



FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS INC.

April 14th, 2021

Virtual meeting

Attending: Gretchen Mettler, Bob Charlick, Ronald Ramsey, Jacqueline Kelly, Sam Kohn, Mark Madland, Tom Winston, Barbara Danforth, Chris Hubbert, and Lee Barbee.

Excused: Beryl Tishkoff, Tony Rupcic

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 7:03.

The March minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurers report

Tony was absent but sent the following report:

Year to date revenues are \$5,101.36. Our cash balance is at \$34,674.94.

So far, our revenues are much better this year over the same time last year. We are very much on track to achieve our targeted surplus goal.

Tony met with our insurance adjustor at the cottage last week. They investigated the damage to the boiler and cottage resulting from the frozen pipes. Once he hears from them regarding their proposed settlement to FHHO, he will let the board know.

Anti-Discrimination

The Board revisited the Anti-Discrimination statement drafted the previous Fall. Sam summarized the rationale and history of the statement, including the request to pause the publication of the statement because of concerns raised by the 2021 Board. Lee and Bob reminded trustees that activists had found no issue with the statement. Lee reported that the people he consulted from the Urban League did inquire about what action steps would follow the statement.

Lee invited Barbara to speak on the issue again. Barbara still felt uncomfortable with the statement as written because it lacked action steps. Mark agreed that action statements would be important to add, so did Chris.

Chris moved to defer publication of the anti-discrimination statement until we're all more comfortable. The motion passed with 8 yays 2 nays and one abstention.

Membership Committee

Barbara reported that they were not able to meet this past month, but the next step is working with Ann to meet again.

Gretchen asked about calling realtors when they posted a house. Sam has been emailing realtors, Gretchen suggested calling instead.

Bylaws

Chris reported that there was not much action since the last meeting. He continued, by explaining that the next goal is to put a draft of the work so far to selected people in the community and then after receiving their suggestions, present a draft to the Board. The goal is to put the amendments before the membership for a vote this Fall.

Fundraising Committee

Gretchen reported that 1 t-shirt was sold this past month! Gretchen and Beryl are searching for renovation money for the Blue Cottage nationally, perhaps by applying to This Old House show.

Preservation Committee

Bob reported that he is working on a plan for collaboration with FHHO and the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC). He reported that HRRC has a full-time staff of 6. They help homeowners with education, tools, address violations, and offer 90 minute independent on-site inspections to help assess what repairs are most pressing. Bob suggested we should work hard to better connect Forest Hill residents to their services.

Bob continued by saying that the committee should prioritize the standards and offer economic and technical resources when communicating to homeowners that need to address issues with their home. Barbara confirmed that HRRC serves Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland.

Tom reported that Tony and Jo Fox worked with the neighbors on Newbury to stop the tear-off of a slate roof on a bank owned house. A new resident, Douglas Ditiro, joined the preservation committee. Douglas just moved to the neighborhood and will be a great addition to the team according to Tom.

A homeowner wants to add solar panels to their roof. Tom sees it as a positive contribution for the neighborhood and property values to keep up with the times. Chris confirmed that there is a home on Bolton that has solar panels which were approved sometime in the past. Mark suggested this may mean that the standards need to be updated to accommodate solar panels or other solar generation capabilities. Gretchen added it is time to update the standards.

In a separate thought, Tom suggested distributing yard signs for FHHO owners show off their membership in the organization. The board responded enthusiastically.

Tom concluded by stating that this will be a busy summer for the committee with many residents looking to do home repairs and renovations.

Other business

Mark reported that the litter pick-up is scheduled for this Saturday (April 17) and he's received quite a few RSVP's so far.

Sam reported that he met with the Heights Tree people to brainstorm ways to beautify and reduce the maintenance cost of FHHO traffic triangle where Northvale Rd and Forest Hill Blvd converge. They are willing to donate 2 or 3 trees and will help implement any garden plans the organization would like to pursue.

Gretchen concluded the meeting by reminding the Trustees the Burlington lot is due for a clean-up, ideally sometime in May.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Sam Kohn, Secretary