

**CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING (Via ZOOM)
April 11, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

Present:

Board Members: Martin Simon, Anna O’Kelly, Brian Riley, Renee Speer, Daria DeLizio, Charles See, James Harvey, Robert Kendall, Hal Sheldon.

Staff: Larry Schweinsburg, Chief Earl Fox, Tara Gottschalck.

Martin announced that this meeting is being recorded for the purpose of assisting the Secretary with the recording of the meeting minutes.

Larry Schweinsburg opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by the President:

Martin announced the retirement of Larry Schweinsburg on April 21. Martin thanked Larry for all of his years of service to the community both as Police Chief and as Town Manager.

On April 13 at 7:00 PM Crofton Kiwanis will host a meeting featuring author Terri Tomoff, who will speak about her book “The Focused Fight-A Childhood Cancer Journey, from Mayhem to Miracles.” This meeting is free and open to the public.

On April 30, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the Crofton Chamber of Commerce will host the Spring Festival on the Green at the Crofton Country Club.

On May 12 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM the CCA Election Committee will host a Candidates Night by ZOOM, featuring Presidential candidates Martin H. Simon (Incumbent) and Melanie A. Smith. This meeting will be moderated by the Election Committee Chair, Stephen Tull.

On May 14 at 10 AM, the CCA will host its Armed Forces/First Responders Parade. The Parade begins at Crofton Woods Elementary School and ends at Crofton Elementary School. There will be a celebration afterward at Town Hall.

On May 16 the CCA will have its General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Elections from 5 PM to 9 PM at the First Baptist Church. Polling begins at 5 PM. The General Membership Meeting begins at 7:30 PM. This meeting will be held in person. Early balloting is available at Town Hall May 9 through 13, during regular business hours, and on May 11 and 12 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM.

On June 5 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the CCA Summer Concert Series will begin at the Crofton Country Club.

On June 11 at 8 AM, Crofton Kiwanis will host its 5/10 K Challenge around Crofton Parkway. Registration will begin at 6:30 AM at the Crofton Country Club.

Martin announced that the CCA Easter Egg Hunt was a success, and thanked all the volunteers for their assistance at this event.

Approval of Minutes:

Martin announced that the Board meeting minutes of the March 14 CCA Board Meeting need to be approved. A motion was made by Anna to approve the minutes. Jim seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Covenant Review Committee - Anna-
Anna had nothing to report.

Public Safety Committee - Brian-

Brian reported that the County Council is working on the Police Accountability Board Bill. They are working through the amendments and hope to be done next week. The deadline is July. He will continue to monitor the status.

Finance Committee - Renee-

Renee reported that she continues to fill in for the Comptroller at Town Hall until a replacement is found. The Board will conduct a review of the budget tomorrow at Town Hall. The Budget is down with regards to salaries, and therefore can cover any overages that may exist in other areas. Renee reported on an announcement in the upcoming newsletter that Town Hall has received notification of questionable internal controls. The Board investigated and confirmed a breach in internal controls and is working to resolve this and other concerns that need to be resolved.

Recreation Committee – Daria-

Daria reported that the Easter Egg Hunt event was very successful. Attendance was very high, and they ran out of eggs, but substituted prizes for those who did not get any. Martin thanked the Girl Scout Troops who assisted in the egg stuffing. He sent thank you notes to the volunteers.

Planning & Zoning – Chuck –

Chuck reported that the zoning variance hearing that was scheduled for April 14 regarding the property at the intersection of Route 3 and Route 175 was postponed. It has been rescheduled to October 18 and 19 at the request of the developer. The parcel is 0.7 acres, and is currently zoned as residential low density. The developer would like it to be rezoned to commercial, just as the adjacent 7 acre parcel is. The original request was denied by the County hearing officer. The reason for the postponement is so the developer can work with the Maryland State Highway Administration to devise alternate Route 3 access points.

Marsha Perry reported on several projects in the County; The County Council budget work session begins tonight. This will continue through the end of May. On the agenda is the Green Master Plan, which can be accessed online for review.

The Route 450 traffic study is still in progress.

There was a rumor that Staples Corner may be for sale due to a death in the family. The zoning on this is protected by the 2040 plan.

Anne Arundel County will hold two, in-person public meetings to introduce the public to Walk & Roll Anne Arundel, the update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. There is information available on their website.

Marsha attended the variance request hearing for the Halle Landfill. The Halle group requested an additional time extension. The Board of Appeals will rule on this in early June.

Marsha reported that Governor Hogan replaced Patuxent River Commission leader Fred Tutman, with the owner of Homestead Gardens. Senator Pinski passed a bill that makes the Patuxent River Commission a voting member of the commission. By this process, Mr. Tutman has returned to the Commission.

As an active member of the Anne Arundel County Forestry Board, Marsha was contacted by Peggy Reeves, a member of that board. A week after the fallen tree accident on Farlow Avenue, she obtained a root from the tree and submitted it for analysis by the County Forester, who gave it to the state for analysis. The report states that the tree had Armillaria, a root rot disease which weakened the tree. The report from UMD Extension Service performed by Karen Wayne, a plant disease diagnostician. The sample confirmed symptoms of this disease. This is a problem that needs to be addressed. Marsha will contact the County Forester for his advice on what can be done. There is another symptom indicating presence of this fungus, which is white mushrooms that appear around the base of the tree. This is a major safety concern in the community because of the large number of Oak trees. Marsha offered to follow up on this.

