

Tavistock Civic Association Board Meeting
Minutes of November 7, 2018
735 Burnley Road, 7 PM

In attendance: Annie Baker, Meg Campbell, Dave Gazzillo, Brad Haines, Tom Haldas, Rose Passarella, Frank Maderich, Eileen Measley, Lisa Merenda, Jeff Porter, Carol Roth, Charlotte Rouviere, Tim Wilson, Kathy Wilson

The president called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer presented the report, and highlighted the following items:

- The Association's current balance is \$8,697.14.
- The Association was not awarded a grant for tree work this year.
- Block party spending was slightly under budget.
- A few expenses are still outstanding, such as circle maintenance.
- New officers have been added to bank account, and old officers have been removed.
- Dues collection
 - \$10,180.00 has been collected to date.
 - Four homeowners have not yet paid dues. The treasurer continues efforts to collect outstanding dues.

Brad Haines motioned to approve the treasurer's report, and Tim Wilson seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous vote.

Committee reports

Deed Restrictions

- A Severn Road homeowner is requesting a fence, and will be providing the committee chair with documentation.
- A homeowner has asked the chair about his property's setback, because he is exploring the possibility of putting an addition on his home. The chair recommended that the homeowner pull the plot plan, get the property staked, and contact the County to have them come out and define the setback.
- The chair has notified New Castle County Code Enforcement about a possible graywater discharge coming from a home.

Columbia Place

- Garden of Eden was shut for construction in June. The original reopen date was the end of August, but the redeveloper received two extensions, one to the end of September and one to the end of October. The road reopened the last week of October.

- Before the shutdown, pedestrian passage was not going to be allowed, but with legislators expedited a meeting between Working Group members and DelDot staff to address the issue. DelDot visited the site and required the developer to keep the pedestrian crossing open.
- Committee members met with Jerry Heisler on the construction site to discuss concerns regarding potential overflow from the retention pond. The developer responded last week saying that after consulting with Reybold's engineer and New Castle County, he was confident that the storm basin "meets or exceeds all State and County requirements," and has no plans to further modify stormwater management plans. The Working Group continues to follow up.

Street Trees

- The tree committee has continued to monitor the condition of our street trees, but has held back from doing some regular maintenance work to conserve funds in case of needs by legal expenses.
- There were two ash trees on Taunton Rd that were leaning towards the houses and had to be taken down. There were 12 trees on various streets that had large dead branches that needed to be removed. This work was done in September. The net expense was \$1,355.
- There is still an open unfunded proposal for structural pruning of 21 trees planted in 2003, 2007, and 2012 to better guide their growth. The costs for this work would be \$1,500 and should be done well before leaf out next spring.
- The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive pest that preys on ash trees (there are 130 ash trees on Severn and Taunton Roads) and has no natural predators here. It is already been found on the Maryland Eastern Shore and in nearby Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There were no reports of the EAB in Delaware this spring. The tree committee maintains contacts with the Delaware Division of Forestry on this topic.
- There are red maple trees on Burnley, Kilburn, and Mt Lebanon Roads. They have had few issues, but this year more than 20 of them were seriously stressed this spring. Two have died and more than ten are struggling. Members of the Delaware Division of Forestry visited Tavistock to examine these trees in June and took samples. Diseases and insects were ruled out as the cause. Apparently, the unusual weather patterns of late frosts and heavy rain this spring are probably involved and have caused root growth issues. The committee will carefully watch the red maples during leaf out in 2019.

Storm Drains and swales

- The chair reminds residents to keep storm drains clear of leaves.
- Homeowners on Taunton Road have continued to address drainage issues in their backyard. They have worked with a landscape specialist and the New Castle County Conservation District, and have reported improvement.

Community safety

- The safety committee will not request that the traffic survey for Taunton and Kilburn Roads be repeated at this time.
- The Kilburn Road and Taunton Road three-way intersection is a safety issue. The safety committee will pursue getting a stop sign installed at the intersection.

Tavistock website

- The committee met in summer and sketched out a new website.
- Content has been prepared and submitted to the webmaster.
- Once the new website has been created, the webmaster will solicit feedback from the board.
- The committee has requested information about a Flickr account from previous webmaster to delete old photos currently on the website.

New business

Tree removal in Brandywine Creek State Park

The State Park has removed some trees on the perimeter along Hertford Road. A Tavistock neighbor who saw the work shared concerns with the tree committee. The tree committee chair reached out to the parks director and learned that there are plans to remove more trees to clear a 12-foot perimeter along the border of the park, in order to facilitate maintenance.

The parks director acknowledged that the decision to cut down trees was prompted partially by complaints from Edenridge homeowners about leaf volume, and also acknowledged that the number of trees cut down was excessive.

Board members determined that they would take no action except to notify neighbors whose properties face the park.

Executive Session

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

The motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session at 7:46 PM. The executive session was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Meg Campbell, Secretary