

Tavistock Civic Association annual meeting

Talleyville Fire Company Memorial Hall

March 3, 2025, 7 PM

- President's welcome— Eileen Measley at 7:04PM
- Remarks by invited guests
 - New Castle County police- Cpl. Andrew Daller
 - Cpl. Hester has retired and Cpl. Andrew Daller will be filling in for her now. A permanent Community Services Unit representative will eventually be assigned. They are a liaison assigned to a geographic area; answer questions; address neighbor issues; but do not patrol the area routinely.
 - keep car locked, theft from unlocked cars, vandalism and car theft are seen commonly; installing outdoor lighting and cameras are recommended to help deter these crimes.
 - call 911 if you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood.
 - Recommend an ongoing program of interest- "Senior Roll Call"- a telephone reassurance program for senior citizens or home-bound residents who live on their own, members get a pre-recorded phone call in the morning to check up; more information at www.newcastlede.gov/2335/Senior-Roll-Call
 - Any questions please email Cpl. Daller: Andrew.daller@newcastlede.gov
 - State Senator Laura V. Sturgeon and State House Representative Krista Griffith
 - Meeting w/ Edenridge and Rockland about power surge & power outages.
 - Delmarva Power installed three station class arrestors at the following locations:
 - 598 Mt. Lebanon Rd.
 - 801 Mt. Lebanon Rd.
 - 1519 Rockland Rd.
 - A station class arrestor is a heavy-duty surge protector designed for high-voltage electrical systems. They are used to protect critical equipment like transformers from damaging voltage spikes caused by lightning strikes, acting as a safety valve to divert excess electricity to the ground instead of letting it damage the equipment.

- The station class arrestors will enhance the response time of the reclosers and breaker to isolate the zone of protection from surges.
 - Trees and other vegetation are key contributors to approximately 20-30% of all electric service interruptions. Preventative pruning helps keep trees and power lines a safe distance apart. Areas where line clearance work is completed experience fewer outages and a significant improvement in electric reliability.
 - Delmarva Power is currently trimming in our neighborhoods to enhance reliability.
 - Unlikely to see conversion to underground lines on Mt. Lebanon due to the high cost and property disruption.
 - Discussed recent Gas & Electric bill increases, working w/ public advocate, being addressed legislatively.
 - Recently introduced Senate Bill 59 which will address some of the issues surrounding the public utilities.
 - Recently there has been a 3% increase in electricity charges, and a 6% increase in gas charges, along with high inflation and a very cold winter this year, all of which are contributing to the increased bills.
 - Delmarva is currently waiving late fees, allowing interest free payments in installments.
 - Several pending bills were brought up and discussed by our representatives.
- VOTE: Election of officers to the board for 2025
 - The current officers were nominated and approved unanimously for another year's term
 - President- Eileen Measley, Vice President- Lottie Zapisek, Treasurer- Annie Baker, Secretary- Robert Measley
- Treasurer's Report- Annie Baker
 - There was 100% dues collection. May 31 is due date for this year.
 - This year due to several snowfalls, we will pay ~\$450 more for snow removal, but this will be reimbursed by the state.

- We went over budget for the block party. For next year an increased amount of \$1800 is proposed. Edenridge will also be contributing.
- An attendee made a request that we increase the amount we pay for the Fire Hall rental, currently at \$50. No vote was taken, but there was general agreement.
- VOTE: Approval of Treasurer's report and FY 2024-2025 budget
 - Tim Wilson made a motion to approve, Walter Szczerban seconded, all were in favor.
- Committee Reports
 - Deed Restrictions- Dave Gazillo. Not in attendance but e-mailed nothing to report.
 - Street Tree Care- Robert Measley
 - 23 diseased Ash trees were taken down last year; ~1/3 of the cost was paid for by TCA. There are about 25 Ash trees left, all of which may need to come down over the next few years.
 - Tavistock was recognized as a Platinum status "Tree Friendly Neighborhood" by the Division of Forestry for 2025-2027.
 - We will not be applying for Tree planting grant this year, in order to concentrate on the last mass Ash takedowns in the Fall- we anticipate another 20-25 trees. We may consider a small planting of 10 trees if the budget allows.
 - Columbia Place- Frank Maderich
 - No new developments. Progress remains slow.
 - Swales and stormwater management- Eileen Measley
 - No new issues, but remind everyone to keep the gutters and swales clean to prevent flooding.
 - Always call MissUtility before digging in your yard or near your backyard swale. 800-282-8555 in Delaware.
 - Community Safety- Andrew Conine, Annie Baker, Dave Gazillo
 - Annie: Taunton circle- new One-way signs installed by DelDot, larger and more visible. Will continue to monitor.
 - Block Party- Lottie Zapisek
 - Scheduled for May 3rd. Edenridge offered to contribute \$400 to help offset expenses.
- Old Business
 - Pop-Up Happy Hours- Eileen Measley- These driveway and patio happy hours were a big success last year. Will plan more for this Summer.

- New Edenridge liaison, Lottie Zapisek volunteered. Will facilitate better communication between our neighborhoods.
 - Edenridge/Tavistock yard sale- Lottie- Scheduled for Sat., Mar 29. Flyers to go out soon.
- New Business
 - Announcing 3 New Area Representatives:
 - Meredith Stewart-Tweedy- Area F
 - Jill Boova- Area J
 - Andrew Depenbusch- Area E
 - Tavistock original Bills of Sale donated to TCA by Woodlawn Trust and are available to all homeowners.
- Questions and Comments
 - A neighbor brought up the high deer population; other than don't feed the deer, no ready solutions to this problem.
 - A neighbor brought up a concern about property lighting that is too bright or facing out towards neighboring houses, not down; also that the YMCA parking lot lights are too bright.
- Adjournment- Annie Baker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM, and Michele Rashbaum seconded the motion.

Minutes respectively submitted by Robert Measley, Secretary