Martin commented that Jim Harvey was in contact with Peggy Elliot from the AVFD as well, and she has put together an article on this subject with photos. It covers three different diseases, and advised that people get in touch with an arborist to have their trees examined. Jim plans to post this to the website.

Greater Crofton Council - Jim-

Jim reported that the GCC meets tomorrow at 7:00 PM at the Waugh Chapel Center. He will attend. This meeting is open to CCA residents.

Jim commented on the Cherry Blossom Festival which went well. He received good feedback from residents. He would like to discuss continuing it.

Maintenance and Operations – Rob -

Rob reported that he manned the booth during the Cherry Blossom Festival. He met a lot of residents. The planting at the front entrance is now complete. Rob thanked everyone who was involved. The lights on the wall need to be repaired, and they are still working on the irrigation system. Martin commented that the Magnolia trimming will be included in the maintenance plan.

Susan Fugate asked about the maintenance. Rob responded that there is no maintenance contract with the landscaping company. Jams will be taking this over. Susan suggested that the plantings are pruned rather than sheared to protect this investment. She also suggested an additional planting bed as you go up the hill to draw the eye up. Rob agrees, and they had the Holly trees cut back to see the Evergreen better. He will consider the additional bed for a future project. Rob mentioned that there will be an additional Park Clean Up day soon. Martin mentioned that the CAC was at Hardy Field over the weekend cleaning up the area.

Education Committee – Hal-

Hal reported that the Principal at Crofton Woods Elementary will retire at the end of this school year. It is likely that the Assistant Principal will become the new Principal.

MCAP testing will take place in late April or early May. May 10 is Ledo's Night.

Crofton Middle held 7 performances of Beauty and the Beast. One performance including the cast of 2020.

Johanna Olexi's son placed second in the Spelling Bee.

Police Chief Report - Chief Fox –

The Chief reported on the homeless person residing on the wooded property behind Patrice Circle. Our attorney verified that the property belongs to the CCA. Crofton officers removed the man from the property today. There is trash and debris left behind that will need to be dealt with. Martin commented that he went out with the officers to inspect the site. Melanie Smith mentioned that Ed Rielly proposed asking the Eagle Scouts to assist in the clean up. Martin and Melanie both agreed that given the amount and content of the debris, it would not be appropriate for them to do the clean up. Martin and Larry are discussing ways to address the clean up quickly so as not to motivate the person to return the area. Jim Harvey asked where he was removed to. Martin responded that the Pastor from the First Baptist Church arranged an alternative housing situation outside of Crofton.

Melanie asked how we can secure the area so that this person does not return and suggested fencing, barbed wire, and no trespassing signs. Martin was uncertain how to fence in the many acres of land. Melanie suggested running fencing from the barrier where he enters by the liquor store, and posting signs. Martin thanked her for those suggestions.

Town Manager's Report - Larry-

Larry reported that Jams removed a fallen tree from the common area behind Peartree and Pecan Tree.

He reported that Jams has been notified to schedule the spring cleaning of the rain garden at the front entrance.

Larry noted that BGE was very quick to respond to the electrical problems at the Front Entrance. They now need to determine how to address the lights on the walls that are not working, and what needs to be done to control the irrigation system.

Larry reported that Mr. Sussman was quick to respond about the question of the CCA ownership of property behind Patrice Circle. There was no listing of this property for 20 years. The Police Department reacted very quickly after that to remove the homeless person.

Larry announced that this is his last Town Manager's report. He thanked the Board and wished the CCA well.

Martin introduced candidates running for office who are in attendance. Martin introduced Sean Livingston, a returning candidate. He also introduced new candidates Shannon Leadbetter who is running for County Council District 7, and Stuart Schmidt who is running for State Delegate District 33.

Ms. Leadbetter is a 26 year resident of the CCA. She grew up in Riva, attended South River High School, and now resides in Crofton. She has worked in Crofton at a Title company on Route 3. Her husband is a Marine, and was stationed to the Pentagon, when the family moved to Crofton. Her children attended Crofton Woods Elementary School. Her motivation for running for office was the school shut down during Covid. She was able to organize a way to get children and teachers who wanted to be back in school for in person learning back in the classroom. She feels a need to work in the community, and that there is a need for fresh leadership to build community engagement. She will attend the upcoming Festival on the Green.

Stuart Schmidt is a CCA resident that lives on Crofton Parkway. He and his family have been living in Crofton for 7 years. He is running for Delegate in order to give back to the community. He coached CAC baseball, and volunteers at Glen Burnie High School. He was at the scene when the tree fell on the home on Farlow Avenue, and thanked Marsha for her report. He will attend Festival on the Green.

Citizen Questions or Comments:

Susan Fugate asked about the paving of roads to address the recent potholes. Larry responded that he has provided DPW with a list of potholes. They have already begun the cold patch process last month. They will come back in the warmer weather to apply the hot patch. Larry will contact the director of DPW regarding the two areas on Crofton Parkway that are in the worst shape. Larry suggested that residents may also contact the Director of DPW themselves.

Melanie Smith asked about the progress on the improvements of Route 450. They are digging up area on Urby and 450. She believes it is due to a drainage issue. She asked if anyone has any information on this. Larry and Chuck responded no. Martin said we can look into this and get back to her.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Receptionist (May 6, 2022)

MS/EF(tg)