CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
Crofton Elementary School
April 20, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Board Members: Anna O'Kelly, Kevin Wilson, Brian Riley, Meredith Schramm, Charles See, Chuck Cook, Kitty Gross, John Sullivan.

Staff: Martin H. Simon**,** Chief Jason Jett, Tara Gottschalck, and James Harvey.

President Anna O'Kelly opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements:

Anna announced the meeting was recorded to assist with the transcription of the minutes.

Beginning on May 9th, the Crofton Farmers Market will be held every Saturday from 8:00 AM to Noon at the Crofton Library through December 19th. Stop by and get local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See Crofton Farmers Market on Facebook for details.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church is hosting a Food Truck Night every Tuesday evening from April through October, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, in the parking lot. There will be 8 to 10 trucks each Tuesday.

The Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Spring Festival on the Green on Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Crofton Country Club. There will be food trucks, arts and crafts, music, family activities, and local vendors. Both the CCA and the Crofton Police Department will have a booth, so please stop by and say hello.

Saturday, April 25th, is the last day of the Used Books & Media Sale at Prince of Peace Church. From 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Books, DVDs, Games and Puzzles are for sale. Most books are $2. Proceeds support programs such as the Crofton Christian Caring Council and Sarah's House. Cash, checks, Venmo, PayPal, and credit cards are accepted.

The CCA Armed Forces/First Responders Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, at 10:00 AM. The parade steps off from Crofton Woods Elementary School, turns left on Crofton Parkway, travels 1.3 miles turning left at Duke of Kent Drive, and finishing at Crofton Elementary. Please come out and line the parade route to support our heroes. There will be a post-parade celebration in the backyard at Crofton Town Hall with make-and-take crafts, music, and light refreshments. We'll also be raising our new Crofton Flag for the first time during the event. All are welcome to join in the festivities!

This year, we are also adding a new event -- a Kids' Community Bike Ride. We are asking kids to decorate their bikes and join the parade. There will be prizes for the best decorated bikes beginning at 9:00 AM at Crofton Woods Elementary School. The parade begins at 10:00 AM. See our website to register at Croftoncommunity.org.

On Saturday, May 16th, from 10:00 AM to Noon, the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce will host a shred event. The public is invited to bring up to 4 file-sized boxes of paper to be securely shredded at no cost. The Community Shred Event will be held in the parking lot of their offices at 2126 Espey Court. Donations will be accepted.

The CCA General Membership meeting and Election Day is scheduled for Monday, May 18th, in the cafeteria here at Crofton Elementary School. The Board of Directors election will be held at this meeting. Voting will take place from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the hallway outside the cafeteria. All members of the CCA, 18 and older, are invited to attend and vote.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to vote in person, absentee voting will be available May 11th through May 15th at Town Hall during normal business hours, with extended hours on Wednesday, May 13th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

And new this year, for the first time, online voting will also be available the week of May 11th starting at 9:00 AM and running through 4:00 PM on Friday, the 15th. See our website, CroftonCommunity.org, for details.

Since there are no contested races this year, Candidates' Night will not be held, but the Elections Committee still encourages all adult CCA members to do their civic duty and vote.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Anne Arundel County will be held at Crofton High School on May 29th from 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM. You can participate by:

- Joining the Relay for Life.
- Creating a relay team.
- Designing a booth with an Olympic-themed design to engage relay runners in FUN activities.

The event is a way to have fun with students and families across the county and to raise awareness and funds to fight cancer. Following the Opening Ceremony, they will host a complimentary dinner for Survivors and Caregivers, culminating in the Luminaria Ceremony at nightfall. This moving tribute, where candles are lit in memory or honor of loved ones, remains the heart of the event. To learn more or to get involved, see Secure.ASCevents.org.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 25th, for Memorial Day.

