

Deerhurst Civic Association
Meeting via Zoom March 1 2021 7:00 pm
Minutes

Attendees:

Board of Directors: Doug Reppa (President; Rep. District 3), Brandon Weiner (Treasurer, Rep. 6), Paul Davies (Secretary). Deborah Flaherty (Rep, District 4), Charles Harvey (Rep, 5), Cheryl Christ (Rep, 9), Louise Shaw (Rep, 10), Rick Howard (Rep, 11).

Residents: Loren Lieberthal, Michael Hartman, Dave Stinsman, Joe Nemezc, Alison Monaghan, Nicole Karapangiotis, Maureen Lyons, Jane Owen, Kathy Canavan, Eric Wexler, Amy Davis, John Sweeney, Daniel Richter, Mimi Boudart, Peter Gordon, Joe Wright, Tom Ashe, Mike Welsh, Patrick Heringslack, Joseph Tagle, Kelly Somers, Michael Martin, Anthony Pini, Vanessa Saathoff, John Favano, Anthony Kukulich, Heather Fugger, Josh Purcell, Hannah Waguespack, Mick Duffy, Maggie Kalinec, Tom Vicente, Shantanu Bagchi.

As Presiding Officer, Doug called the meeting to order, noting that this was the first ever Zoom meeting of the DCA, necessitated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the associated closing of Lombardy School where meetings have normally been held in the past.

Following a roll call of Board members, a quorum was confirmed (>50% of the Board).

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes for the previous meeting held on February 18 2020 were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The report was for the period Feb 18 2020 to March 1 2021. The closing balance was \$9,515.66 (Checking) and \$5,416.16 (Savings/Snow fund).

Ward Park Maintenance:

A pine tree (~70 feet high) has fallen near the children's play area. Of the three bids that Doug checked out, the cheapest was \$598. A motion to approve this expenditure was passed. In the following discussion, however, several people felt that other companies might offer still cheaper rates, especially since the tree had already fallen. The motion was, therefore, amended to allow for a cheaper option if one could be identified.

There was additional discussion on reinstating the traditional Ward Park clean-up that had formally taken place in early spring. Given the wetter condition of the ground nowadays, this might have to wait until later in the spring or early summer.

Deerhurst Little Library:

Brandon has obtained a "Little Library". Given the need for easy foot access to it at all times, it would be best sited in a common area: Doug proposed the entrance to Ward Park near the current bench. A motion supporting this was passed and several people volunteered to help position and anchor it. Brandon offered to organize the volunteer effort. Additional work might be necessary to improve access via paving stones, for example. No money is currently allocated, but, if needed, the team can ask for funds at the Annual Meeting. Doug pointed out that residents, not the DCA, are responsible for the contents of the library.

Deeds Restrictions Committee:

Although the DCA for many years appointed three persons for this committee, Terrence Cahill was more recently the sole member, but has now resigned from this position. Following a call for volunteers, three persons offered to form a new committee: Mick Duffy, Hannah Waguespack, Shantanu Bagchi.

Snow Plowing:

JC Improvements Services LLC (prop. Josh Reynolds) has had the snow plowing contract for about ten years; Joseph Wright has a list of potential alternative contractors that he will submit to the Board for consideration before a new contract is signed in October.

The possibility of salting the roads was raised, but this is only available at an extra cost (\$450) and is not pet-friendly.

In addressing some recent complaints about the snow plowing, Doug pointed out that it is made difficult by parked cars and that this is a particular problem in the narrower confines of York and Hurst Roads, particularly if cars are parked on both sides.

Dues:

Dues payments for 2019-20 were low, in part because of the pandemic and the resultant lack of meetings. However, they have tended downwards over the last several years. This fact prompted a discussion on the role of district reps in collecting dues and whether or not they can exert more pressure on residents who are reluctant to pay or whether there should be consequences to not paying. The consensus was that a direct approach by reps, emphasizing the low cost of dues relative to other communities, that the dues fund a number of community events (e.g. Easter egg hunt, block party, Halloween parade) as well as needed maintenance projects and that dues payment allows voting at the Annual Meeting (one vote per paid household). The DCA is not a Home Owners Association and dues payments are voluntary. There is therefore little that the DCA can do to compel residents who refuse to pay and no legal basis for any action. Revising our charter to become a HOA would be an expensive undertaking that would require legal council.

The dues for the next year 2020-21 were proposed at the same level as last year - \$40 for all homes plus a \$10 snow removal fee for interior homes. A motion to this effect was passed by the Board.

Board of Directors Nominations:

Until recently, Doug was Vice-President, but took over as President following the unexpected resignation of Terrence Cahill. Doug does not intend to continue as President next year (2021-22) and there is currently no Vice-President. Brandon is prepared to continue as Treasurer and Paul as Secretary.

Nominations for Officers:

President	Nomination needed
Vice-President	Nomination needed

Nominations for District Representatives made at the meeting:

District 1 (open)	Vanessa Saathoff*	nominated by Louise Shaw
District 2 (open)	Nomination needed	
District 3 (replacement)	Joe Wright	nominated by Doug Reppa
District 4	Deborah Flaherty	
District 5	Charlie Harvey	
District 6 (replacement)	Shantanu Bagchi	nominated by Brandon Weiner
District 7 (open)	Nomination needed	
District 8 (open)	Mimi Boudart	volunteer
District 9	Cheryl Crist	
District 10	Louise Shaw	
District 11 (replacement)	Dave Stinsman	nominated by Rick Howard
District 12 (replacement)	Daniel Richter	nominated by Louise Shaw
District 13 (open)	Donna Bissey	nominated by Michael Hartman

*Vanessa is a resident of District 10.

Nominations for positions that are still open will be accepted through March 30th 2021. Nominees for officers and reps will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Doug tentatively set the date for the Annual Meeting as Tuesday April 6th 2021. It will be held on Zoom.

Other Business:

Vanessa Saathoff pointed out that the current wooden play structure in Ward Park is in a dilapidated condition and suggested that it be replaced by a commercially available structure at an affordable price. Following discussion, she was requested to present options for review at the Annual Meeting. Since access to the area from the Bedford Road entrance is through a consistently wet ditch, suggestions were made that she also consider options for bridging this. The overall cost might be greater than the DCA budget can accommodate in which case separate fund-raising might be necessary. This was done in the past when the "Friends of Ward Park" provided the money for the existing play structures and for installation of drainage pipes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Davies