

Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association

Minutes from the Fall Meeting September 28, 2016

CWCA President Dan Nichols called the meeting to Order at 7:05 PM.
Approximately 31 residents were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer Versaw gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that we collected dues from 392 homes which represented a paying rate of 73%. Contribution per household averaged \$44. We have \$44,000 cash on hand. Since our goal is to have two years of cash on hand, reserve is sufficient to warrant a dues reduction to \$30 per household. There was discussion about the level of dues. *A motion was made to approve the FY016 budget (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017) with annual dues set at \$30. The motion carried.*

Report from Supervisor Foust's Office

Jane Edmondson and Ben Wiles reported from Supervisor Foust's office.

1) Road Repair

Jane reported that VDOT has \$130 million for road repair of which Northern Virginia gets 40%. There was discussion about the poor condition of the roads within CWCA and when we can expect repairs. Jane asked for CWCA residents to submit a list of roads which need repair. Their office doesn't control which roads are to be repaired, but will submit the requests to VDOT on our behalf. **There was a question on what the obligation is of contractors to ameliorate roads after they are dug up.** Jane advised that CWCA should alert their office about the roads which need repair.

***ACTION ITEM:** Email chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com by 10/15 a list of CWCA roads you feel need repair. CWCA will submit a comprehensive list to Supervisor Foust's office.*

2) Connect McLean sidewalk projects

- 1) Chesterbrook from Chesterford to Maddux - planned construction in 2018 – a crosswalk will be installed on Maddux
- 2) Chesterbrook across from Chesterbrook School – in land acquisition phase now
- 3) Chesterbrook from the school to Halsey – Survey is underway
- 4) Kirby from Ivy Hill to Corliss- planned construction in 2018

3) McLean Community Center Construction

Construction contract will be awarded in January. The Center will be closed from Apr 2017- Sep 2018. They are hoping to run programs elsewhere (some may happen at the Old Firehouse).

4) Meals Tax

Jane reported that Fairfax County mailed information about [the meal's tax](#) which will be on the November ballot. In Virginia, the only way to add a tax is by including it as a referendum. The tax is proposed at 4% for restaurant meals and prepared foods. Estimated annual revenue is \$90 million and supervisors will allocate 70% of the net revenue towards school and 30% towards county services. The tax is designed to help reduce dependence on real estate taxes. A number of area jurisdictions already impose a meals tax. Jane invited residents to learn more about the meals tax by attending the MCA forum on the meals-tax referendum on **Oct 3 at 7:30 pm. at the McLean Comm Center.**

5) Concerns about Woodacre Property

A question was asked about what the county's intention is regarding 1447 Woodacre which is a county owned property, but neighbors are concerned that it is a mess. Jane will review and get back to us.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Snow Removal:

Snow Removal Chair, Ed McGrady, reported their job is to manage the snow removal contractor and communicate about snow removal. If you have complaints send them to Ed, not Steve. He asked that, if at all possible, people not park their cars on the street during a snowstorm, in particular if you live in a cul-de-sac since it will prevent us from being able to plow the cul-de-sac (this was an issue on Grady Randall earlier this year). They will use the same snow removal company, JL Tree Service, Inc., which he feels has done a good job and is cheaper than our previous contractor.

CWCA will not begin plowing until snow reaches three inches in depth. The contractor will be asked to put down sand when there is ice on the roads. **If you see a problem during a storm (e.g., icy hills, your street not plowed), you can report it to cwcasnow@gmail.com.** Information on the snow removal process is posted on twitter: www.twitter.com/cwcasnow. This URL works like a website, you don't have to subscribe to twitter to use it. If you have concerns or questions, please send them to cwcasnow@gmail.com. We had four snow events last year which cost \$14,000 to clear.

Ed advised that there are also other plows besides the ones contracted by CWCA (VDOT or private plows). You can view VDOT's interactive website to see where the plow is through www.vdotplows.org/ If residents are interested in joining the CWCA snow removal team, please email cwcasnow@gmail.com.