Crofton Library Events: (see full schedule at AACPL.net)

- April 27, 6:00 PM — 7:00 PM, Crofton Houseplant Club
- May 1, 10:30 AM — 11:30 AM, Beginner Yoga
- May 2, 16, 23, 30, 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM, Plant Clinic: Ask A Master Gardener

- May 4, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Ready to Vote (Board of Elections discusses timelines, the security of ballot boxes, and how to become an Election Judge). This event requires pre-registration.
- May 6, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Friend Speed Dating
- May 14, 2:00 PM — 3:00 PM, Adult Book Club: Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner

Meeting Minutes Approval

The meeting minutes of the March 9th Board meeting require approval. There were no additional changes needed. The minutes were filed.

Vote on Revised Beaver Creek Phase II Restoration Project

Kitty made a motion to approve the deed of easement and agreement between the Crofton Civic Association and Anne Arundel County for the project B559600 LPAX Crofton Golf Stream Restoration Project. (LPAX stands for Little Patuxent). Chuck Cook seconded.

During the Board member discussion, Martin described the process if the Board decides to move forward with the project. He explained that DPW will allow the tagging of trees that need trimming or removal once they clear out the other side of the creek in the area where the trees will remain. The earliest start date is scheduled for June 2027. He verified that the language of the agreement will be the same as was already shown to Board members, and that DPW will reproduce both the A and B Exhibits to highlight the changes made. Anna would sign the easement agreement. Residents will be notified with a series of mailings by DPW. Nasrin Dahlgren will be the project manager and point of contact for Phase II. Martin will do weekly check-ins with her during the project. The CCA will post updates on the website and other social media platforms. The first portion of the project will be BGE moving designated utility poles. BGE will provide a point of contact person. He added that the county will begin the planting of additional trees this fall, instead of waiting until the beginning of the project next June.

Some Board members said they are conflicted, understanding the effect of the project on the residents closest to the creek, but feel the project is necessary to improve infrastructure. There is an impending threat to properties due to erosion. If it is not taken care of now, it will need to be in the future, with the fiduciary responsibility landing on the CCA. They believe this project will improve the overall quality of the area, with the benefit of the county absorbing the cost. Board members have indicated they wish to use the proceeds of this project to improve the area if any shortfalls remain at the end.

The concern of potential loss of home values was raised. A resident professional home appraiser provided comparable data, which shows that home values in the area of the highest impact of the project have continued to rise by 5% for the last six months. A local realtor explained that the data is based on home values before the removal of the tree screen between these homes and Route 3. Her experience leads her to believe that the loss of the screening, both for view and noise level, would cause properties to sit on the market longer, driving prices down and lowering value overall. Meredith mentioned a realtor she contacted did not agree that home values would drop after tree screen removal. She also provided guidance from the USDA National Agroforestry Center, which suggests that typical tree cover does not significantly

impact traffic noise, and that in order to do so, it must be extremely dense and specifically designed for that purpose.

After discussion, the Board voted 7 to 1 in favor of granting the easement to the county.

Anna asked the Board to hold off on any voting regarding the use of the funds received for the project. She agrees with Board members who suggested it should be used for any improvements needed in the area of the project.

Town Manager's Report – *Martin H. Simon*

Martin thanked Jim and the Board members for their participation in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. He thanked Kathy, Meredith, and all the volunteers who assisted with the Easter Egg Hunt.

The Board of Directors election will be held next month. Since there are no contested races, there will be no Candidates Night. Brenda Wakefield will be stepping in for Brian Riley as Board Secretary, and Jack Kemerer will step in for John Sullivan, representing District 5.

Martin reported on the follow-up to the parking meeting. DPW has reinstated the 190-foot unrestricted zone from Dryden Way to Carlyle Drive. DPW Traffic Engineer Erik Terry responded to our other inquiries. Regarding the 72-hour community-wide parking limit, DPW does have the authority to do so; however, it would require many signs to be posted. Additionally, police manpower would have to increase significantly in order to chalk tires and track parked vehicles to ensure they have been moved within the time limit. Martin clarified that special legislation for parking just for the tax district must come from the County Council, which historically has had no interest in granting this.

