CROFTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
First Baptist Church, Crofton
March 9, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Present:

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

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

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

Announcements:

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

The Crofton Farmers Winter Market continues on March 14th and 28th at the Crofton Library from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Stop by and get local and regional foods, crafts, and artwork. See Croftonfarmersmarket.com for details.

On Sunday, March 22nd, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Crofton Kiwanis will host an Easter Egg Decorating on Keepsake Wooden Eggs event at the Crofton Library for kids aged 5-12. Kids will be provided with three wooden eggs, acrylic paint, markers, and colored pencils to decorate their eggs as they please. There is a $10.00 donation/materials fee. The event is limited to 40 kids. For reservations, please visit Croftonkiwanis.org.

On Thursday, March 26th, 5:30PM to 7:30PM, the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Taste of Crofton at the Crofton Country Club. This event showcases the best restaurants, caterers, and eateries from our greater Crofton Community. See Croftonchamber.com to purchase tickets ($35).

The Annual CCA Easter Egg Hunt and Cherry Blossom Festival are scheduled for the same day, Saturday, March 28th. Please mark your calendars for these two very popular CCA events! The Easter Egg Hunt begins promptly at 12 noon at the side field of Crofton Elementary, so be sure to arrive a few minutes early with your bag or basket. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the children. There will be 10,000 candy and prize ticket-filled eggs to find. Rain date is scheduled for Saturday April 4th.

The Cherry Blossom Festival begins at 11:00 AM and goes to 2:00 PM and is located on the inner loop of Crofton Parkway between both entrances to Eton Way. There will be food trucks, arts and crafts, and live music.

The next CCA Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20th at 7:00 PM at the Library Media Center, Crofton Elementary School.

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

- March 10, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, Managing Money: A Caregivers Guide to Finances
- March 13, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Beginner Yoga
- March 14, 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM, Mending with American Sewing Guild
- March 23, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Heckle a Classic Hollywood Movie (Wuthering Heights, 1939)
- March 28, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Navigating Senior Living and Healthcare

Meeting Minutes Approval

The meeting minutes of the following meetings require approval.
January 12, 2026, CCA General Membership Meeting, and February 9, 2026 CCA Board Meeting. One edit was made to the January 12 minutes. There were no other revisions needed. There were no corrections needed for the February 9 minutes. All minutes were filed.

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

Martin attended the Coffee with Candidates event on February 18th at Chesapeake Coffee Roasters. Jim coordinated this event which allowed eleven regional candidates for elected office to meet casually with constituents. It was a successful event and well attended.

He attended the recent Beaver Creek Restoration Phase II meeting and the Planning meeting for Parking in the community. The March E-Advocate contains summaries of both meetings.

Regarding the Beaver Creek Restoration Project, he mentioned that project engineers have recently taped off areas with yellow tape on the eastern shore creek bed beginning behind the homes of Carry Place and continuing to the homes at the end of Walleye Drive. The tape makes it easier to see the expanded undisturbed buffer area between the Walleye homes and the affected areas on the other side of the creek. He encouraged residents to walk the area.

He reported that the parking meeting was well attended. Residents expressed concerns as well as some constructive ideas. He and Chief Jett met with Eric Terry, a DPW traffic engineer this morning. They discussed the possibility of painting curbs red in certain areas such as crosswalks and stop signs to highlight those restricted parking zones, setting a 72-hour limit to all parking in the tax district, scheduling alternate day street sweeping for the inner and outer loop of Crofton Parkway, and adding a series of share the road markings for cyclists. Mr. Terry will present these ideas to his department to determine if any are feasible. In the short term he has agreed to remove the time restricted parking signs on the 190-foot section of Crofton Parkway between Dryden Way and Carlyle Drive. They will be removed in the next two to three weeks, and the Crofton Police Department will pause enforcement on parking in this area.

They visited the Walleye Drive intersection to address the line-of-sight safety concern, the extension of the 50 foot no parking zone that was supposed to have been done the last go

around, will be taken care of in the near term as well as the no parking signs that will be installed across the street north of Spring Green Avenue.

Mr. Terry informed him that DPW has their own speed monitoring devices that we may request for one week scheduling per location. He will be putting together a schedule of hot spots and have one assigned to us soon.

They discussed the problem curve on Crofton Parkway between Layton and Knightsbridge Turn, where the campers are located. There is no ideal solution for that zone, especially without a history of accidents. Based on the results of our time restricted parking, he recommends trying to push for a 72-hour parking restriction in the tax district.

He will report any updates once DPW responds.

Martin reported he has met with the CCA Elections Committee twice. He reminded Board members to turn in their candidacy forms. The deadline is March 30th. If needed for contested races, a Candidates Night has been scheduled for May 4th at the Library Media Center, Crofton Elementary School. He briefed the committee on the new By-laws which allow for secure on-line voting in elections. The committee supports adding this feature to the May election process. They have approved a JotForm draft template that he will forward to Board members for review by email tomorrow. The committee plans to hold on-line voting the same time as absentee voting which is scheduled for May 11th through the 15th. Election day is scheduled for May 18th. This allows for the tabulation of electronic and absentee voting the weekend before in person voting.

