

Minutes: Gwinhurst Civic Association General Meeting, November 6, 2014

- 1) Call to order and introduction of officers – all four officers (Christina, Carol, Denise and Dave) were present, plus 16 residents and Councilman Cartier.
- 2) Review and adoption of minutes of previous meeting (10/2/14) – adopted.
- 3) Treasurer’s report (Dave) – we have \$13,418.95 – no deposits, no expenses this month.
- 4) Status of snow plowing contracts (Carol) – we are hiring the same contractor as last year. Dave drove around with him to see Gwinhurst/Greenmount in the daytime without snow. There were several “challenges” - boat on west end of Wyoming in the way; Georgetown (hill, cars parked – be sure to move them); Smryna & Harrison tee intersection drains; 1804 Grant – will push snow as far as he can at end of road but can't completely avoid blocking driveway partly; South and North Park should not be plowed; can't totally avoid blocking part of driveway at 106 Wyoming. Dead ends are a particular problem. Residents might want to get orange sticks to mark their driveways/curbs, and try to organize their neighbors to not park on the street in case of snow.
- 5) Reports on communication by website, Facebook and newsletter – after the newsletter mailing Christina got 35 returned newsletters, in addition to about five known vacant houses that other residents said not to mail to. So there are around 40 vacant houses in Gwinhurst.
- 6) Old business – any updates on issues discussed in previous meetings. Dave contacted the company that does the new resident mailings from the US Post Office, but they are much too expensive for us. Also he asked Delmarva Power about putting Gwinhurst banners on the utility poles, but they aren't doing that anymore. We could build a development welcome sign, if we wanted to pay for it and maintain it. No one expressed an interest in doing so.
- 7) Election of civic association officers for 2015 – Kristin Ford volunteered to run for Secretary since Denise doesn't want to continue in that role. Christina, Carol and Dave agreed to run again. No one else was nominated so the slate was elected by acclamation. The 2015 officers are Christina Anthony, President; Carol Thomas, Vice President; Dave Paules, Treasurer; and Kristin Ford, Secretary.
- 8) New business –
 1. House decorating contest (Christina) – if you want to participate just decorate your house. Christina is working on getting gift cards for prizes from businesses such as Peco Liquors and Wawa. We will work out the remaining details at the December meeting.

2. Meeting schedule – change in frequency for 2015 (Christina) – In 2015 we will meet quarterly – in February, May, August, November. Annual dues will be requested in a mailing in January. Christina renewed our VFW reservation for 2015.
 3. Any new community issues that residents wish to raise – Adrian went through Gwinhurst looking for potholes with Rep. Bryon Short. Also they are going to change the Delaware Ave signs to say W. Delaware Ave in the hope that the mail carriers can find it.
- 9) Community news -
- a) New Castle County Crime report for Gwinhurst – There was an armed robbery in the Holly Oak Manor apartments, but technically this is outside Gwinhurst. There were 26 calls in October on our report, nothing too serious. The separate code enforcement report lists 4 unresolved cases which are scheduled for further follow up, most known to us already.
 - b) Reports from any elected officials present –
 - Councilman Cartier had a productive meeting with owner of Silverside Office Park, and the owner made some significant changes to improve the flooding situation which should satisfy the residents impacted.
 - Cartier is working with Rep. Bryon Short on our “paper streets” which are in ownership limbo. Adjacent owners have to agree to change the property boundaries and go to Chancery Court – they would have to change deed, property assessment etc., incurring legal costs, although the additional property itself would be free. Rep. Short is looking into whether there could be a legislative solution instead. Also they have the sinkhole roped off with caution tape. The storage unit at that location has finally disappeared.
 - County Council is drafting a vacant property ordinance which they will be working on this winter, to assist and expedite the process of putting vacant properties into new hands. They will be trying to 'disincentivize' vacancy.
 - c) Announcements of any upcoming events - Dec. 6 will be the date of the annual Claymont Christmas Parade.
- 10) Notification of next meeting date and adjournment – our next meeting will be Thursday 12/4.
Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.