As a follow-up on painting curbs red to indicate no parking zones, such as at crosswalks and stop signs, Martin continued that DPW has the authority to paint curbs but has not historically done so, and that the CCA or CPD cannot do it themselves. The county code does not recognize red curbs as an official traffic control device. Current law does include a 20-foot parking restriction leading to a crosswalk, and a 30-foot restriction leading to a stop sign.

Alternate side of the street parking for street sweeping was another suggestion; however, there is no current regular schedule for this. Martin has contacted DPW representatives to determine if this is a possibility. He will report on any progress.

Martin reported on the placement of radar speed signs. He has provided Mr. Terry with a half dozen hot spots for placement. They will determine the feasibility of the locations. These signs require a pole or lamppost and a clear line of sight. They will stay at each location for one week, then rotate them to the next location.

Mr. Terry confirmed that since Crofton Parkway was last resurfaced in 2022, it will not be eligible again for another fifteen to twenty years. He included that if we wish to proceed with the part of the project from 2022 to add white edge lines, bicycle pavement markings, and some strategically placed "bicycles may use full lane" signs, DPW could still implement this plan

before any scheduled repaving fifteen years from now. These are not designated bike lanes. They are reminders that they are shared roadways. This could be done if the Board decides to support this plan. He would like the Board to think about this for a future vote.
The work order for the extension of the No Parking area south of Walleye Drive has been issued, and Miss Utility will be marking the area soon. This is to be completed in the next few weeks.

Martin reported on the crosswalk study on Duke of Kent Drive to find out if lighted signage can be installed there. The required study is expected to be completed by the end of the school year.

Martin will send out an email tomorrow with this information to those who attended the parking meeting and post the information on the website.

Martin provided an update on the rain garden project at the front entrance. He retested the drainage during dry weather with the same failed result. At the suggestion of Subijoy Dutta, he dug new holes at a depth of 4 feet. At that depth there was no water, but only sand and gravel. They were hoping to hit clay in order to determine how far down the piping needs to go. Subijoy recommends getting a core sample from 7-8 feet deep. He also suggested adding some plantings in the area to see if that makes any measurable difference to the water ponding there. He asked if Anna and Kitty could meet this week to go over a list of recommended plantings.

Martin and Keith began an attempt to clean up the logs and tree debris behind Swann Park, left behind by the county. Martin is still waiting for them to respond to his request. If they refuse, he will arrange for our landscaping company to finish it. There is money left over in the grounds maintenance fund.

Martin reported he has received positive feedback regarding the state mosquito control program. We are on the list for treatment this year. Treatments will begin June 3rd and run through October 6th when necessary. Spraying begins in the evenings from 7:00 PM and 2:30 AM. Residents do have the option to opt out of the program. There will be instructions posted to the website and social media platforms.

Martin provided the police overtime report. There was a total of fifteen and one-half hours used. Eleven and one-half hours were used for the Cherry Blossom Festival, 4 hours were used for an extended shift for storm coverage.

The printed Advocate is ready and will begin mailing later this week.

Martin mentioned the tribute to Pat Huecker, who passed away in March, in the April E-Advocate. A mass will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish at 11:00 AM, followed by a celebration of life at the Crofton Swim and Tennis Club on Monday, May 18th.

This Saturday is the Spring Festival on the Green at the Crofton Country Club. The CCA will have a tent next to the Crofton Police Department. Martin invited Board members to volunteer at the event.

Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey*

Jim distributed his report to Board members. He noted the salary numbers for police are inclusive of the nighttime differential. Buddy Punch treats nighttime as an alternative regular pay, so it is not reported separately from regular pay in payroll data.

Jim reported that the reason we had not yet received our tax payment from the county is that they did not have our Bond COI on file. It was submitted to the Budget Office, which did not forward it to the Finance Office. The issue has been resolved, and we should receive payment by the end of April.

Jim reported there is a potential legal matter and workers' compensation claim that will be discussed during the Executive Session. He added that the SAM registration has been renewed for the year.

