

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
April 25, 2010 Minutes CSCA Board Meeting

Present: Barbara Ames, Tom Hilton, Georgia Petsche, and Gunnar Tomasson

Barbara Ames, filling in as CSCA President, called the meeting to order.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- 1) Discuss proposed amendments to the CSCA By-Laws
- 2) Presentation by PEPCO representative will address our concerns about power outages.
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Elect CSCA Board Officers for the coming year

1) Amendments to the CSCA By-Laws

The existing By-Laws contain a couple of provisions that are either outdated or are not reflective of the manner that the Board proposes to organize itself going forward. Below is the text of the proposed amendments which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. These amendments are being sponsored by Tom Hilton, a current member of the Board who is standing for reelection to the Board as Treasurer. As provided in the By-Laws of the Association, members who are not able to attend the Annual Meeting may vote by proxy, provided that they provide a copy of their written proxy to the Secretary of the Association at the opening of the meeting.

The amendments were distributed to all present and Barbara Ames read the proposed language aloud.

1) Amendment to Article 1, Section 2:

This Section currently reads as follows:

Section 2 - Dues. The annual dues shall be \$30.00 for a household. Dues shall be payable on receipt of a dues notice. The Treasurer shall cause dues notices to be sent to all eligible households, but failure to receive notice shall not excuse non-payment of dues. No person who has not paid his dues for the current year in full before the opening of any general or special meeting of the Association may vote at that meeting.

The Section is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

Section 2 - Dues. The annual dues shall be set by the Board which shall provide written notice to the membership at least thirty (30) days in advance of the due date for payment. Notice of the current dues shall also be posted on the website of the Association. Dues shall be payable on receipt of a dues notice. The Treasurer shall cause dues notices to be sent to all eligible households, but failure to receive notice shall not excuse non-payment of dues. No person who has not paid his dues for the current year in full before the opening of any general or special meeting of the Association may vote at that meeting.

Reasons for Change: The Board of the Association voted on an increase in the dues for the Association to \$50 per household two years ago. Despite this vote, the By-Laws were never

amended. The amendment will provide more flexibility to the Board in the future to raise or lower dues without having to go through the process for amending the By-Laws.

Discussion

What about a ceiling to the dues increase?

What about a discount for seniors in the neighborhood?

What percentage of homeowners usually pay their dues?

Tom Hilton responded that historically about 75% of homeowners pay their dues. This year, the percentage of homeowners to date that have paid their dues is approximately 60%.

Input - The Board is elected to act in the best interest of the community. With this in mind, a certain amount of trust that the Board will act accordingly should be provided.

A proposed solution was to extend the period for community discussion to 60 days.

Barbara called for a vote and the amendment was passed with the period for community discussion extended to 60 days.

In accordance to the discussion and voting, the Section is approved to be amended to read as follows (with revised content underlined):

Section 2 - Dues. The annual dues shall be set by the Board which shall provide written notice to the membership at least sixty (60) days in advance of the due date for payment. Notice of the current dues shall also be posted on the website of the Association. Dues shall be payable on receipt of a dues notice. The Treasurer shall cause dues notices to be sent to all eligible households, but failure to receive notice shall not excuse non-payment of dues. No person who has not paid his dues for the current year in full before the opening of any general or special meeting of the Association may vote at that meeting.

2) Amendment to Article 2, Section 2:

This Section now reads as follows:

Section 2 - Officers. The officers of the Association shall be President, First and Second Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall be the executive head of the Association.

The First and Second Vice Presidents, in that order, shall act in the absence of the President, with all the powers of the President. The

Second Vice President shall also be the Association's principal delegate to the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse funds of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors and shall be accountable to the Association. His records shall be subject to audit. The Secretary shall keep summary minutes of the meeting of the Association and of the Board of

Directors and shall conduct the correspondence of the Association, as directed by the Board. The officers shall keep the membership of the Association informed of all important problems facing the Carderock Springs community.

The Section is proposed to be amended to read as follows:

Section 2 - Officers. The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. There shall be in addition two At-large Representatives.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall be the executive head of the Association.

The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President, with all the powers of the President. The Secretary shall keep summary minutes of the meeting of the

Association and of the Board of Directors and shall conduct the correspondence of the Association, as directed by the Board. The Membership Secretary shall solicit and collect membership dues, maintain the membership directories, and coordinate the publication of the CSCA Neighborhood Directory. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse funds of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors and shall be accountable to the Association. These records shall be subject to audit. The officers shall keep the membership of the Association informed of all important problems facing the Carderock Springs community.

Reasons for Change: The By-Laws were amended a few years back to increase the size of the Board to seven persons. The role of Second Vice President has not been perceived to provide any significant value, and there has been turnover on past Boards so that no orderly succession of officers has occurred. There is a perceived need for the position of Membership Secretary to maintain accurate records of the membership of the Association.

