

Meeting of the Chester Heights Civic Association via Video Conference

April 06, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Elena O'Mahony

Board members present: Elena O'Mahony (President), Irene Sarno (Treasurer), Joyce Balint (Corresponding Secretary)

Total members present: 17

The president opened the meeting with general information:

- Welcome new volunteers: Deirdre Callahan (Civic Affairs) and Alexandra Jaffe (Welcoming)
- Volunteer requests:
 - Recording Secretary – thank you Nanci for your help this past year!
 - Events Committee Member (help & creative ideas needed to create a safe & fun summer picnic)
- Elections will not be held tonight since there were no candidates. All positions remain.

I. **Minutes of Last Meeting** -These minutes and the associated links are posted on the CHCA website.

II. **Treasurer's Report (I. Sarno)**

The treasurer reported that the association currently has an approximate balance of \$8,900.00. Over 100 members joined during the February membership drive. Expenses were for Trivia Night prizes and Welcoming Plants.

Opening Balance (from close of 9/14/20 meeting):	\$ 4,335.77
Income:	4,771.80
Expenses:	202.00
Closing Balance:	\$ 8,905.59

III. **Events (A. Manca, D.Attwood , S. Miele)** - Anna reported:

- a. Past Events - The association sponsored a virtual trivia night. Winner prizes to be delivered soon. Photos are on the website. Thank you Scott Misner for hosting!
- b. Upcoming Events
 - a. Tag Sale tentatively May 1
 - b. Art Walk in conjunction with Beautification tentatively June 5-6. The Art Walk is an event that encourages all types of artists to display their talent in front of their houses. A map is distributed so neighbors can walk around and enjoy it all. It consists of all types of art work, live performances e.g. music, dance, landscape plants/art, etc.
 - c. Summer picnic TBD – help is needed

IV. Civic Affairs (R. Marzziotti, J. Attwood, D. Callahan) Bob Reported:

a. CVS Covid site:

- i. The town's building inspector has inspected the site.
 - 1. They are seeing people by appointment only in 15/20 minute increments to ensure there are no lines.
 - 2. There are some seats provided in the building if someone arrives a few minutes early.
 - 3. They are not providing any kind of drive-by services.
 - 4. If they see anyone loitering in the parking lot, they ask them to return to their cars or to wait indoors.
 - 5. Since they have had no lines, they actually removed cones from the parking lot that had been placed there in anticipation of lines.
- ii. The town periodically receives complaints about trash on the site. When the inspector investigates it's usually not significant (meaning not bags of trash), but may include bottles/dog waste in plastic bags and/or other debris that appears to have been tossed on the site from passersby or from cars in the lot. The owner has been responsive to requests to get out to the site to keep it clean. The town often has to initiate these requests and they're aware that it can be frustrating for residents in the area.
- iii. There's no information about a long-term tenant.

b. Old Bakery location at 490 New Rochelle Rd

- i. A permit was issued to Flowerbake by Angela on 1/21/21 for interior renovations. The town has not yet been called for any inspections and therefore they don't know when they anticipate completing the work or opening.
- ii. The business would primarily make custom cake orders and offer cake decorating classes and would not be a typical retail bakery.

c. Old Martial Arts store:

- i. A permit was issued for the Golden Century Spa – a nail, massage and beauty treatment salon.
- ii. They passed their final inspection and should open soon if they have not already. Currently, they have temporary signage up but are before the sign committee for approval of permanent signage.

d. 504 New Rochelle Road (Gas Station/Convenience Store):

- i. The only new information we have is that the owner received approvals to modify the monument sign and wall mounted signs to reflect new corporate branding.

e. 493 New Rochelle Road (Former Chase Bank):

- i. Nothing new to report about a long-term tenant.

f. 497 New Rochelle Road (Sunoco station):

- i. The only new information is that the owner installed new signage without the required approvals. The town issued a violation and they have submitted an application for sign approval. The application is currently pending before the sign review committee.

- g. Road Construction/related issues
 - i. Painting of lines and configuration of parking spaces on New Rochelle road. We have the involvement of Ellen A. Del Colle, Chairman - Town of Eastchester Traffic & Parking Advisory Committee (TPAC)
 - ii. Elena has been leading this effort and would have a more robust update.
- h. Convenience store
 - i. The convenience store next to the Greek restaurant is closed.
 - ii. The town has no information about the store and has had no inquiries about the space.
- i. Fire House Apparatus Floor & Possible Temp Closures (Elena reported)
 - i. The contract was recently awarded and it appears at this time that the Fire truck will be relocated to the Marble Schoolhouse while work is done and remain in operation.
- j. School Board Bond & Capital Project, Budget & Trustee Vote = May 18 (Elena reported)
 - i. \$9.9 million project proposed in this budget
 - ii. Cafeterias, infrastructure, cottle field, THS library, a/c
 - iii. Will cost the avg house \$266/year
 - iv. Details are posted on TUFSD website & CHCA website
 - v. Next TUFSD board meetings
 - 1. APRIL 12 (Budget Review)
 - 2. APRIL 20 (Budget Adoption & Annual BOCES Meeting/Vote)
 - 3. MAY 10 (Budget Hearing)
 - 4. MAY 18 (Also ANNUAL VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION)

V. Beautification (E. O'Mahony, I. Sarno) Irene reported:

- a. Purchased 3 additional pots to add to the 10 in front of businesses on New Rochelle Road. We will purchase annuals for all 13 pots and replace dead perennials.
- b. The Tuckahoe PTA is having a plant sale – we will purchase 4 hanging plants to place around the gazebo.
- c. Plant in pink in unison with Eastchester Beautification Foundation
- d. Will arrange the Art Walk with Events.

VI. Scholarship (N. D'Allacco-Ammirati) Noel reported via email

- a. The application was sent to the high school.
- b. Due by 5/15
- c. Must be a member for 2 consecutive years
- d. Would like to sponsor all high school seniors with a gift (gift card to a CH business & candy) – approx. 10 CH seniors

VII. Membership

- a. **Residential** This is still an open position. There are 112 members.
- b. **Welcoming (M. Florio, S. Prezioso, A. Jaffe)** Megan reported via email:
 - 1. Welcoming plants & cards were dropped off to 5 new homeowners in March.
 - 2. There are 4 pending/for sale (not including the lot on Lockwood).
 - 3. As of now, we are continuing our relationship with Annie @ Crimson who is charging us \$7 per succulent (if cash). Concern with consistency with what she can provide us.
- c. **Business (S. Sexton)** Elena reported:
 - 1. Membership mailings were sent to all businesses on New Rochelle Road resulting in 4 business members: Dantoni's, Hanna's Service Station, Gordy's & State Farm
 - 2. Business emails were sent to all subscribers, resulting in 2 business members: Boyer 2 Accountants & Caffè Ammi

VIII. Communications (E. O'Mahony) Elena reported:

- a. Presently, the association has 271 email subscribers which accounts for 207 unique addresses (17 not in CH, 11 stores)
- b. Around Town Posts to the CH Weekly on which emails on Saturday mornings

IX. By-Laws – needs member

X. Website (E. O'Mahony)

- a. Updated regularly

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- o Gerri Parisi mentioned the multiple repairs needed to the CH playground area such as gate not working properly and uneven ground. CHCA to contact the Town.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2021.

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elena O'Mahony (President)