

Centreville Civic Association

November 14, 2024

Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Bayard Williams (“B. Williams”), President; Gaylan Crumley (“G. Crumley”), Vice President; Peter Dietz (“P. Dietz”), Treasurer; John Bilek (“J. Bilek”); Tiffany Shrenk (“T. Shrenk”), Secretary; Abby Fischer (“A. Fischer”) by proxy.

Board Members Absent: N/A

Guests present: 6 Centreville Residents (non-Board Members) present.

1. Call to Order by B. Williams @ 7:00 pm
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the September 12, 2024. Motion made for approval of Minutes. 1st: G. Crumley, 2nd: J. Bilek, motion carried.
3. P. Dietz presented the Treasurer’s Report. P. Dietz reported balances in each bank account – Friends of Canby Park \$16,775.97, and Wells Fargo for CCA \$10,678.94 for a total of \$27,454.91. The new fiscal year started 11/1/2024. \$5,311.03 in dues payments have been made since the beginning of the new fiscal year. Total of dues and donations received for new fiscal year so far is \$6,130.05. Regarding how payments have been received, P. Dietz reported about two-thirds have come in electronically through Stripe, and about one-third received by check in the mail. P. Dietz provided an explanation of total expenses from last fiscal year. He reported about 20% of businesses paid dues, and 17% of residents paid. There was a discussion regarding what would motivate more businesses to pay. Motion made for approval of the Treasurer’s Report. 1st: J. Bilek, 2nd G. Crumley, motion carried.
4. Old Business - Committee Updates:
 - a. Communications: T. Shrenk reported on progress of ordering signage to advertise for the Holiday Stroll and for additional signage to provide additional notice of CCA meetings. Updates regarding events and dues letters were posted on CCA social media accounts and on the CCA’s website.
 - b. Highways and Byways: G. Crumley reported the speed trailer is back this week on Kennett Pike for DE State Police to enforce speed limit and reduce speeding throughout the Village. Comment made that the speed trailer not in the best location because not as visible and suggested that it should be farther up the Pike to be more effective. In response to a questions posed regarding whether the CCA is charged a fee to have the speed trailer, G. Crumley confirmed there is no fee incurred by the CCA, but we are within the Troop 1 rotation for the trailer. There was a comment made that the speed trailer is not monitoring the speed patterns. B. Williams confirmed that a State Trooper has been out and seen firsthand the speeding. There was a question posed about whether automated ticketing is possible, and – suggested speaking to representatives about whether that can happen.
 - c. Membership: B. Williams recalled the discussion during the Treasurer’s report regarding the percentages of business dues payments received. G. Crumley updated regarding the completion and process of the dues mailing and thanked the

Board members for helping out with the printing, stuffing of envelopes, and mailing of the letters. T. Shrenk reported that A. Fisher had expressed interest in helping out with the drafting of the dues letter for next fiscal year since G. Crumley is retiring from his position. B. Williams updated that after tonight's meeting we have four (4) open Board positions as this is G. Crumley's last meeting. George Hobbs has submitted his resume for the Board's review to fill a vacant Board position. The Board will review his resume and can move forward with a motion potentially at the next Board meeting. B. Williams discussed that any resident or business interested in filling a vacant Board position can submit a resume to the Board for review and a Board Member can move to have the applicant fill the vacancy.

