

Chesopeian Colony Civic League Meeting

January 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at Beach Ford Dealership by President Nancy May.

Nancy May said that agendas and the minutes from the 10-21-19 general meeting and special meeting were available at the sign in table. She said all minutes from the last 2 years have been updated on the website for at least the last month.

Secretary's Report: Nancy asked if there were any questions about the minutes presented. Nancy asked if there was a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Robert Oliver made a motion to have the minutes read aloud. Bill Nettles 2nd the motion. As Nancy was reading the minutes aloud, Robert Oliver objected to the statement in the minutes that his previous objection from the June minutes had been checked against the secretary and president's notes and found that the way they were reported was correct. He said that was an opinion. Nancy May responded that it was written in the notes. Robert Oliver asked for access to the president's and secretary's notes. Nancy May responded that they (the notes) were not present at this meeting. Phil Pointon called a point of order and asked if the motion was to read the minutes or reopen the discussion from a three month old meeting that had already been entered into the record. Oliver's motion was to "read the minutes". Pointon asked if we could progress with the motion, therefore Nancy May progressed with the reading of the minutes.

At the conclusion of the reading Robert Oliver again asked for access to the president's and secretary's notes from the June meeting. The secretary responded that the notes were not available, to which the president also said it wasn't up for discussion at the current meeting. Steve Mangum made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, April Brown 2nd the motion. All were in favor, with the exception of Robert Oliver opposed. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was given by April Brown. The information is on file and available. She said the numbers of residents paying dues have been dwindling the last few years. She plans to do a mailing to hopefully get back to past numbers. The 2020 budget will be presented during new business. Treasurer's report was approved as presented with no objection. (Motion Ed Lizak, 2nd Joan Shoemaker)

Committee Reports:

- **Security/Block Captains** – Joan Shoemaker reported that thanks to Scott Wood, they now have every block covered. Scott said that he told Joan that if we needed help with digitizing minutes, that he was happy to help with that. He said he had asked his block if they would like to have the newsletter digital or hard copy and he said several responded that they would still like to have it hard copy. Nancy said that the block captains should ask the residents on their block their preference for how they would like to receive the newsletter.
- **Website** – No report.

- **Scholarship** – David Bowen is taking over as chairman for the committee this year. He does have several new ideas for fundraising for the scholarship fund. There is an update in the newsletter and it will be also posted on NextDoor.
- **Garden Club/Colony Beautification** – Mary Bradley said they aren't doing much right now while it is cold and they won't start doing a lot until it gets warmer.
- **Entrance maintenance** – Stan Dimirack said there are no current issues with maintenance or equipment at this time.
- **Council of Civic Organizations** – Mary Bradley said there is no update on that right now. It's a slow time.
- **Welcome Committee** – Jeanne Baker present but she said no updates at this time. New resident Steven Smith was present at the meeting and introduced himself to the group.
- **Dredging** – Frank Gurdziel was not present, but the latest update is in the newsletter. Nancy provided a brief summary that the dredging has been done, it has been accepted. At this moment we are waiting for the city and McCleskey to make a deal for a permanent transfer station behind the old Walmart by the water tank. In the next month or so they will re-evaluate with the cost of the dredging and they will do a reanalysis of what the tax rate will be. He anticipates that once the numbers get finalized that we will have a community meeting and people can ask questions then. Robert Oliver asked when the financials will be done. Nancy said that Frank doesn't know exactly right now. With things at the city having slowed down since the shooting, he hasn't been able to get an exact date for when the numbers will be finalized. Robert Oliver asked if they had a map of the submerged dredging that had been done. Nancy said she did not know, that was a question for Frank.
- **Party Shed** – Nothing going on right now, but with the new year when chairs go on sale, we may consider purchasing some to replace those that have broken.
- **Newsletter** – January newsletter was delayed mainly because of everyone's holiday schedules. It has gone to the printer and should be delivered to the block captains by Friday or Saturday. They should have it distributed by early next week. Stephanie, who has been doing the newsletter for several years, has asked to step down so we need to find a new volunteer to do it. It is a quarterly newsletter. Content is provided. We need someone with a creative bent to take the content and enter it into the newsletter. We do currently have a template if needed. If anyone is interested or knows someone who is interested, please let someone on the board know. Nancy has also placed a notice in the January newsletter and on NextDoor about it. It was asked from the audience if it was possible to go to high schools or colleges to get someone to do it. Nancy responded that we have tried several times to get high school/college students to do the several things, including the website, and it has not panned out in part because their schedule isn't consistent with our needs. Great idea, but we have never gotten any bites off of it. It's great when people volunteer to do things, but occasionally after 4 or 5 years someone will want to step down and take a break and we need to find someone new. This is where we are right now with newsletter. The next one will be published in April.

