

Carderock Springs Citizens' Association
September 21, 2020
Held via Web Meeting due to Covid-19
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Jack Orrick, Ashish Goel, Jenny Spreitzer, Tom Deyo, Firooz Gidfar, Petra Jacobs, Sue Eastman, Gary Ratner, Bill Draper

Community members present: Ken Hinga, Rosemary and Arnold Oshinsky, Katherine Stifel, Howard Evoy

Meeting called to order at 7:36 pm by Jack Orrick

1. Approval of July Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's report – Ashish to circulate
3. Replacement/refurbishing entrance signs – Ken Hinga report
4. Newcomers' Reception by Zoom – October 4, 2020 @ 7:00 pm
5. Finalize Comment letter on Draft DEIS
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting – October 19; Newsletter deadline – September 24

Item 1: Approval of July Board meeting minutes

Approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's report

Ashish mailed final dues notices on July 20- we collected almost \$2,000 from this. Overall, we have a 62% membership rate. About 25 more people this year than last. We appreciate when people pay electronically, which is becoming more and more common. Check to VHB Partners (the consultant who assisted with our Beltway response to state and local officials) was largest outstanding payment in past month – this is first payment of two. "Beltway Widening" was entered as a line item in the budget by Ashish. We might not have to tap into the reserves to pay for this since other expenses have been lower due to Covid-cancelled activities. Ashish has looked into getting a separate quote for D&O insurance policy – agent has not responded yet despite multiple queries.

Item 3: Replacing/refurbishing entrance signs

Ken Hinga, community member, has written a report about our signage. His assumptions are that we want standardization across signage and to include historic designation. He suggests a rich brown background with white lettering. We won't be able to use the same size of sign for each of our historic designation signs, since the larger signs are all different sizes. He assumes a CNC

machine would be programmed to do the cutting. Until Ken has a draft design, he won't get quotes.

1. Sign at Lily Stone and Persimmon Tree Lane: in good shape but color is low contrast so hard to read. Light pole not adequately lighting sign.
2. Sign on Carderock Springs Lane: in very bad shape, needs rehabilitation. Drainage around the sign is poor too. Large stone in front of sign detracts from signage. Needs better landscaping to not block sign.
3. Hamilton Spring and Lily Stone: overgrown, needs to be pruned back. Sign otherwise is in okay shape but could use a touch up.
4. Suggests two small transition signs where we go from non-CS to CS homes. Has suggestions for how to handle this and where to put them.
5. Sign at club: in good shape but landscaping has "gone feral." Would be good if we could get club to clean up the landscaping.
6. Fenway and Hamilton Spring sign: in fine shape but rotted area could be fixed with epoxy and paint.
7. "C.S. Club" sign on Fenway at Carderock Drive: not in same font as others. Suggests we re-do this one entirely.

Would manufacturing of signs be best as a "one shot" effort or could we stage it over time? Ken: as long as all the signs are by the same shop, they probably wouldn't all have to be done at the same time. Ken will speak to people at the Woodworker's Club in Rockville to learn more about set-up and cost. How do we get back to a standardized font? Might be able to do over time. Regarding the signage overhaul, Tom Deyo suggests that we do it all now if possible. Sue volunteered to project manage: we can look for volunteers to get help with painting and staining. We can use Ken's document as a "scope of work" for each sign and work out a strategy for execution based on this. Ken will share the Word version of the document. Sue will reach out to Melissa Wilets for design assistance.

9. Item 4: Newcomers' Reception by Zoom – October 4, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

34 houses have turned over in the past year. We are moving forward with organizing with this reception virtually (usually it would be a Potluck dinner). Ashish has collected about 2/3 of the newcomers' emails. We will continue to advertise on the chat and in the newsletter to try to maximize attendance and publish the newsletter the weekend before the reception with a notice about the reception. Since we have a budget for the event, we discussed sending new families some sort of gift or "swag bag." We decided that Fall mums would be a good welcome gift. Jenny will check with Potomac Petals and Plants on pricing. Ashish and Sue will assist.

Item 5: VHB Letter

Jack would like to finalize the letter. He shared it with everyone. Petra commented on Flyover Ramps – she thinks that our comments should be as strong as Cabin John's letter. They are opposed to Flyover ramps. Katherine is concerned that we don't want these to overshadow the other concerns we have. Petra is concerned that we'll have double flyover ramps on our side if we don't take a strong stance. Petra and Jack will discuss further. Tom has some small

comments and edits: suggests we include upfront that “construction should be of no cost to the residents.” Tom will send his thoughts to Jack for inclusion. In next newsletter, it would be helpful to draft a summary of what we have done (community members testifying, hiring VHB, finalizing the letter, etc.). We will post the letter on the CSCA website when it’s final.

Item 6: Old Business –Montgomery Quiet Skies, Pepco

- **Quiet Skies:** Survey closing today to Quiet Skies survey. We don’t have any other updates.
- **Pepco:** Sue reported that our agreement with Pepco ends at the end of November, but we want it extended. If they don’t renew our settlement, we will file another claim with the P.U.C. The last explosion in the neighborhood was in February of 2019. They have not been transparent about the cause of this explosion.

Item 7: New Business

- **Crosswalk at River Road and Carderock Drive:** Jack received an email from John Carson suggesting a crosswalk at River Road and Carderock Drive, where Artis facility is being built on the other side of River Road. State Highway Administration is looking into this. Bus stop is right across the street, so there might be a chance of getting a crosswalk installed.
- **Dogs on the loose:** Gary Ratner mentioned that it seems that we have lately had more problems with dogs running free in the neighborhood. Maybe we can put something in the newsletter to remind residents that dogs should be leashed. Gary will speak with our community police officer to learn more.
- **Tree cutting:** might need to be more proactive about reminding people that approval is needed. We try to educate more than anything else. We might want to put something in the newsletter about not taking down trees along Beltway properties, in particular.
- **South Carderock development:** discussed state of project on Osage Lane and the property owner’s proposal to remove many specimen trees. Jenny lives near the property and is tracking MCPNCC planning developments.

Item 7: Next Meeting date/Newsletter deadline

Next meeting: October 19.

Newsletter: Next one will be published this weekend. Deadline for article submission is Thursday, 9/24.

Adjourned 9:26 pm