

Minutes from the CWCA Fall Meeting October 5, 2012

Welcome:

Approximately 40 members attended the CWCA fall meeting. CWCA President, Dan Nichols, welcomed everyone and thanked Catherine Blakley and Joe Cunniffe for their service last year. Dan introduced CWCA treasurer, Damien Dovi; Vice President, Jim Talens; Secretary, Elizabeth Ende; Security Manager, Bob Blakley (not at meeting because he was away on business) and Snow Removal Committee Chairs: Steve Sunderhauf and Ed McGrady.

Dan raised a question about changing CWCA's fiscal year start date from April 1 to July 1 or September 1 so the dues collection process would make more sense to residents. Treasurer, Damien Dovi, reported that he thought it would be a mistake to modify the fiscal year since it would delay dues collection until later in the year and put at risk that we wouldn't have sufficient funds in the bank to cover snow plow costs.

Dan mentioned that we would like to form a Hospitality Committee which would be responsible for welcoming new neighbors. If you are interested in serving, please email chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com.

Budget:

Damien Dovi presented the Treasurer's report. The budget projects we will collect \$20,950 from dues and advertising. We budgeted \$20,000 for plowing; \$1,800 for directory printing; \$3,000 for neighborhood parties; and \$1,750 for meetings and supplies. We didn't use much money for snow removal last year, so we have a cushion (approximately \$20,000), but the Board feels we should maintain reserve funds each year in case winter weather is worse than expected and we need additional funds for plowing.

Dues for 2012-2013 are \$50 per home (the budget assumes that 75% will pay their dues). As of October 5th, 292 homes have paid their dues (\$14,825). We have also collected \$700 for ads which will run in the neighborhood directory. Damien reported we will continue to focus on collecting dues. In addition to the hard copy and electronic dues notices, we have posted Dues Due signs in the neighborhood. We will also include information about how to pay dues with every email message that goes out to CWCA residents.

Snow Removal:

Snow Removal Chairs, Steve Sunderhauf and Ed McGrady, reported their job is to manage the snow removal contractor and communicate about snow removal. Ed said if you have complaints send them to him, not Steve. He advised they do not collect dues, move cars, repair downed power lines or yell at VDOT. He also reminded residents not to move the 'candy cane like' sticks which are in storm drains around the neighborhood. If the sticks are pulled up and storm drains flood, the snow removal contractor won't know where to dig to fix the problem. He also reported we have a new snow removal

company in place this year, JL Tree Service, Inc. of Fairfax, with the same price points as last year. So we don't run out of money, CWCA policy is to begin plowing when snow reaches three inches in depth. The snow committee will arrange to have sand put down when there is ice on the roads. You can reach Steve and Ed at cwcasnow@gmail.com. They post information on the snow removal process on twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/cwcasnow> (this works like a website, you don't have to subscribe to twitter to use it), on their blog: <http://cwcasnow.posterous.com>, and on the HoodPlayDates listserv.

Tree Preservation:

Dan Nichols introduced Bob Blakely, President of Northern Woods Tree Service who has more than 35 years of experience in the tree care industry. Dan advised residents may have seen the article written about Mr. Blakely entitled, "Don't Rush to Cut Down Trees, Experts Advise", which ran in the August 26th Arlington edition of the Sun Gazette. If not, you can view it by clicking on: http://www.sungazette.net/arlington/news/don-t-rush-to-cut-down-trees-experts-advise/article_6356644e-ef8e-11e1-a348-0019bb2963f4.html

Mr. Blakely told CWCA residents that he spends a lot of time talking people out of cutting down trees. He is in the business of saving trees. He said that there is a lot of predictability in what will happen with a tree and that just because there is damage to a tree doesn't mean it needs to be cut down. In fact, he says saving a tree is important because if you cut down a tree it creates a new wind vector which can put other trees at risk of getting blown down. He advised that this year because of the drought and the water table being at the lowest levels ever trees are not as pliable. In the past, they would probably have swayed, but not snapped. When trees are depleted of moisture, you'll get other problems such as fungi and bores which can impact the tree's health. Mr. Blakely recommends that neighbors water their trees before the winter months. Use soaker hoses so there's moisture in the soil. He suggested that you water through the middle to latter part of October.

Mr. Blakely advised neighbors should inspect trees periodically. You can't replace them. These trees are legacies to us and to our children and are increase the value of a property. He advised that limbs can fall even without wind. Sometimes they can crack, but with an arborist you may be able to remediate. He advised trees can't heal themselves so if a tree has a large dead limb, you should to take care of it. An arborist might recommend a crown reduction, clean cut wounds and reshape trees, particularly to help them survive the dormant period. Mr. Blakely said that a cavity in a tree is reason for concern, but doesn't necessarily mean the tree needs to be cut down. He added that ivy is bad for trees since it adds extra weight. You can reach Mr. Blakely at rblakelyNWTS@hotmail.com or 703-528-2056. His website is: <http://northernwoodstree.com/>

Report from Supervisor Foust's Office:

