

Regular Meeting of the Chester Heights Civic Association

Meeting called to order on **6/4/2020** at 7:30 PM with the following Board members in attendance: Elena O’Mahony, Dawn Attwood, Irene Sarno and Joyce Balint. Approximately 27 members attended. Due to Covid-19 pandemic concerns and restrictions, meeting took place via Zoom video-teleconference.

If any corrections list them here: N/A

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance	7440.49
Income/Dues Collected	340.14
Funds	7780.63
Expenses	3390.01
Closing Balance	4390.62

Bills Against the CHCA: Liability insurance through Traveler's Insurance Company paid through period 12/2019 through 12/2020, based on collection of membership dues. \$2550 spent on scholarships awarded and \$840.01 spent on beautification efforts (see committee report below).

Membership Update: Out of the 258 residential homes in Chester Heights, 197 paid residential members and 255 email subscribers (197 unique house addresses in CH; 8 outside CH; 6 businesses) to date for 2020.

Board Update: Following notices for elections/restructuring, we have a new Board:

President: Elena O’Mahony

Vice President: Dawn Attwood

Treasurer: Irene Sarno

Corresponding Secretary: Joyce Balint

Recording Secretary: VACANT (Dawn Attwood, Acting); Nanci Colangelo volunteered.

CH Firehouse Update: Work on apparatus floor currently stalled due to COVID; to continue once restrictions lifted, to accommodate new purchase of firetruck.

THS Adopt-A-Senior Program: CHCA participated in the Tuckahoe PTA sponsored event by “adopting” all 12 high school seniors who are residents of CH

Old Business:

Committee Members/Reports

1. **Civic Affairs:** Bob Marziotti (chair), Jason Attwood

Opening Notes: Based on the most recent Executive Order from the Governor, given the Covid-19 pandemic, no construction activities are permitted in Town, except for clear emergencies and other narrow exceptions. The order is presently in place until April 15.

CVS Concerns/Complaints: The Town has been receiving complaints about the property, and has been working with CVS to collect store equipment (pallets, crates) left behind, and CVS has agreed to provide site inspections to collect debris. However, that site remains private property, including the dumpster. Residents are not to dispose of dog waste or garbage on that property at all. This is especially disconcerting to neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity, and is illegal and carries penalties. A plea is made for all neighbors to be mindful of this.

- **505 New Rochelle Road (CVS)**
 - No information from Town as to any prospective tenant; the Town has not had any inquiries about the property. While there have been rumors about Trader Joe's, the source is unknown, and that company has not approached the Town.
- **504 New Rochelle Road (Gas station/Convenience store)**
 - Received final certificate of compliance on 10/24/18
 - Complaint recently filed about weeds growing at rear of property, and signage that had previously been removed was replaced. In response, Town issued a violation and summons. The owner went to court, paid fine, and was required to remove the weeds and signs.
 - No additional complaints have been made about this location.
- **493 New Rochelle Road (former Chase bank)**
 - Siwanoy Country Club will use the building for temporary office space while the club house is undergoing renovations. They plan to occupy the space until May 2020.
 - No indication as to potential long-term tenants after that
 - No change to report since last meeting
- **490 New Rochelle Road (former bakery):**
 - Certificate of Compliance issued for smaller storefront. Still no word as to potential tenants.
 - Work on the larger, former bakery storefront has stalled; no indication as to when work will be complete. The permits do expire, but can be extended simply by paying additional fees
 - No change to report since last meeting
- **497 New Rochelle Road (Sunoco Station):**
 - Because the owner did not meet the required deadlines, the Town issued a summons and the owner appeared in court. The Court allowed him additional time to rectify removal of the wood pile, shed and lift. The shed, wood pile and lift have all been removed.
- **495 New Rochelle Road (former Karma Fashions; now Beloved Designs)**
 - Beloved Designs, new hair salon has opened
- **Road Construction**

- Con Ed will continue to be working in the area (California Road) for another couple of years, as per Hector DiLeo, Superintendent of Highways
- With regard to condition of New Rochelle Road (seems road has deteriorated due to heavy construction equipment passing through), we should contact Hector DiLeo.
- Bob has offered to draft letter on behalf of CHCA, if members submit their specific concerns about the condition of New Rochelle Road or other local infrastructure (please email Bob directly)

2. Membership:

- 2020 Membership Drive - “Go Green with CHCA” reusable bags as free gift to all members who pay 2020 dues by February 28 was a huge success and yielded over 100 memberships in February

Subcommittees:

A. Welcoming: Megan Florio, Stephanie Prezioso

- Plants and Cards were delivered to new residents

B. Residential: **NEED VOLUNTEERS**

- We have emails for about 188 homes, most will renew in response to email; The Carrolls delivered flyers to other 70 homes