- d. Community Events/ Merchant Relations: T. Shrenk reported that the merchants had a successful Harvest Festival event. Overall, the feedback was positive. One item that was brought up was lack of parking in the village for larger scale events. T. Shrenk reported on plans for the upcoming Holiday stroll event. There was an additional \$550 sponsorship paid by Karen Helme of Found that will support the hiring of the professional carolers in vintage attire. Santa and the First State Symphonic Band are also scheduled for the event. The Greens Sale will take place to benefit the CCA but will be located in the new pergola area at Fredericks (now called "Centreville Barns"), and the Junior League of Wilmington will be in the park conducting a toy drive with the support of the merchants who will be collecting in their stores.
- e. Landscaping Committee: B. Williams reported that he had spoken to landscaper Tim Peterson and reminded him that we are using the park for the Holiday Stroll and need the park ready for the event and a final clean up in December. G. Crumley reported lights were placed on the Mayor's tree in the park by First View. He reported that an electrician had to be called out to replace the electrical outlet located near the tree. He also reported that the tree is in decline. T. Shrenk reported that she will decorate the park gazebo for a Santa photo area for the Holiday Stroll.
 - i. Park Maintenance – Gazebo/Kiosk: G. Crumley and J. Bilek reported regarding progress made with re-mulching of the playground area. G. Crumley did the legwork and research on the type of mulch needed, and J. Bilek secured a donation from Holland Mulch for the mulch. Board discussed providing a shout-out on socials or website thanking Holland Mulch for their donation. G. Crumley coordinated with the landscapers to spread the mulch. G. Crumley said the mulch around the merry go round will need to be replenish more frequently than other areas of the playground and Board should revisit re-mulching that area potentially every year.
 - ii. Gateways/Bulbouts – G. Crumley and B. Williams reported that the Amsonia will be looked to be replaced with a smaller version that will not grow as high. Discussion that the high amsonia in the bulbouts at Valley Way and Hollingsworth had been cut back in response to complaints received, and another complaint regarding high Amsonia was received regarding the bulbout at the Financial House. G. Crumley had visited the Financial House

to investigate the complaint, and B. Williams stated the issue will be discussed with the landscapers. B. Williams also reported that three bulbout signs need to be replaced due to damage from motor vehicles. He is looking into quotes for replacements.

5. Other Old Business:

- a. Centreville Safety Improvements – B. Williams recalled that the speed trailer had already been discussed, and that a meeting took place with some residents in town and DelDot after the residents contacted DelDot for a meeting to talk about speeding. Meeting minutes from the DelDot meeting were distributed (attached). B. Williams discussed Valley Way’s request to eliminate seven (7) parking spaces from along Kennett Pike due to obstruction of view from Valley Way. B. Williams reported DelDot’s response that if you eliminate those seven (7) spaces, you are establishing a precedent that would justify the elimination of many other spaces in the Village. Additionally, DelDot stated that if you take away parking spaces then you are discouraging people from going the speed limit. One suggestion was to have multiple crosswalks and there was the suggestion of a crosswalk at Fredericks (now known as “Centreville Barns”). It was discussed that flashing lights are not an option as they are not allowed in the overlay. A resident proposed reflectors in crosswalks and there was a discussion regarding “FROGs” a form of elevated crosswalk. There was the suggestion of additional crosswalks at the north and south ends. B. Williams reported that State Rep. Krista Griffith was present for the DelDot meeting and was going to check on sources of funding available that could pay for some of the options discussed. Once sources of funding identified, the polling of residents would need to occur before any action – such as the addition of more crosswalks – could take place.
 - b. DRAC Meeting Updates – J. Bilek is serving on the DRAC. A meeting was held on September 29th with 6 members present. The members were advised at the meeting by the County Land Use Department and County attorney of the rules of the DRAC. They will only meet when there is a need or proposal before them to be decided. It was confirmed that the ordinance for the cottage community was overturned so there is nothing currently on the table for DRAC to decide.
 - c. Vacant Board Seats: There was a discussion with potential board members regarding interest in joining the Board and the brainstorming of ideas to get the word out and attract members to fill current vacancies.
 - d. G. Crumley’s Retirement: G. Crumley had previously submitted his resignation and intent to retire from his Board role. The Board members thanked G. Crumley for his many years of Board service and his outstanding commitment to the CCA and the community!
6. B. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting @ 8:20 pm. 1st: G. Crumley, 2nd P. Dietz, motion carried.