

Minutes – Gwinhurst Civic Association General Meeting, July 3, 2014

There were 17 residents and three board members in attendance. No elected officials were present. Since the President and Vice-Presidents were not able to make it, the Treasurer (Dave Paules) and Secretary (Denise Brush) ran the meeting. Vice President Carol Thomas arrived later. The Secretary did not have copies of the agenda available for the residents due to problems with her printer. There was a severe thunderstorm during the meeting but the power stayed on.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Paules reported that our current bank balance is \$13,772.94, not including the \$25 cash he just received from a person who just moved into the neighborhood.

Old Business:

The Secretary and the Treasurer, and several other residents, changed their trash collection over to Econo-Haul since the last meeting. The Secretary warned everyone that your old company may charge to have your bins removed. We still have to get over 100 more residents to sign up in order to be eligible for the discount.

Mike Mohler, who lives at 29 Georgetown, got a response from the county about the vacant house next to him at 28 Georgetown. They came out and put a notice on the door July 1 imposing a civil penalty of \$225 for code violations. The other vacant house is 24 Georgetown (not 26; it's directly behind the Secretary's house and I checked). Number 26 is occupied. There is a notice on the door of 24 Georgetown of a Sheriff's sale on July 8. Someone went into it on Saturday afternoon to do work or remove belongings. Another resident mentioned the paper street where Harrison dead-ends on Georgetown – the county did come out to mow on July 3 but the homeowner on the adjoining lot yelled at them and insisted that they leave. There is still a storage container parked on the Smyrna end of the paper street, which is county property. The property on the corner of Harrison and Delaware that Sandra Livingston said at the last meeting had a problem with rats is 2115 Harrison. The owner is paid up on taxes but behind on sewer bills. There are two businesses there, Bravo Landscaping and a catering company; and some apartments. Clearly there are significant code violations need to be addressed.

Dave Paules mentioned that he and Vice President Kris McMahan attended the most recent Claymont Heights Community Association meeting and learned that they are facing problems with vacant houses and code enforcement issues too. Also there is a concern that there are not enough fire hydrants in either development. Some of the vacant houses are fire hazards. The board agreed to write to Councilman Cartier to ask for something to be done about the two vacant properties (24 and 28 Georgetown), the paper street, and the sanitation issues at 2115 Harrison.

New Business:

A resident raised a concern about dogs being off the leash. His dog was attacked by another dog. There is a leash law in the county which is posted in Gwinhurst Park and other places. If you see an unleashed dog, take a photo (if possible) and call Animal Control to report the violation. The board will post reminders on the website and Facebook.

There was a discussion about trespassing which is a particular issue with unfenced properties and homes adjoining parkland. There were some threatening posts regarding a teenager who unknowingly trespassed on someone's property, which Christina took down. It was agreed that residents need to be more careful about trespassing, and Gwinhurst Facebook group members need to remain civil.

The county has not swept the streets in our area for years and gutters are getting clogged. The board will contact the county to find out when we are scheduled. Also some streets are due for repaving. We need to get on the bid list for next year.

Dave Paules has been wondering how to get material into the Welcome packet that the post office gives out to new residents. We would like to have a page about the civic association and one about the EconoHaul deal. Resident Kelly Simmons volunteered to investigate further.

Several residents said that despite fireworks being illegal in the state, they anticipated there would be a lot of them heard in Gwinhurst on the Fourth. Since the houses are so close together it is a threat to our homes as well as to anyone outside. One resident reported that after years of contacting the police unsuccessfully, last year the police finally caught and fined his neighbors who had fireworks. So don't give up on the police, hose off your roof if you're concerned about fire, and maybe even try asking your neighbors to please clean up their fireworks that fell in your yard.

We did not have a crime report since Christina Anthony was absent. She will probably put it up on the website when she gets back. Likewise there were no reports from elected officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 7.