Dan reported that we are seeing an increasing number of infill projects in Chesterbrook Woods. The pattern seems to be that builders are tearing down all the trees for their convenience and because infills are bigger than previous homes. This diminishes the look for all neighbors. We have an opportunity to compromise here. Regulations don't

go far enough. There was a house with a 100% canopy where the builder took down all the trees. The builder apparently advised he had to take down trees because he needed the dirt. An email from the former owner of the house advised they had no idea that all the trees would be taken down. Had they realized, they would have included a covenant in the sales contract to protect the trees as these were trees that he and his family diligently cared for during their thirty years in Chesterbrook Woods. Chesterbrook Woods would like to form an Environmental Affairs Committee to help preserve the trees that define our neighborhood. The committee will draft a Statement of Principles to be approved by CWCA members (e.g., support maintenance of tree growth, support planting of trees, and encourage builders to preserve old growth). If you are interested in serving on the committee, please email chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com. The committee would like for all neighbors, and particularly block captains, to alert the committee when a house comes up for sale and is slated as a tear down so that we can begin a dialogue with the builder. Also, if you are interested in selling your house, the committee can provide you with language which can be included as a covenant to the sales contract protecting the trees on your property.

Ben Wiles, who is responsible for Land Use Issues for Supervisor Foust's office, is speaking tonight for Supervisor Foust who is attending another meeting in Fairfax County. Ben advised that in the 1970's the county passed a tree canopy ordinance that was later rescinded by the stat. The current regulations require a 30% canopy be preserved. Ben advised that typically a developer will clear trees from the front of the property since there are no requirements on where on the property the trees need to be preserved. The developer is not supposed to disturb more land than is needed, but this is difficult for staff to enforce.

Ben advised that if you don't see tree preservation fencing on a property, then that's a red flag that there will be issues. He advised that the county can help redirect downspouts to help avoid problems with water runoff, but it is easier to work on during construction instead of after the house has been completed. There are regulations that the builder must comply with regarding runoff (e.g., you can't increase the rate of the water runoff).

Ben also advised that Supervisor Foust's office is working with Dominion Power to figure out what can be improved based on some of the problems that arose during the derecho. He advised that a report would be released in a few weeks. Their office is also having a conversation with Verizon about phone service.

Presentation on Ways to Save Energy in the Home:

Teenager and CWCA resident, Max Van Buskirk, presented a video he had made on How to Save Energy in the Home. Suggestions include: using compact florescent bulbs which use only ¼ of the energy of a regular light bulb and generate 75% less heat; using Energy Star appliances which can reduce your energy bill and your carbon footprint; putting an insulated jacket on your water heater which can reduce water heating standby loss by 25 – 45% and reduce your water heating bill by 4-9% and only cost \$10-\$20; and since appliances continue to leach power even when they aren't in use, installing power strips so you can easily shut off appliances when not in use. Max encouraged everyone to find

ways to reduce their energy usage since the burning of fossil fuels is contributing to global warming and air pollution. Acid rain kills fish and other creatures in the streams. Air pollution can cause issues over the long term such as chronic respiratory disease, heart disease and damage to the brain, nerves, liver and kidneys. He reported that about 1.3 million people die worldwide every year from pollution. Check out Max's video by clicking: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6MiC5NO1G4&feature=results_video

Announcements:

Dan thanked Max for his presentation.

Dan thanked the 27 block captains for their work supporting the neighborhood. He would like to create a task force to figure out if we could create a warden system, where block captains could keep an eye on neighbors during weather emergencies.

Dan thanked Jayne Melrose-Smith for her work on the North Albemarle Traffic Calming Task Force. They were able to get speed bumps installed on North Albemarle.

Ben Wiles mentioned that you can report potholes to Supervisor Foust's office and they will report to VDOT. He reported that they do not have funds now for road repair, but they keep a running list of issues so they can get to them when funds become available.

Two of our neighbors have houses on the Solar Homes Tour on Saturday, October 6th from 11 am to 5 pm -- Jim Talens (6017 Woodley) and Rose Wells (5909 Calla Drive) and will share great information on a variety of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies.

Celebrate fall and Halloween with your neighbors on Sunday, October 28th from 1-4 pm on the Autumn Drive cul-de-sac (rain date November 4th).

Keep an eye on your mailbox over the next few weeks for the 2012 CWCA Neighborhood Directory.

DUES DUE: If you haven't already done so, please pay your 2012-2013 CWCA Dues of \$50. You can pay via Paypal (see instructions below) or send cash or a check written to CWCA to Treasurer, Damien Dovi, 1520 Hardwood Lane. Not sure if you've paid this year's dues? Email chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com and we'll check for you.

PAY DUES BY PAY PAL DIRECTIONS

For those who would like to pay dues by Pay Pal, directions are as follows:

- Log in to your paypal account
- Select the tab – Send Money
- Enter the e-mail address: chesterbrookwoods@gmail.com
- Enter the amount
- Choose the tab personal – select “payment owed”
- Hit send money

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 pm.