

Minutes from CWCA Fall Meeting October 7, 2021

CWCA Vice President Lizzy Conroy called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and welcomed everyone to our fall virtual meeting. 23 households were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report CWCA Treasurer, Susan Garrahan, presented the treasurer's report for the fiscal year – 10/1/20 – 9/30/21:

- CWCA collected dues from 382 houses (75% of households) which generated \$6,638 in revenue (some people paid more than the \$15 dues).
- Our main expense was for snow removal and we spent \$9,500 this year versus a budget of \$15,000.
- Due to safety concerns because of COVID, CWCA did not host Oktoberfest during the last fiscal year, but implemented a scavenger hunt with some prizes. For the coming year, we are not returning to the traditional Oktoberfest format but have included funds for pandemic friendly spirit activities.
- We incurred additional expenses related to Pineapple Patrol, signage/flyers, and meeting costs. Total expenses for the year were approximately \$10,400.
- We propose maintaining dues at \$15 to maintain a reserve for snow & ice.
- A motion was made and passed to set dues at \$15 for the year.

How to Pay Dues (*Information sent out by email after the meeting*).

You can pay your dues online via Paypal* or by check:

1. Online – Log into Paypal and choose the “Send” option. Designate chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com as the email address. Please use the friends and family transfer method rather than the commercial transfer to avoid having PayPal charge CWCA a fee. Include your name & CWCA street address so we can properly credit your household.
2. Pay by Check—Send a \$15 check made payable to “CWCA” to: CWCA Treasurer Susan Garrahan, 1714 Oak Lane, McLean, VA 22101. Be sure your check includes your CWCA street address so we can properly credit your household. Questions can be directed to susan.garrahan@gmail.com.

There was discussion about how to get a higher percentage of people to pay dues. CWCA will put up reminder signs around the neighborhood and send emails to residents with instructions on how to pay. We have explored some alternate options for payment, but to date do not have another option to offer. Venmo is intended for personal transactions and must be linked to an individual's cell phone number and the CWCA bank account does not have the ability to accept Zelle.

Adjustment of Board Seats

- John Holt who has served as our President this year will move to Vice President position and Lizzy Conroy will take over as President.
- A motion was made and passed to make this modification to the CWCA Board.

Project Updates

Dominion Undergrounding Project – Janis Sheppard gave a project update.

- Dominion put four neighborhood projects on hold because they haven't received required easements from residents, but earlier this year completed a project on Chesterbrook/ Woodman Drive which they are using as a demonstration project.
- Jeff Caron is the new coordinator for the Dominion underground project. He advised that Dominion has updated ownership title and last week mailed new easements to neighbors in the four projects ([see link to map](#)). He advised that the way they run the wire will not damage tree roots. Check out this video <https://youtu.be/7gCWfIDBiSs> for more information on how the Strategic Undergrounding program works.
- Janis advised another way that Dominion works to reduce or shorten power outages is through their routine tree pruning and vegetation management along its power lines done on a 4-year cycle. The goal of trimming by the Dominion Forestry Department is to maintain a safe clearance between tree limbs and the power lines.
- Janis met with Dominion's certified arborist who advised they are due to come back to Chesterbrook Woods early in 2022 so there should be a notice in the December Dominion bill alerting residents on the timing of tree trimming.
- The arborist drove through Chesterbrook Woods and indicated there are a few trees which especially need work. Because it is not safe for an untrained professional to work near the wires, residents should not do the trimming themselves. If you are concerned about a tree or have questions on tree trimming you can email trees@fairfaxva.gov.
- There was discussion about the fact that residents might be more likely to agree to a narrower easement than what has been proposed by Dominion for the undergrounding project.

Sidewalk Segments on Kirby/Chesterbrook Road – Elizabeth Ende gave a report.

- Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is beginning construction on a sidewalk project on Kirby that extends from Franklin to Chesterbrook School.
- FCDOT will host a virtual community meeting on November 17th to discuss the project timeline for a sidewalk for Chesterbrook Road which run from Maddux Lane to N 41st Street. In November, CWCA will share details on how to attend the virtual meeting.

