

Minutes of Gwinhurst Civic Association General Meeting – 2/6/14

Call to order/introductions – President Christina Anthony called the meeting to order. The officers of the civic association and the residents present introduced themselves. VP Kris McMahan was absent.

Approval of minutes – the minutes from the December 2013 meeting prepared by Secretary Denise Brush were approved. The minutes are not yet on our website (gwinhurstde.com) but they will be soon.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Dave Paules reported a bank balance of \$11,072.30. So far, 36.4 % of the 445 homes we contacted have paid their \$25 dues. Expenses this month included several snow plowing events, and costs associated with mailing out the newsletter (\$262). Snow plowing costs per event ranged from \$900 to \$2000. It is different each time depending on how much snow they have to move. We are waiting for reimbursement from the county on two plows, plus there is one more check that needs to be posted before we can submit it. We get 75% of the cost back from the county if we get 4 inches or more snow. The whole process of reimbursement takes about a month.

Report on snow plowing – Vice President Carol Thomas who works with the contractor on our behalf finds him to be responsive to complaints. She appreciates residents posting comments on Facebook about the condition of the streets. There was a problem with Park Ave but it has been resolved. Resident Robert Russell previously worked for Dave doing snow plowing and says he's a good employer.

Report on website and communication – the first year of the website cost was paid for by the local business sponsor obtained by Kris McMahan. We also have an active Facebook group. Several residents mentioned businesses that would be interested in buying advertising if we were selling it. The newsletter mailing containing the dues payment form was a significant expense, so we might be able to use another sponsor if we do another mailing. Dave suggested starting a Sponsorship committee and Denise suggested creating a Gwinhurst business directory.

Old Business: continuing issues with mail delivery. Carol Thomas called the Edgemoor Post Office to complain but didn't get any help. Councilman John Cartier explained that to cut costs the P.O. has transferred the delivery services to Edgemoor from Claymont and this has caused problems and confusion. There were probably also layoffs. Cartier suggested that we may want to get our federal delegation involved, particularly Senator Carper who serves on the committee that oversees them.

New Business – drainage and street issues in the development.

A resident asked how potholes are handled. Surface streets are maintained by the state and the county maintains sewers. DelDOT has a facility called Talley Yard near the skating rink who we can call for pothole repair. There is also a local street repair fund (about \$300,000 a year) that state representatives control. This might take care of the worst potholes. Another resident mentioned that there was a water main break that caused a sinkhole at Lincoln and Clayton. It was repaired temporarily, but permanent repairs will have to wait for spring.

Resident Robert Russell brought up a serious drainage issue on the 300 block of W Holly Oak Rd where he has lived for many years. Water coming from a poorly maintained drainage system in the Silverside-

Carr Office Park is eroding several backyards including his. County Code officer Walsh visited the location and issued a citation. Mr. Cartier will visit resident Mr. Russell tomorrow and work on getting this resolved.

Over the past 6 years the county has put over \$100 million into rebuilding the sanitary sewer system. This will have benefits into the future for economic development. There is also an underground stormwater drain system which is maintained by DelDOT.

Community News - Councilman Cartier was asked about the latest news about Philadelphia Pike businesses. Dollar General withdrew their bid for the Coach House/Bourbon St Grill property (the one that burned down). Auto Zone wants to buy the location where the 7-11 was, across Maple Lane from Holcomb Cabinet. The Eagle One Credit Union just opened their headquarters on Philadelphia Pike.

Councilman Cartier praised the officers of the association for the work in reactivating the civic association and announced that when the new fiscal year begins on July 1 he would like to give us a small grant. Thank you Mr. Cartier!

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. The next meeting will be on March 6.