



Haverford Civic Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
March 14, 2023

Attending: Mo Gillen, Jen Pavao, Derek Dohler, Jason Young, Melanie Schafmeister (Lower Merion School Board Director), Charles Davis, Charles Ault, Susan Van Allen, Anthony Arechavala, Steve Russell, Nancy Tabas, Barbara Cohen, Bruce Ludwig (Rosemont Villanova Civic Association), Joanne McBride (for Hala Imms and Scott Zelov), Lee Tabas, Anne Mezey, Robert Bocchino.

Commissioners: Scott Zelov attended by video.

The meeting began at 7 p.m.

Introduction: Mo Gillen presented herself and welcomed the attendees. Those attending introduced themselves one by one and each stated their relationship with the Haverford Civic Association.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting were reviewed by attendees. The misspelling of New *Gulf* Rd needs to be corrected to New *Gulph* Rd.

Treasurer: Lee Tabas stated that a few dues came in and reported a balance of \$2,541.22.

Federation of Civics: Anne Mezey reported.

- The 2023 Lower Merion redistricting proposal of Lower Merion was rejected by the County/State.
- The RVCA created surveys related to the Oakwell property situation and 60-70 residents, almost all were Rosemont Villanova residents, responded to the surveys. This resulted in a resolution letter that was mailed from the RVCA to all the Lower Merion Civics for opinion and vote.
- There is a new PA State annual Reporting standard for nonprofit organizations including civic associations.
- The Lower Merion Community Watch needs a representative from each LM civic association to attend meetings and participate with the planning of training classes.
- PA Commonwealth law requires that if LM residents are expected to pay a storm water management fee that the fee must be presented as a tax.
- Refer to the attached minutes from the Federation of LM & Narberth Civic Associations for details of the above mentioned and more.

Website: Since Andy Orr was not present, no update on the website and Facebook was provided.

Haverford Train Station: Lee Tabas stated developer Ken Weinstein (Philadelphia Office Retail) recently submitted a proposal to Amtrak. The proposal includes that the developer leases from Amtrak the Haverford Train Station building; the developer will make the required and necessary building repairs and afterwards will lease the commercial spaces. The proceeds from the rentals will be divided with Amtrak. Let's wait and see what happens with the proposal submitted.

Montgomery Ave Traffic Calming: Jason Young again described the traffic calming needed on the .6 mile stretch of Montgomery Ave between Montgomery/Old Lancaster Ave/Grays Ln traffic light and Montgomery Ave/Pennswood Rd traffic light.

- It was recently discovered that Montgomery Ave is not PA State "owned" from where it begins on Conshohocken State Road in Bala Cynwyd up to Spring Mill Rd in Villanova; west of Spring Mill Rd Montgomery Ave is a PA State "owned." Commissioner Scott Zelov reported that this means Lower Merion Township is permitted to perform traffic and speed studies, place additional speed limit signs, and place cameras in this section of Montgomery Ave (*cameras are allowed only for red light violations and not for speeding*) without needing PA State approval. He said the additional speed limit sign on Montgomery Avenue is due soon. He noted that Lower Merion Township commissioners "several years ago unanimously voted against cameras at intersections, but the decision can be changed; *cameras are allowed only for red light violations, not for speeding*."
- Sargent Colflesh from the Lower Merion Police Department (LMPD) Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) reported to Jason that there is a missing speed limit sign on the south side of Montgomery Ave near Pennswood intersection. He reported the Police Traffic Safety Unit has a goal of implementing a speed and volume study in April or May 2023 while schools are open. President Gillen emphasized that the TSU and civic associations need to be "proactive" to prevent accidents and not (mainly) "reactive" after accidents happen; she will follow up with the TSU to get them to present the speed and volume report at a future HCA meeting.

Commissioner Report: Scott Zelov had another meeting to attend, and he joined the HCA meeting by ZOOM shortly after the Federation of Lower Merion/Narberth Civics reported.

- Scott reported the upcoming "Coffee with a Cop" event at the new Starbucks location in Haverford on Saturday, March 18th, between 9 and 11:30 a.m. and encouraged all to attend.
- Regarding the Lower Merion Police incident that occurred at the City Ave Wawa location, the LMT commissioners voted that the police officer involved in the incident be issued a 10 day suspension. Scott said he did not agree with the decision. The vote was 10-4, with Scott voting against.

Sharpe Park: A 2023 Sharpe Bird Sanctuary Recommendations sheet was developed by Jen Pavao and Derek Dohler, PHS Tree Tenders. The sheet was included in the HCA Tuesday, March 14th, Meeting Agenda Packet. Volunteers are needed from the HCA to help with Sharpe Park revitalization planning and action, aside from The Garden Workers and Philadelphia Horticulture Society (PHS). An HCA Sharpe Park Cleanup Committee was created which includes Mo Gillen, Jen Pavao, Nancy Tabas, Derek Dohler, Charles Davis, and Anthony Arechavala. The HCA agreed to have a “Sharp Park workday” on Saturday May 20th.

RVCA Resolution: There was discussion between HCA attendees and Bruce Ludwig (President of RVCA) about the LMSD plan to convert the Oakwell site to athletic fields. Melanie Schafmeister (LMSD Board director) intently listened and participated in the discussion. The RVCA created surveys related to the property situation and 60-70 residents, almost all were Rosemont Villanova residents, responded to the surveys. A resolution letter was mailed from the RVCA to all the Lower Merion Township Civic Associations for opinion and vote. After discussion during the March HCA meeting, it was stated that “HCA is unable, in the time available, to solicit and receive input from sufficient Haverford area residents to claim a united position on this issue;” and the HCA board does not now desire to vote yes or no for the entire Haverford area community. Also, LMSD officials and school board directors are not ignoring the residents’ collective desire to try and preserve as much as possible the natural landscape, heritage trees, and historic buildings at Oakwell. Currently LMSD is still working with Haverford Township to potentially use the Polo Fields. After considerable discussion, the HCA voted to abstain from a vote to support or not support the resolution.

Good of the Order: no announcements.

Adjournment: With no further business, President Gillen thanks those who attended and adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m.

**The next meeting will be a regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 11th, in the Founders Room of MCC**