Discussion

What is the Board doing to help the community?

Where was the Board during the snowstorm?

The amendment was voted on and passed.

2) PEPCO presentation

Mary Lou Shannon did much of the coordination with PEPCO to ensure their participation in the Board meeting. She opened the PEPCO portion of the meeting with a re-cap of the February storm activity and introduced the PEPCO representatives.

PEPCO provided as objectives for their presentation the following:

- How electricity flows
- Feeders serving the areas
- Outage listing
- Smart technology

PEPCO sold their generator plants several years ago and now functions solely as a distributor of electricity.

A system referred to as Smart technology is on the horizon. Once deployed, the Smart technology will allow PEPCO to track power outages from a central location and will allow PEPCO the capability to provide information to customers on price fluctuations of electrical costs. Smart technology takes advantage of wireless technology to enable Pepco to communicate with the electric meter in your home, enhancing reliability and giving customers options to control their energy use. Currently, the anticipated Smart technology will take several years to deploy.

PEPCO substations provide power to feeders which connect houses to electricity. Underground cables, such as those found in Carderock, are buried approximately 3 to 4 feet underground. The underground cables are much more stable, particularly in a neighborhood with the large number of trees found in Carderock.

During a break in power, the current system re-sets 3 times before shutting down. The new Smart system will detect the severity of a power outage and will shut down immediately if necessary.

The two feeders that provide power to Carderock Springs are referred to as Feeders 971 and 977. PEPCO provided the recent outage history of the two feeders.

Feeder 977 –

2/7/2010 Outage – Breakers at River Rd. and Fenway

2/9/2010 Outage – Breakers at Persimmon Tree Rd. and I-495

Feeder 977 underwent a re-configuration in 2009. Frequency of outages has not been a problem but duration has been.

Feeder 971

2/7/2010 Outage – Breakers at Persimmon Tree Rd. and I-495

Fenway Rd. has a split, using both feeders at different sections of the neighborhood.

PEPCO maintains a four year inspection program of circuits and feeders, trimming trees as part of routine maintenance. The person that collects the data and makes the assessment is a degreed forester. The goal is to achieve a four year growth clearance. The circuits serving Carderock will be inspected in 2010.

Four species of trees are most susceptible to falling and breakage, including white pines and other trees that are found in the area. During the February 2010 snowstorm, 75-80% of the trees down were privately owned. The line by Persimmon Tree Rd. and I-495 is removed from the road and is surrounded by a very wooded area. This area is particularly difficult to maintain. PEPCO will explore options for this area however the Maryland DOT has ultimate authority over the location of utilities.

Switches on circuits allow PEPCO personnel to physically switch the power source. This option allows power to be restored quickly while PEPCO addresses the issue with the primary power source.

During the snowstorm, additional crews were brought in from PEPCO sister companies (e.g., Delmarva Power) to assist in the recovery effort.

The vast majority of feeders in Montgomery County are above ground and susceptible to tree damage. The cost of underground feeders is very expensive, approximately \$8-9M per mile. The cost cannot be distributed system wide but rather is incurred by those that benefit from the line installation.

PEPCO will provide follow-up input to the CSCA Board.

Under the current system, PEPCO needs phone calls from homeowners to know that power has been impacted. In the event that a land line is unavailable to call in a problem, homeowners can establish their mobile numbers as a primary number. The primary number is connected to a street address and allows PEPCO to track outages. Homeowners can change their primary number on-line at the PEPCO website.

3) Treasurer's Report

Tom Hilton distributed a hard copy of the Treasurer's Report and provided a walk through review and break down of expenses including the Stone Trail litigation costs.

Tom mentioned that an 'informal' audit had been conducted in the recent past. A formal audit was explored but it was prohibitively expensive largely due to the associated liability costs.

The proposed and passed amendments to the By-laws will hopefully make the Treasurer's job easier by separating the responsibility of membership for treasurer. The collection of dues and coordination of the directory are both time consuming activities.

Lastly, Tom said that a new directory would be put together and distributed this summer.

4) Election of Officers

The slate for the 2010-2011 CSCA Board was introduced. Following some discussion, the Board as presented was approved.

Approved slate for the 2010-2011 Board:

President.....	Phil Rider
Vice President	Georgia Petsche
Secretary	Gunnar Tomasson
Treasurer	Tom Hilton
Membership	Barbara Ames
At-Large.....	Jack Orrick
At-Large/Newsletter	Mary Lou Shannon

Phil Rider, the CSCA Board President for the upcoming year, addressed those in attendance by introducing himself and noting that meetings are tentatively scheduled for the first Monday of every month at the Clubhouse except for the May meeting which is TBD for location and date. Phil is looking forward to serving as President and the new Board year.

Meeting adjourned.