

## Minutes – Gwinhurst Civic Association General Meeting, October 2, 2014

- 1) Call to order and introduction of officers – Treasurer Dave Paules called the meeting to order since President Christina Anthony was absent. Denise Brush and Carol Thomas (Secretary and Vice President) were present. There were 14 residents and two elected officials (Bryon Short and John Cartier) present.
- 2) Review and adoption of minutes of previous meeting (9/4/14) – the minutes were adopted as written. A printed copy was made available at the meeting by Denise.
- 3) Treasurer’s report (Dave)- balance is \$13,847.94 (no change since last month). In the coming month we expect to receive the \$800 grant from the county, and to spend about \$425 on mailing the newsletter.
- 4) Report of standing committee on website and communication (Carol) – our website is up to date. We have added some new group members to our Facebook group.
- 5) Old business –
  - a. Fall newsletter – the newsletter is done and printed; the board needs to schedule a night to stuff envelopes. The newsletter is up on Facebook and will be on our website soon.
  - b. Board elections coming up in November – there was a call for nominations but no one spoke up. Interested people can email the board before next meeting.
  - c. Mike Mohler reported some progress on 28 Georgetown – the grass was cut in August, and the property should go to sherriff's sale in December or January.
- 6) New business –
  - a. December house decorating contest - we want to offer prizes such as gift certificates from local businesses but we need volunteers to solicit them and to manage the voting process. There were no volunteers.
  - b. Meeting schedule – we discussed meeting less often, such as bi-monthly or quarterly. Everyone thought meeting quarterly would be fine (starting in 2015).

- c. Snow plowing contracts – Carol will need to submit paperwork again with the county to sign up for the reimbursement program. We plan to use the same plowing contractor. A resident would like the contractor to plow both sides of Grant Ave this year. The contractor needs to ride through the neighborhood before it snows, to get up to speed on issues like this. Carol and Dave will go with him to help document what gets decided.
- d. Other community issues residents wish to raise – Adrian Dejong asked if anyone is interested in creating a bike path or walking path through the park. Green Acres recently did this. This would help dog walkers since we have few sidewalks.
- e. John Cartier arrived right after Bryon Short left. He reported that the grant of \$800 was approved at the last council meeting. He agrees with Mike that 28 Georgetown is going to sherriff's sale. There are several issues with the paper street at Harrison and Georgetown, the worst being a sinkhole. They have staked it out with caution tape until the county can fix it. It also needs brush cleared out. Adrian asked if he is eligible to buy the “paper street” property at Milford and Garfield which is adjacent to his house and Mr. Cartier said he would ask.
- f. Claymont Heights report – the former Phillips 66 property next to Holcomb Cabinetry will be a wood burning stove store. The house on Harvey Road that had the fire is going to be demolished and rebuilt. Their next meeting is 12/18.

7) Community news -

- a. Crime report for August was provided by Councilman Cartier. There were thirty-plus calls but no significant increase over last month. Residents questioned why the reports did not include two assaults on Philadelphia Pike and a drug raid on Garfield Ave. Apparently major arterials such as Philadelphia Pike are patrolled by the state police, not the county police which provides our crime reports. It was not clear why the drug raid on a house on Garfield Ave between Clayton and Delaware was not included in the report (could it have been federal agents?)

- b. Report from elected officials present – Bryan Short introduced his assistant Kiki. Residents asked about the road re-paving process. Patching of potholes has pretty quick turnaround. For repaving, the DelDOT contractor goes around and ranks all the roads – if it's ranked “failing” then it gets repaved. There is also a special road fund given to each legislator which can be used for repaving. Rep. Short would like to go around with a board member to evaluate where our priority roads are. Resident Adrian Dejong volunteered to go around with Rep. Short. Roads selected this November would be re-paved next fall. Dave Paules said residents who know of roads that need work should contact him. The Claymont Heights treasurer asked about Maple Lane which turns out to be too expensive to do with the legislator fund. Mr. Short is planning a meeting soon with real estate and mortgage people and with other public officials in his district to discuss vacant houses and other related housing issues.
  - c. Announcements of upcoming events
    - c.i. This Sat 10/5: DSWA household hazardous waste recycling at Frawley Stadium – electronics, paper (shredding), and more – Carol can scan the flyer to website. It would be nice if they gave us more lead time.
    - c.ii. West Chester (PA) chili cookoff – Oct. 12
    - c.iii. NCC Senior Roll Call service and Vial of Life are two county services you can sign up for. Dave is trying to get someone to come from the county and talk about the latter program at a future meeting.
- 8) The next meeting will be Thursday 11/6 at 7pm. We will probably have a December meeting also, and start the new schedule in 2015. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by Denise Brush, Secretary.