

## **Tavistock Civic Association Board Meeting**

Minutes of October 25, 2016

632 Kilburn Road, 7:05 pm

In attendance: Annie Baker, Harvey Baker, Michele Borzio, Steve Bozzo, Meg Campbell, Margaret England, Dave Gazzillo, Brad Haines, Frank Maderich, Carol Roth, Charlotte Rouviere, ~~Don Thureau~~, Tim Wilson, Kathy Wilson, Rose Passarella, Tom Haldas

### **Treasurer's report**

The treasurer presented the report and noted several items:

- The block party was slightly over budget due to growing attendance; the board discussed increasing the amount for 2017
- The Board thanks Bert Root at 714 Severn for donating the beer for the event.
- An unbudgeted fee of \$400 was paid to the IRS to reinstate the community as a 501(c)(4).
- 2016 dues continue to trickle in; the treasurer provided area reps with an updated list of outstanding dues
- The new 2016-2017 snowplow removal contract was received on 10/24/2016 for \$2,310.00. The contract stipulates that roads will be plowed for 2-way traffic and back to curbs if possible. The board would like to remind residents to park off of the street when there is snow.
- The treasurer reiterated that next year's dues increase to \$75 (discussed at the Annual Meeting in March and approved by the board in May) will be necessary to pay for tree work and other expenses. The board plans to readdress the need for a dues increase with community members at the 2017 annual meeting.
- There are several Tavistock checks (several years old) that have not cleared, written to the Talleyville Fire House and a lawn service. The board agreed that the checks would be written off, and noted that the community must make sure the fire department understands that they should deposit our donation.

Brad Haines moved to approve treasurer's report; Rose Passarella seconded. The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous vote.

### **Committee reports**

#### ***Deed restrictions:***

- The Deed Restrictions Chair has proposed creating a committee to implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure that deed restrictions are properly and consistently enforced, that the community has a process to address violations and that community members are aware of the restrictions. He asked that Area Reps also reacquaint themselves with the restrictions in the event that they have to discuss them with neighbors.

#### ***Columbia Place:***

- Members of the Working Group will meet with Land Use staff on November 1 to learn more about what to expect during the construction process.

### ***Street Trees:***

- Jeff Stein was the low bidder for doing 2016 tree work, and was awarded the contract. Work will start the week of November 7.
- The Tree Committee Chair noted that prices for tree work continue to increase, it is harder to get competitive bids, and available grant money has decreased significantly.
- 2017 work will be deadwood removal, and the committee will apply for a grant to plant trees. New trees have not been planted since 2012. The committee is working to get new varieties planted so that neighbors can see alternatives to the ash and maple trees that have to come down.
- Emerald ash borer: This invasive species, which is highly destructive to ash trees, has been discussed as a potential threat for years. It was big news earlier this year when a single beetle was found in Hockessin. No others have been found; the state has taken a wait-and-watch approach, although the general consensus is that it is a question of when, not if. Tavistock has 130 ash trees, and the committee is focusing on replacing them, although this will be a gradual process.
- The committee will provide neighbors with information about the ash borer and efforts to manage it at the annual meeting. An expert will be invited to address attendees.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Fence on Severn Road***

- The resident has agreed to take down the fence and plant screening landscaping. He will do it in the spring. The Deed Restrictions Chair will document the experience and remind the resident of his commitment to remove the fence after the annual meeting.

#### ***Traffic safety***

- A resident on Aldham Court expressed concerns about the size of the speed humps and whether they would damage the resident's handicapped accessible van. DelDOT offered to make the one hump before Aldham 3 inches tall, rather than 4 inches, and the resident was satisfied with the change.
- DelDOT is providing state legislators with the cost of the project (Legislators have already committed the funds). The speed humps will likely be installed in spring.

#### ***501 Mt. Lebanon Road committee***

- A committee has not yet been formed to study development issues at the old farmhouse at 501 Mt. Lebanon Road. There was a suggestion to reverse the resolution to form the committee; the board will wait to hear input from Rose Passarella before taking next steps.

#### ***Renovations at the YMCA***

- Work will begin in 30-60 days; The Y hopes to be done in 9 months.

## **New business**

### ***New Area Rep for Area B***

- Meg Campbell has stepped down as Rep for Area B. No residents in Area B have expressed interest in becoming the new rep to date. Area reps were asked to query their own residents to find a replacement.
- Michele Borzio also noted that the TCA will need a new president to take over at the next annual meeting.

### ***Website and communications***

- A resident has expressed interest in taking over community communication efforts. Margaret England is working with the resident to finalize the plan.

### ***Welcome committee***

- Board members discussed a proposal to have Area Reps assume welcoming duties as new neighbors move in to the neighborhood. Area reps will provide new neighbors with a welcome package with directory, deed restrictions and other helpful information.

### ***New road signs***

- New road signs were put up in the neighborhood, although the old sign at the corner of Burnley and Mt. Lebanon was not removed. (Several board members thought this was fine, because the sign has character.)

### ***Gas leak***

- The board heard that Delmarva had been informed of a gas smell on the corner of Aldham Court and Severn Road. The company's investigations confirmed a leak, and a crew was sent to do the repairs on 10/24, 10/29, and 11/3. Crew members told a board member that they had fixed leaks found in the steel and plastic gas lines. However, there may be additional leaks in front of 8 Aldham Ct., 708 and 709 Severn Road that they are trying to locate by soil venting.

## **Next meeting**

The next board meeting will be held on January 25 at 7:30 pm at 632 Kilburn Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Meg Campbell, Secretary