Martin reported on the rain garden refurbishing project. At the suggestion of Subijoy Dutta, a resident expert on water issues, he and Keith recently dug infiltration test holes which failed to drain over a twelve-hour period. He will retest during a stretch of dry weather. It does not appear that it will function as designed without a total overhaul. He will explore other options.

Martin attended the ribbon cutting of The Back 9 Golf center on Route 3, in the Princess Center.

He asked for Board volunteers for the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Martin provided the monthly police overtime hours used. A total of nineteen and one half hours were used. Three were used for special events, seven and one-half were used for late calls, and nine hours were used for court appearances.

Comptroller's Report – *James Harvey*

Jim reported that the commercial loan has been paid for the year.

The state unemployment insurance rate was lowered from 3% to 2.7%.

Chesapeake Insurance Company has completed our audit which will increase our rates by $2,000.

Kevin has completed his training as a Board Officer.

Jim explained the need for establishing a contingency fund which covers emergencies. We incurred an additional $13,000 in expenses for snow and ice removal. He suggested the Board approve an additional $13,000 for the contingency fund at the end of the year if the grounds maintenance funds have been expended as budgeted. Martin added our contractor was surprised we do not budget for snow events. They said their average client budgets for five events per year. He suggested the Board consider increasing our budget.

Jim reported a police officer was involved in a minor accident, and the truck is undergoing body repair. The officer was not injured.

Jim reported that Buddy Punch has reversed out the payments of the of employer FICA contributions for a former officer. The payments were made to the Social Security Administration and are not refunded by Buddy Punch. We will have the same payment due to the Hartford filings. This was corrected a few months ago. Moving forward Hartford will make employer contributions for future claims.

Jim reported a mix up with our EZ pass account. The account was charged during a personal trip because the account was linked to his driver's license. This has been corrected.

Jim distributed designs for a new sign at Town Hall. The current sign is in disrepair. The proposed engraved wood sign has failed. There was too much detail that could not be replicated on wood. The new sign will be a composite. The Board decided on the single sign design and font size. The donor will make the donation of the full cost plus 10% to Crofton Kiwanis, a charitable organization. Kiwanis will then co-sponsor the sign and keep the 10% as a fundraiser. A sign unveiling will be scheduled.

The March E-Advocate went out on Monday.

Jim provided an update on the SMS messaging system. We would like to create a Police Emergency text alert system for those in the community who wish to participate.
The phone company would not approve our SMS. He will investigate further.

Jim has scheduled a Candidates Night on April 15th for District 7 constituents. Guest speakers will have seven minutes to speak, with a brief question and answer period after. Speakers will include the candidates for County Executive, and District 7 Council candidates. The Board agreed to co-host the event with the Crofton Kiwanis Club.

Jim reported on the Crofton Flag Contest. The winner, Luiz Gonzalez, has been awarded the $300 prize. He has provided two samples from vendors for the Board to approve. We will be taking orders for the flags at the Cherry Blossom Festival. A flag raising ceremony will be scheduled at Town Hall with the artist and Board members.

There were 17 participants in the teen Tote Bag Paint Night. Some parents wrote in that they loved the program.

There are 46 vendors who signed up for the Cherry Blossom Festival on the 28th.

Beginning on April 7th, there will be a Food Truck Night each Tuesday evening at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. There will be 10-11 trucks each week through October.

Police Chief's Report – *Chief Jason Jett*

Chief Jett reported the department statistics for February. There were 573 Calls for Service, 349 Patrol Checks, and 29 Traffic Stops.

The Chief added to the report on the parking meeting. The car parked on Layton Street over the crosswalk has been moved. The car with the cover has been removed. The dumpster has been removed. The truck cab on Crofton Parkway is being addressed.

The Chief reported on crime in the community. There was a stolen automobile in the F section on Sunday evening. There was a report of a group of juveniles that were pulling car handles looking for open doors. He explained that car thieves now have technology that can scan your car key fob and steal your car. He recommends keeping your key fob far away from your front door and even locking it in a protective signal-blocking bag.

Chief Jett provided an update of the Flock Safety Camera program. The program trial period was set to expire on March 25th. After a series of technical issues which took months to address, he complained to the CEO of the company, who extended the free trial period for an additional 4 months. There is still an issue with our department having access to the MVA alerts. There is specific software that is required because we can no longer access the AACo police system. He is investigating other options.

The Chief reported on some community events. He participated in Cub Scout Troop 731 who hosted a track derby race. The police department also hosted the Girl Scout Daisies who learned about local government and community safety.