Old Business

- **Platform** – The platform vote scheduled for tonight’s meeting was cancelled due to the platform not being a possibility because of the lot’s zoning. This question was brought forth after the last meeting. Cheryl took all of the information to the city and was told that because it is zoned R-15, that they would not grant us a permit to build any permanent structure to be used for assembly. We had always planned to get a permit, but had not gotten to that step yet because it was desired that the community be on board with the project before seeking the permit. Bill Nettles asked if we had spent any money on the project and Nancy and Cheryl responded that we had not. Robert Oliver repeated the question and asked if we had spent “ANY money” on the project. Cheryl responded that no Colony money had been spent on the project. The only funds used at all had either been donated or from private fundraising. Any money that was donated from the NextDoor request for fundraising has been returned to the donors or is in the process of being returned.

Everett Milteer said he thinks we need to thank all the people who did all the work on it. He said he knows that there was some disagreement on it, but that a lot of work went into it and he would like to thank them for that.

Nancy May said no one wants to ram anything down residents’ throats, but she does feel like it is important for residents to continue to bring new ideas to the table. She hopes that people continue to bring new ideas and that this doesn’t scare people away from bringing new ideas. New ideas are what move us forward.

Bill Nettles said he would like to thank everyone involved and that he was glad he met some new neighbors and learned some things in the process.

Scott Wood offered to write some sort of historic perspective as to how the lots were purchased to have a written record so there is perspective if something like this comes up in the future.

Nancy said she isn’t comfortable with restricting what future residents can do with the property. Scott said he wasn’t proposing a restriction, but rather just a perspective. Cheryl Noyes said that she could have pursued it further and requested a conditional permit, but she decided against it.

New Business

- **Board elections** – Nancy May’s term is up as president. The by-laws state that the president is elected for a one-year term and may be re-elected for a second year, but then must step down. Tim Clark was nominated to fill the president position. Cheryl Noyes made a motion to approve him as president, Ed Lizak 2nd the motion. It passed unopposed.

Vice-president position is open. Mary Bradley has been nominated. Nancy asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Jennifer Coleman nominated Adrienne Downing. Adrienne accepted the nomination. Mary Bradley had previously accepted her

nomination. Nancy May called for a private vote because not everyone was comfortable with a public vote. Blank slips of paper were distributed and Phil Pointon collected the slips and tabulated the vote. Nancy May announced Adrienne Downing as the winner. The voting slips and vote count were made available and will be kept in the secretary's records.

There are two board of director's positions open. Robert Oliver questioned if the board of directors positions were dependent on the VP vote. Nancy replied not for these two positions. Oliver asked for an explanation. Nancy explained that every director serves 3 years, and 2 directors are up for election every year. Regardless of that, there are 2 director positions that expire this year. The open positions are to be filled until 2023.

Tony Kalams and Cheryl Noyes have been nominated to fill the positions. No other nominations were put forth. Motion to approve from Jen Coleman, 2nd from April Brown. Approved with no one opposed.

Secretary position now needs to be filled. Nancy asked if anyone in the room was interested in the position. There were no volunteers at the meeting. Hopefully by April meeting there will be someone in the position. In the meantime, Nancy and Adrienne will help fill the role.

The 2020 CCCL Board is:

President: Tim Clark

Vice President: Adrienne Downing

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: April Brown

Board of Directors: Cheryl Noyes, Tony Kalams, David Bowen, John Dalman, Mary Bradley and Jenny Reed.

- **Budget**– The fiscal year runs from 1 March to Feb 28 (or 29) each year. April Brown reported we will have more expenses this year than in years past. This is the first year in a while that we will be over budget. Budget changes proposed are to up the budget for the 4th of July party.

Robert Oliver questioned why the maintenance/miscellaneous number was so high and if it was likely to reoccur. April responded that it was higher this year because of the holly tree trimming in the fall, voted to buy a PA system for parties instead of borrowing one (Half of that cost was donated), and the overage on the cost of the 4th of July party.

Newsletter was lowered by some getting some to take digital copies, plus we have a new printer that is substantially less expensive. We would like to grow the numbers of people receiving digital copies.

Tim Clark asked who the residents would reach out to if they wanted to receive a digital copy instead of paper copy. Nancy May responded that they should let their block captains know.

A resident asked if we should possibly raise the dues to \$55 or \$60 to cover the shortfall. April replied that when she took over in 2012 if the trend had continued that she would

have said yes, we should raise it but that we have been more fiscally responsible since then and this was the first year in a while of going over budget. With some minor changes in budget, we should be fine. If the amount of residents paying dues keeps dwindling, we may have to discuss raising the dues.

