

Carderock Springs Citizens Association

Minutes: March 21, 2022 Board Meeting

Held via Zoom due to Covid-19

Board Members present: Jack Orrick, Tom Deyo, Ashish Goel, Gary Ratner, Sue Eastman, Katalin Roth

Community members present: Dominique Rychik, Ashkan Malayeri, Kimberly Young, Karen Ringo, Katherine Stifel, Nancy Everett

Meeting was called to order by Jack Orrick.

Agenda:

1. Approval of February Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Formation of Committee to Revisit Tree Removal Guidelines
4. Nominating Committee
5. Annual Meeting Format and Speaker
6. Wine Tasting Event
7. Old Business – Carderock Springs Village; Beltway widening; Knob sign rehab; Persimmon Tree Lane lighting
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting and Newsletter deadline

**Item 1: Approval of February Minutes**

No comments on minutes. Deemed approved.

**Item 2: Treasurer's Report – Ashish Goel**

March 2022 Financial Report has been sent to the Board. No unusual changes. We received dues from 256 households so far, totally almost \$13,000. Ashish will send a physical mailer to all households which haven't paid dues yet; Sue and Kimberly will help get out the mailer. The Board approved contributing \$150 to the Park Overlook Block Party described in Item 8, below.

**Item 3: Formation of Committee to Revisit Tree Removal Guidelines – Gary Ratner, Nancy Everett and Sue Eastman**

Gary noted, in part, that Carderock Springs has covenants running with the land that legally bind owners not to remove "sound hardwood trees" without CSCA appeal and to have proposed improvements approved in advance by the ARC. However, notwithstanding the covenants and the importance of preserving trees for the historic character of Carderock Springs, owners have increasingly been removing large hardwood trees, some without approval. He recommended that the Board create a committee to develop a plan to submit to the Board in the next few months to address this serious problem.

Nancy Everett, the sole member of the Tree Committee for the last 3 years, emphasized the need to make the guidelines for tree removal more definite and to educate residents before they take their trees

down. Sue Eastman, who's been working with Gary and Nancy about how to address this problem, noted that we had some giant white oaks that should be celebrated as "Champion Trees."

Various meeting participants suggested other specific activities to help preserve our trees or supported ideas already proposed. These included Tom's idea to prepare and distribute a document describing the tree preservation process on one side and ARC review on the other. (Some information on these is already in the "Welcoming Packet.") Dominique said she could provide the names of sellers' agents for all houses, so the Tree Committee could ask the realtors to notify all prospective buyers of the covenants' requirements *re* tree removal and the ARC. Kimberly will speak with Dominique about how to arrange such a process. Kimberly says we should specify that this only applies to Carderock North; Carderock South has its own Homeowners' Association. Katherine endorsed creating such a committee. She stated that there have been attacks on hardwoods on Hamilton Spring Road, it takes 30-50 years for a sapling to become part of the canopy and it will take 50 years for a sapling to become a replacement! When someone takes out 3-4 large trees, that radically changes the environment for their neighbors. It's important for people to understand why C.S. has all the tall trees and is not a neighborhood of grasses. Katherine wants to prevent owners from being able to remove trees just by hiring an "arborist" and loves the idea of celebrating "Champion Trees." Sue observed that the "situated modernism" that is the basis for Carderock Springs being on the National Register of Historic Places refers to the combination of the architecture and the trees.

Jack asked Gary, Nancy and Sue to prepare a "charter" to describe the proposed scope of the committee's work for discussion at the April Board meeting.

#### **Item 4: Nominating Committee**

Meaghan Curry and Ashkan Malayeri have agreed to serve on the board for 2022-2023. Jack said that we still needed to fill the officer positions of Vice President and Secretary before the Annual Meeting. Ashkan will talk with Jack about what the various positions entail.

After the Board meeting, Jack was contacted by Maja Husar who is also interested in serving on the Board. Ms. Husar's nomination was approved by e-mail vote of the Board.

Jack noted that this will be his last year as CSCA President – his 8<sup>th</sup> year!

#### **Item 5: Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday night, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7 pm, and in person and by Zoom. Jack reported that Robin Nietert will be the Meeting's speaker. Robin runs a Kenyan micro-lending project that has helped thousands of women turn around their lives.

For the Fall Meeting, Jack has arranged for Jason Loewith, Creative Director of the Olney Theatre, to talk about the production process for stage plays.

#### **Item 6: Wine Tasting Event – Kimberly Carlins**

Kimberly has arranged for a C.S. virtual wine tasting event for Friday, May 20<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm.. Kimberly will deliver two selected wines and cheeses to each participating family. The cost will be \$75/person, of which \$25 will go as a contribution to the Carderock Springs Elementary School Foundation. {The Board

previously approved this concept. Kimberly acknowledged that the idea for a virtual wine and cheese event was Margie Orrick's.

#### **Item 7: Old Business**

Beltway widening – On April 28<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a Zoom meeting with State highway officials. Jack reported that we've not received any direct feedback from our recent letters. The officials have asked what issues we're interested in. Jack plans to present the four issues we've raised previously. He asks everybody to let him know by next week any questions we have.

Carderock Springs Village – Katalin reported that somebody will arrange a meeting with younger people, inter-generational, for Wednesday night, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. She is hoping to have a large meeting for the whole community in April. Jack invited Katalin to say something about the Village project at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.

Persimmon Tree light – Ashish and Stefan replaced the light on the lamp post and painted the lamp post. Jack thanked them for their work.

#### **Item 8: New Business**

Karen reported that the Park Overlook Block Party will be Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m., outside, and open to the whole Carderock Springs and Carderock South communities. Activities will include face painting, balloons, dance contests, board games and food trucks for pizza and savories. While the Party is being supported by residents on Park Overlook, it's being sponsored through Karen by a commercial entity, Compass Realty. Since the Party is open to the whole community - CSCA could even have its own table there- the Board approved supporting the party financially notwithstanding its commercial sponsorship.

#### **Item 9: Next Meeting and Newsletter deadline**

The next Board meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submitting new material for the Newsletter will be April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Gershon M. (Gary) Ratner, Secretary