Jim reported there was an issue with the donation for the new sign for Town Hall. Kiwanis rejected the donation because it was from a charitable trust, not an individual. He requested the Board's approval to purchase the sign directly for the amount of $2,285. Jim circulated the final design of the sign. The Board agreed with the final design and purchase.

Jim reported there are currently four items in the Crofton online store which include the Crofton Flag, the Challenge Coins, the Boo Patches, and the Sotweed to Suburbia books. Jim created an appropriate income and expense line for these items in the CCA accounts. They were previously categorized as "Contingency" and "Police." They are now reflected as "4014 Crofton Store (Income) and 9007 Crofton Store (expenses).

Jim reported that Buddy Punch has been doing end-of-quarter variance calculations on employer contributions to unemployment and FICA. There was a larger refund of $190.27 issued from Maryland Unemployment Insurance. There is no breakdown provided with the refund for the budget line items, so they have been posted to Public Safety since it has the largest share of FICA and Unemployment contributions.

Jim reported that on April 1st, the firewall failed, halting Ethernet and Wi-Fi service for Town Hall and the police department for three days. All files and IP addresses were recovered successfully by Cheaper Than A Geek.

The April E-Advocate went out on Friday, April 13th. Emails and social media posts were posted in support of the Kiwanis Candidates' Night, the Crofton Flag, the Bike ride event for the parade, and the Crofton Pie Bake-off. Jim ordered new window clings for the parade and will provide them to local businesses for foot traffic. There are parade promotion cards for Newk's, Nico's, and Chick-fil-A that will be circulated with each order from those restaurants as an additional promotion.

48 booths were registered for the Cherry Blossom Festival. Both the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Easter Egg Hunt were very well attended.

On April 15th, the CCA co-hosted a Candidates' Night with the Kiwanis Club at the AVFD Training Center. All five County Executive candidates and three District 7 County Council candidates attended. There were over 80 participants.

We have sold 18 of the 32 Crofton Flags ordered.

There are twenty-five new Crofton Salutes Our Heroes banners that will be installed before May 9th. This will complete the Parkway loop, with some poles having two banners. Two poles are husband and wife banners, and we have a banner for a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient.

The Crofton Pie Bake-off is scheduled for July 11th. A new "Junior Baker" trophy was added to the event.

Police Chief's Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported there has been an increase in emergency petitions for mental health crises in the last six weeks. He added that all CPD officers are trained in Crisis Intervention. Sgt. Sims is investigating a program to follow up with individuals, as Anne Arundel County Crisis Intervention does. He added that officers are regularly evaluated every two years as mandated by Anne Arundel County.

He reported there were two DOA's in the community this month.

He provided the monthly statistics for March. There were thirty traffic stops. He completed about 10 step-outs at Crofton Parkway and Crofton Elementary School in a thirty-minute period of time. These are just verbal warnings. Officers are continuously patrolling and maintaining a visible presence in the area for speeding vehicles. There were one hundred nineteen administrative items, which included report writing, case follow-ups, training, documentation, and coordinating with partner agencies. There were one hundred ninety-seven patrol checks, including house checks, local businesses such as the Village Green, and area schools.

The Chief reported that the police department participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Chief Jett provided an update on the Flock Safety cameras. There was some suspect information caught on our camera of the robbery of the vape shop located behind Rita's. The cameras also picked up suspects of the theft from autos in Arrive apartments. These did not lead to any arrests. The cameras are still operating without the software updates, so they do not include data from the Maryland MVA. The camera installed on Layton needs to be relocated, and Flock is unable to do so until May. The trial program has been extended by the company through July 23rd.

Regarding the mental health crisis follow-up program, Kitty mentioned that this is not allowed by the fire department due to HIPAA privacy laws.

Kevin asked when the Board had to make the decision about continuing the Flock Safety Camera program. The Chief said by early July.

Committee Reports

Covenant Review Committee – *Kevin Wilson*

Kevin reported that the committee is working on two complaints. One complaint has reached a resolution with the homeowner. The other was sent a first violation letter last week.