Committee Reports

Snow Removal: Steve Sunderhauf gave the report.

- There were three snow events that required plowing, sanding or application of salt this past year. Plowing takes place once snowfall exceeds 3 inches. It is a challenge in an ice event to determine when to plow. In the case of ice, we try to do only sand if possible but sometimes salt is required as well. CWCA's contracted plow service has their name (JL Tree) on the side of their trucks. VDOT and private plows sometimes work in the neighborhood also. If you have a complaint and it is the JL Tree plow or if you want to report poor road conditions email CWCASnow@gmail.com.

- Typically, CWCA Snow team sends a note before winter weather asking people to please move cars off the street during snow events to simplify plowing. This is particularly important if you live in a cul-de-sac.
- CWCA Snow team will post updates via twitter <https://twitter.com/cwcasnow>

Security: Cabell Fooshe provided the security report.

- He advised things have been quiet lately, but there were a rash of break-ins earlier in the year. He reminded residents to take appropriate precautions to lock cars, not to leave items of value in cars, and to lock doors and windows on your house. The majority of incidents seen in the past involved unlocked doors.

Pineapple Patrol: Lizzy Conroy gave the report as Committee Chairs had Back to School Night Commitments).

- The Pineapple Patrol (Welcoming Committee) was restarted in March and is chaired by Bonny Sadler and Sarah Evans. They have welcomed twenty families over the last six months.
- They get information on new neighbors from block captains, the CWCA Board and neighbors.
- They would love to have more volunteers help deliver the welcome bags. Email them at cwcapineapplepatrol@gmail.com to join the team or to provide information on new neighbors.

Environmental Committee: Elizabeth Ende gave the report

- We are working on some environmental events for the neighborhood including a zoom session about how to make your house more energy efficient.
- Discussion was had about tree loss created by infill development in the neighborhood. A neighbor expressed concern about a project next to her where a number of substantial trees will be taken down.
- There was discussion about the decline of Oak trees in the Northern Virginia area. **Please read [this report](#)** from the Falls Church government about potential causes and contributing factors: Primary - Water Stress (drought and extreme storms) and Construction Damage (either on your property or nearby); Secondary that set in after a tree has been compromised - Fungal Pathogens, Insect Damage, and Bacterial Disease; and **What Tree Owners Can Do**.
- If you'd like to join the environmental committee or have ideas for neighborhood activities, please email CWCA Environmental Chair, Neil Ende, cwcaenvironment@gmail.com

[Announcements](#)

Directory: Our directory provider, AtoZ, was sold to another company so the platform has changed. In order to access the online directory, residents will need to set up an account. There is an app that can be used on a cell phone. CWCA will email residents with instructions on how to set up an account and to confirm that their directory data is up to date. We hope to publish in November and then have Block Captains distribute the directory before the end of the year. We will keep you posted as we get a final schedule.

CWCA Book Club and Bunco: Book Club has met periodically over zoom during the past year but Bunco has not met since March 2020. They plan to start meeting once people are willing to gather indoors again. Both are women's groups and are a great way to casually socialize with neighbors, without attendance requirements or prior experience. To join Bunco, please email Jeanne Wang jtw.mamawang@gmail.com and for Book Club email Lori Boerner loriboerner@gmail.com.

Fairfax County's Stormwater and Stream Restoration Project for the Little Pimmit Run: Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. will have a survey crew in the stream channel starting October 11 through October 22. The survey crew will be marking the centerline of the proposed stream channel, location for stormwater structures, and impacted trees. Questions can be directed to Project Manager, Fred.Wilkins@fairfaxcounty.gov or (703) 509-0511.

Early Voting for Virginia's Nov 2nd Election: Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote [early at any Fairfax County early voting location](#). Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at three locations through October 30th. Thirteen additional early voting locations will be available daily from October 21st through October 30th. Absentee ballots must be requested by October 22nd.

COVID Vaccines: Vaccines are now widely available. If you are eligible for a COVID vaccine or booster, you can make an appointment at a local pharmacy (Safeway, Giant, CVS, Walgreens and others) or through [Fairfax County](#).

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 PM.