Bill Nettles asked if we should be sitting on that much money. Phil Pointon said that we should have money in the bank if we have a capital expense such as removing a tree. We also have some upkeep for the fence between One Life and the neighborhood. We are looking into the possibility of a money market or similar account with a higher interest rate. There are no rules about how much money we can have in our account. The numbers may fluctuate because we don't close out the year until Feb 28th, so we will still have another electric bill, possible front maintenance fee or similar.

Budget was passed with none opposed.

- **Egg Hunt**– Cheryl had proposed at the last board meeting that we have a Colony Egg Hunt at the front. She is willing to head it up and is looking for volunteers. Don't want to do it on Easter weekend, so Saturday, April 4th was chosen as the date, with Sunday, April 5th as the rain date. We don't have all the details yet, so stay tuned for more info on NextDoor and website. Joan Shoemaker suggested we get some of the older kids involved in helping with it. We will be soliciting prizes from businesses so it isn't a big cost to the community.

In reference to the egg hunt, Kathleen Davis, who lives adjacent to the east side vacant lot, said that she is the self-appointed police person for the lot and does not wish to be that anymore. She said she would like to make it very clear that the east lot is covered with poison ivy and feces and other things she didn't want to mention. She said the leaves are piled approximately 2 feet high as measured by her yard stick. She said the bushes are going to be suffocated. She said the shed is not on a foundation and it was never permitted, nor was there any discussion about it. She said it was brought in and pushed off the back of a truck and mashed into the bushes. She said it has been a hardship to have 263 neighbors next door, none of which she can get to come to an agreement on the upkeep of the lot. She said the lot also puddles and floods and causes drainage issues on their lot. She said the landscapers push the pine straw up against trees in such a way that may cause issues with the root system. She said she is beseeching her 263 neighbors to do something to clean up the lot.

She said she thinks the way people drive over the lot causes an issue with the grass growing on the lot. She said she feels that the poison ivy would cause an issue with an egg hunt. Cheryl Noyes said the egg hunt is planned for west side.

Nancy said maybe we can put a committee together to walk the lot and look at the property. Tim Clark agreed that he would do that as incoming president.

- **Luminaries** – Just throwing out the idea to see if anyone is interested in having them line the Trail on Christmas Eve. Possible discussion for another meeting.

- **Free little library** – Tracey Ousley suggested having a free little library for the neighborhood. Residents donate books and exchange books in a small box on a pedestal. Tracey said she would be willing to do the research on cost to buy and/or build. Will present at the next meeting. Would need to discuss location. Response was favorable at the meeting with no objections notes.
- **Platform alternative** – Bob Lincoln suggested a mound of dirt with a flat surface on top as a raised area in place of a stage. Only maintenance needed would be for landscapers to mow up and down on it.
Robert Oliver asked if we needed a permit and stated that he was sure he needed a permit because it would alter the drainage. It was said by several in the audience that a permit may not be necessary because it wasn't within 100 feet of the water.
Nancy May said it's just an idea at the moment, but that if someone is willing to look into it that we could discuss it at the next meeting.
- **Other** – Robert Oliver asked if we could record in the minutes the results of the straw vote on the platform from the special meeting. There was no count taken because the vote was unofficial. Oliver said that even though there was not count take that we know what the result of the vote was and he wanted it recorded in the official minutes. Nancy May asked if we know the platform is not going to be built, do we really want to go back and amend minutes with the results of an unofficial vote. Oliver said that we would want to know in 15 years what the result was and what was said. There was a loud objection from the audience indicating that they did not want it entered into the record. Oliver asked why then we bothered with minutes at all.
Cheryl Noyes said that because the issue was dead because of the zoning issue, not because of opposition, the deed or anything else, that there was no need to discuss it further.
- **Thanks** – Tracey Ousley said that she would like to thank Nancy and the entire board for the work that they have put in for the Colony and that she appreciates it. Nancy was thanked and applauded for her years of service as president.
- **Speeding cars** – Tim Smeeton asked if we can do anything about the cars, especially contractors, speeding down the Trail. He said he has almost been hit out walking his dogs. Nancy said that we have put reminders in the newsletter and on NextDoor, and will continue to do so, and in the past we have had a speed limit electronic tracker, we even had a cop with radar sit at bus stops, but nothing works permanently. We will continue to remind neighbors at all opportunities. When asked if we could lower the speed limit, she said she did not know the process of how to go about doing that, but if someone would like to contact the city to find out, it is something to consider.”

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next Civic League meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Beach Ford.

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Downing
Vice President/Interim Secretary