explained that she would maintain the website and also the community's Facebook page. She noted that content would be limited to community business, such as deed restrictions, bylaws, community news and advisories. Pictures of residents will not be featured.

Michele noted that there is a closed mother's group on Facebook for Tavistock and Edenridge.

Civic Association Insurance

Treasurer Annie Baker reported that she is soliciting quotes for insurance for the civic association, and will provide the data to the board for discussion.

Deed restrictions Update

Deed restrictions committee chair Dave Gazillo reported that there were no construction requests this year. There are currently two active items: (1) a fence was erected without approval. The homeowner was asked to remove the fence and has agreed to do so this spring. (2) an open fence request that does not conform to deed restrictions.

Dave said that he frequently makes his way around the community to check on deed restriction issues, but also asked residents to report concerns to him.

Attendee Questions and Comments

A neighbor asked about the street tree budget. Frank explained that it is difficult to assess before first leaf-out, but explained that prices have increased, the community's aging tree population will continue to generate expenses, and the emerald tree borer will likely be a factor.

Neighbors discussed questions and concerns regarding Columbia Place. Meg and Frank again recommended that residents with questions or concerns contact a Working Group co-chair or member with questions and concerns.

A neighbor thanked Tracey Mulveny for once again creating the Tavistock Directory.

Motion to pass the budget

Dave Gazillo made a motion to pass the FYS 4/1/2017 proposed budget, seconded by Eileen Measley. Attendees accepted the motion to pass the budget at 7:58 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Meg Campbell
TCA Secretary

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report
Annual Dues form

Secretary's note: The next quarterly meeting of the Tavistock Civic Association Board will be held on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Carol Roth's home, 4 Aldham Court.