The Chief reported that speeding complaints on Crofton Parkway have increased since the snow removal. There were 94 traffic stops in the community for January and February. He reminded residents of the 25 MPH speed limit within the community.

Brian asked what the next steps would be for compiling data from Flock Safety for the Board to evaluate. The company is waiting on a statewide decision to be made on how the data will be collected. The Chief will follow up once he receives more information.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – *Brian Riley*

Brian will coordinate with the Chief on a date for the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Covenant Review Committee – *Kevin Wilson*

Kevin reported there is one informal complaint the committee is trying to resolve.

Recreation Committee – *Meredith Schramm*

Meredith reported the paint night was a success. The recreation committee is concentrating on stuffing eggs for the egg hunt event. So far Scout Troop 214 and Pack 731 have volunteered. Martin added that we will be dropping off materials to volunteers from Crofton High School on Thursday.

Jim asked if there was any further planning for the 250th celebration. Meredith is waiting for a response from the local chapter of the DAR.

Greater Crofton Council Liaison – *Chuck See*

Chuck reported that the GCC has not scheduled any upcoming meetings. There is no upcoming Riedel Road/Johns Hopkins Road Safety Committee meeting. There have not been any confirmed leases so far for the two new warehouses on Route 3 North. The developers have committed to adding an additional lane extending to Route 175 for traffic.

Maintenance and Operations – *Kitty Gross*

Kitty continues to work on the rain garden at the front entrance.
She reported there are logs and debris along the tree line of the Crofton Natural Area on Swinburne Ave. There were trees cleared out, but debris left behind. Recreation and Parks claim it was not them. Martin suspects it was the regular DPW tree trimmers. He will contact the county to get them to clear it out or we'll do it ourselves.

Planning and Zoning – *John Sullivan*

John reported on the Region 5 plan. The County Council introduced two bills; 17-26 which accepts the plan with a hearing on April 6th, and bill 18-26, which swaps out the old maps for a digital user-friendly option.

He reported the construction of the condominium buildings behind the IHop has resumed.

The Beaver Creek Phase II plan will be voted on by the Board of Directors at the April meeting.

Martin added that an email from the county showed applications for a Sheets Gas Station to replace the BP station on Route 3 North. There was also one for the northeast corner of St. Stephens Church Road and Route 3 South, which is two parcels, just before the day care center. There are advertisements for condominiums.

Finance Committee – *James Kitchin*

James was not present and did not provide a report.

Education and Civic Affairs – *Chuck Cook*

Chuck was not present and did not provide a report.

Citizen Comments

A resident of Whitfield Court said he was against the Beaver Creek Project. He does not want the tree screen removed.

A resident of Carry Place asked for clarification of which trees will be removed. Martin explained the construction area of the creek bed will be cleared out. New trees and shrubs will then be planted. It will be a significant portion. The resident expressed concern of the noise level increasing from the tree removal. He does not see the benefit of this plan. He believes it can be done without removing trees and can be done later in the future. He encouraged Board members to vote not to proceed with the project.

Martin explained that the county has made many compromises, and this is the final plan. They will not be making any additional concessions. This plan is about reducing the sediment load into the Little Patuxent river. He pointed out that any future project necessary to this area would be at the cost of the CCA. He also added the benefit would be the same regardless of whether the Country Club had their portion of the stream restored or not.

A resident of Harcourt Avenue asked why the county will give the CCA $10,000 to do the project. Martin explained that the land is private property which belongs to the CCA. The county needs the Deed of Easement from the CCA in order to proceed with the project. The offer was originally $1,000. He asked them to quantify that amount. They conducted an appraisal and increased the offer to $10,500.

A resident from Walleye Drive who attended the DPW meeting commented that the engineers did not seem familiar with the previous pumping station project which was loud and caused damage to foundations in some homes. Martin explained that the engineers agreed to bring seismic readers to measure the decibel levels while they are working and adjust levels to ensure this does not happen during this project. The resident complained there was not enough communication to the residents directly affected. He encouraged the Board to vote not to proceed with this project.

A resident asked if the Board was open to a petition from residents. Anna said yes. John Sullivan said he will be voting no as District 5 representative. He understands his constituents are against this project.

Anna clarified that the Board would vote at its next meeting in April.

A resident of Patrice Circle expressed major concern about the increased noise level that will result from the removal of trees. He does not agree that the benefit of this project is worth the pain it will cause him and his neighbors.

One resident in attendance spoke in support of the project.

A resident asked if it is the Board's opinion that the stream restoration project would benefit any erosion in that area, and therefore costs would be covered by the county. She believes that if that is the case then this cost should be covered by the CCA. She does not support this

project. Meredith explained that the CCA would have to raise taxes in order to cover this type of project. The CCA budget does not have a contingency fund large enough for a project of this scope.

With no additional questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes completed by Tara Gottschalck, Administrative Assistant (March 24, 2026)

MS/JH/JJ(tg)