Security Report:

Bob Blakely submitted his report to Dan and asked that people remain vigilant and if you see anything suspicious please call the non-emergency police number: 703-556-7750. There have been some issues with packages being stolen so he suggests you work with UPS/Fedex to designate an area for delivery where packages can't be seen from the street.

Pineapple Patrol:

Lizzy Conroy, reported for the Pineapple Patrol, CWCA's hospitality committee. She advised this is the third year that Carol Johnson has been running the team and she is doing a magnificent job. The Pineapple Patrol has given out 65 baskets. Lizzy showed a beautiful example of their baskets which include a directory, menus and coupons from local businesses and a home baked good. Block Captains should email chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com when new residents move in so that Pineapple Patrol and Secretary can be alerted for basket delivery and for access to the directory. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Carol Johnson at cobrin1725@aol.com. The team meets approximately once a year and has a great time welcoming new neighbors.

Environmental Committee:

Neil Ende reported that they are working hard, but it's frustrating because there are so many entities within the government. The committee's main focus is to protect trees during infill development. Infill development has continued at a rapid pace. The committee is attempting to achieve enforcement of a flawed, narrow set of rules which hasn't been a priority for county staff. The fines are non-existent and the conservation bonds are very minimal compared to the value of the homes that are being built so the financial disincentive for builders who violate the rules is very low.

He reported that the county acknowledged that the property on the corner of Forest and Chesterbrook had violated tree preservation standards and had requested the builder submit a plan to remedy the situation. Because they allowed the builder to sell the house, the new owner is not required to follow through on the required planting.

Neil advised that Bill Hicks is the new head of Site Development and Inspections Division with the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES). He is more responsive than his predecessor and as part of his commitment to improving compliance has assigned an urban forester to work on every new infill project.

Neil advised that if people are interested in taking legal action, they should let him know by emailing cwcaenvironment@gmail.com.

Development of the Digges Property:

Alcy Frelick reported about the development of the Robert Digges property which is a fourteen acre parcel on N. Albemarle. The property is zoned R-2, is a by-right development and is scheduled to include 27 new homes. Alcy and her husband have coordinated communication with the county about the development. She organized a walk through meeting Supervisor Foust's staff and the DPWES staff. They walked the property with concerned neighbors who pointed out concerns about preserving trees, issues with water runoff and erosion, traffic and pedestrian safety, and displacement of animals who now live on the 14 acre wooded habitat. The Digges family will develop the initial property and will put in the roads and sewage system. They will then sell individual lots to builders or possibly to a large scale builder like Stanley Martin. The current plan (which has not been approved yet) shows trees only on the fringes of the property. Because of its proximity, the property development will also impact Franklin Park and Solitaire. Approximately 50 neighbors have asked to be kept apprised of developments via email. Please email Alcy at frelick.martin@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to the list.

Announcements:

- 1) Our new fiscal year starts October 1st so \$30 dues are due now!
- 2) Elizabeth Ende reported for CWCA Secretary, Winkle Nemeth, that an email was sent to CWCA residents on September 23rd encouraging neighbors to log on to AtoZdirectories.com to review and update their contact information for the neighborhood directory. If you are new to the neighborhood or know of a new neighbor, please send an email to chesterbrook@atozdirectories.com so you can get added to the email distribution list and to the CWCA directory. We hope to produce and print the directory in November. Directories will then be given to block captains to distribute to neighbors.
- 3) Lara Bakewell, co-chair of the CWCA Oktoberfest Party, advised the party will be held in the Hardwood cul-de-sac on October 23rd (rain date October 30th). It is a party for young and old with a jazz band, moon bounces, other games and a costume contest. Last year, Lizzy Conroy sponsored a face painter and JD Callender sponsored a balloon artist. Lara and her co-chair, Melissa Burnison, are looking for additional sponsors this year. Like last year, bratwurst, hotdogs, and beer will be provided by the association. Side dishes, desserts and non-alcoholic drinks are brought by neighbors. A sign-up genius will be sent out by email. Please sign up to help, since this is a party that needs a lot of volunteers.
- 4) Fairfax County needs election officials to help with the upcoming elections. To find out more visit this link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/eotraining.htm

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 pm.