C. Business: **NEED VOLUNTEERS**

- Need to encourage more local businesses to join

3. Communications: Elena O’Mahony

- Communications with/reports from TPAC re traffic issues New Rochelle Road
- Communications with/reports from Eastchester Fire Board re firehouse
- Weekly “Around Town” and Classifieds continue to circulate on Saturday mornings. Members are free to email with any local events that they would like published

4. Events: Susan Miele (chair), Anna Manca, Dawn Attwood, Megan Florio, Stephanie Prezioso

Upcoming (circumstances permitting):

- Trivia Night for March 19, to be rescheduled due to Covid-19
- Discussion as to potential videoconference game
- Scholarship Ceremony and Volunteer Recognition - June
- Picnic – Summer
- Yard Sale – Fall
- Softball Game – Fall
- Halloween – October

- Tree Lighting - December

5. By-laws: volunteer needed to review and propose revisions to be drafted to 1955 by-laws

6. Beautification: Irene Sarno, Elena O'Mahony

- Investigate hanging flowers on New Rochelle Road

7. Scholarship: Noel Dallacco-Ammirati

- Applications went out in March; deadline is May 15

New Business:

Committee Members/Reports

- 1. Civic Affairs:** Bob Marziotti (chair), Jason Attwood

Opening Notes: Based on the most recent Executive Order from the Governor, given the Covid-19 pandemic, no construction activities are permitted in Town, except for clear emergencies and other narrow exceptions. The order is presently in place until April 15.

Reminder to Residents re CVS Property: This site remains private property, including the dumpster. Residents are not to dispose of dog waste or garbage on that property at all. This is especially disconcerting to neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity, and is illegal and carries penalties. A plea is made for all neighbors to be mindful of this.

- **502 New Rochelle Road (Convenience Store)**
- **Out of Business 505 New Rochelle Road (CVS)**
 - No information from Town as to any prospective tenant; the Town has not had any inquiries about the property. While there have been rumors about Trader Joe's, the source is unknown, and that company has not approached the Town.
 - Summons issued to CVS due to trash accumulation issue
- **504 New Rochelle Road (Gas station/Convenience store)**
 - Received final certificate of compliance on 10/24/18
- **493 New Rochelle Road (former Chase bank)**
 - No change to report since last meeting
- **490 New Rochelle Road (former bakery):**
 - No change to report since last meeting
- **497 New Rochelle Road (Sunoco Station):**
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- **495 New Rochelle Road (Beloved Designs)**
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- With regard to condition of New Rochelle Road (seems road has deteriorated due to heavy construction equipment passing through), we should contact Hector DiLeo.
- Bob has offered to draft letter on behalf of CHCA, if members submit their specific concerns about the condition of New Rochelle Road or other local infrastructure (please email Bob directly)

- 2. **Membership:**

- A. Welcoming:** Megan Florio, Stephanie Prezioso

- Plants and Cards were delivered to new residents
 - Additional deliveries to resume

- B. Residential: NEED VOLUNTEERS**

- C. Business: NEED VOLUNTEERS**

- Need to encourage more local businesses to join

- 3. **Communications:** Elena O'Mahony

- Communications with/reports from TPAC re traffic issues New Rochelle Road
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- 4. **Events** – Susan Miele (chair), Anna Manca, Dawn Attwood, Megan Florio, Stephanie Prezioso

- Upcoming (circumstances permitting):**

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 - Discussion as to potential videoconference game
 - Picnic – Late Summer/Fall
 - Yard Sale – Fall
 - Softball Game – Fall
 - Halloween – October
 - Tree Lighting - December

- 5. **By-laws** – revisions to 1955 by-laws drafted; under review

6. Beautification – Irene Sarno, Elena O’Mahony

- **New Event!** Art Walk May 30 and 31 – CH Residents displayed unique art work and performed live music. **Thank you, Christina McGrath for the great idea, and for all who participated and shared their creativity!**
- Planters installed along sidewalks on both sides of New Rochelle Road and gazebo (pink flowers to represent frontline Covid workers and those lost). Planters will be maintained/watered by business members (**Thank you Gordy’s and Dantoni’s!**)
- CHCA banners being contemplated
- **Volunteers needed to rotate watering plants in gazebo**

7. Scholarship – Noel Dallacco-Ammirati

- Virtual ceremony held to award scholarships to all paid member high school seniors in CH

Adjournment: There being no further business to be brought before the members, a motion to adjourn was made by Irene Sarno and seconded by Elena O’Mahony. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next Meeting: September 2020