Public Safety Committee – *Brian Riley*

Brian reported on the Public Safety Meeting that was held on April 13th. The Chief briefed the committee on the Flock Safety Camera system. The rest of the meeting was about parking in the community, which Martin has already reported on.

Maintenance and Operations – *Kitty Gross*

Kitty reported on the rain garden repair at the front entrance. After 9 months of research, it requires a complete overhaul versus a repair. A decision on next steps will have to be made soon.

She spoke about the areas of the Country Club outside of the park that need trimming, and overgrown hedges on Swinburne Avenue. She said there is a group of elderly volunteers that may take on the project themselves if the Country Club will not take care of it.

She spoke about the debris at Lake Louise by the woods. Meredith will speak to a member of their HOA.

Planning and Zoning – *John Sullivan*

John reported that GAN is trying to rally folks regarding Bill 23-26 to ban developers from making campaign contributions to the County Council or the County Executive candidates. The hearing is this evening.

Recreation Committee – *Meredith Schramm*

Meredith reported that the Easter Egg hunt had a large turnout this year. There is a strong inventory of recapped eggs ready for use next year. She thanked all the volunteers who made this event successful.

She reported that planning is well underway for the upcoming Armed Forces/First Responders Parade. The Bike decorating contest has 10 entries so far. The Family Bike Shop will help judge the contest. She asked people who are interested in joining the parade to reach out to Kathy Lavin at Kathryn804@yahoo.com or 410-370-1772. A post-parade celebration will be held at Town Hall in the backyard with refreshments, activities, and crafts. All are invited.

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – *Chuck See*

Chuck reported the next meeting of the GCC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd, at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Community Center. Representatives from the State Highway Administration will provide information regarding Route 3 improvements.

Education and Civic Affairs – *Chuck Cook*

Chuck did not have anything to report.

Finance Committee – *James Kitchin*

James was not present and did not provide a report.

Citizen Comments

A resident asked a real estate agent in attendance if he has to disclose the information regarding the upcoming Beaver Creek project to the new owner when he sells his home. She responded that he did not under the current requirements.

Resident Melanie Smith, from Patrice Circle, asked if a large hanging branch can be taken care of on Crossgate Drive and Route 3.

Resident Susan James asked about the legality of electric bikes on the sidewalk. Chief Jett said these are gauged by the engine size of the bike. They are not supposed to be on the sidewalk and are supposed to follow the regulations of all motorized traffic. He will make an announcement in the E-Advocate and on social media, reminding people of the rules. He added that Cpl. Gable has issued citations to riders on the sidewalk.

A resident of the E section complained about overgrown hedges that encroach on the sidewalk, and trees with hanging branches. Martin responded that he notifies the manager of the Country Club when such problems exist on Club property.

A resident commented on the vote on the purchase of the land at the front entrance, stating the primary justification for the land purchase was to stop development and its impact on residents. He is concerned that when decisions are made for residents, they are or are not impacted. He feels the Board's decision on the Beaver Creek Project was made before the vote was taken. He was not aware of any threat to the townhomes by the creek. It was about fixing a few sewer lines and a light pole. He feels this could have been taken care of in a different way, and that his vote does not carry the same weight as single-family homeowners along the Parkway. He believes his home value will decrease due to this project.

Kitty responded that her decision to grant the easement was not easy to make. She regrets the difficulties the nearest residents will have to suffer; however, she believes the project will improve the area overall and possibly increase the home values in that section. The creek is in terrible condition, and based on the results of previous projects, she believes it will improve the area overall.

A resident asked about erecting a protective fence in the area of Phase I of the Beaver Creek Project. There is wildlife such as foxes and raccoons encroaching on the area toward the

homes. She is also concerned about people slipping and falling down the side of the creek. Martin was not aware of the county erecting fencing in that area as part of the project.

With no additional questions, the meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session regarding personnel and legal matters.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (May 1, 2026)

MS/JH/JJ(tg)