

**THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE MID-YEAR MEETING**

Held on Wednesday, October 11, 2016 in the Auditorium A & B at the Niagara-on-the-Lake
Community Centre.

Executive Members Present:

Bill Smelser, President
Dave Antaya, Vice President
Laura Jeffrey, Corresponding Secretary
Judy McHattie, Recording Secretary
Ron McKenzie, Treasurer

1. Meeting

2. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Bill Smelser at 7pm.
Residents were invited to introduce themselves.

3. Welcome

4. Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting 20 April, 2016

There were 2 changes. Minutes were approved with changes.

5. Business Arising From Minutes:

5.1 Traffic Conflict

Further discussions with the Town are with traffic conflict at the Shoppers Drug Store mall entrance. A further report will be given later in this meeting.

5.2 Forward Planning Committee (FPC) Steering Committee

A steering committee was formed to discuss and evaluate the opportunities of taking on more responsibility for the VCA. An update on the proceedings of this committee will be given later in this meeting.

5.3 New Mailboxes

New mailbox sites have been constructed and we expect the Post Office to install or move boxes within a few weeks

Forward Planning Committee (FPC) Steering Committee – Mike Siverns

■ Who are we and what have we been doing?

Committee member introductions: Mike Siverns, Dana Branscombe, Dale DesIslets, Frank Coster, Luba Fraser and Mona Babin

Background of Committee - started in April 2016. It was set up to put together a Strategic Plan for the Village.

■ Status of Report on Survey and Open House to Exec :

Meetings have taken place with residents, John Hawley, Town Council members, and other Rate Payers Associations.

A Town Hall Meeting took place on September 24, 2016 at the NOTL Community Centre.

Discussions took place on Architectural Codes, Municipal Codes; What the New VCA should look like (Constitution and Bylaws).

Report: A Preliminary meeting took place with the Executive on 4 October 2016 to discuss the survey and the Town Hall meeting. The report has been finalized and is being printed. It will be presented to the Executive on October 18, 2016. The report will be sent out electronically and presented to the Residents in November.

Results of FPC Survey - Dale DesIslets

- 114/190 residents responded to survey. (60%)
- 67% of respondents have lived in the Village less than 5 years
- 67% of respondents are VCA Members
- 31% were and are no longer members

Issues according to FPC Survey

- Parking spaces
- Architectural codes
- Comments on town/region
- Process for resale
- Communications
- Perceived gap between old and new VCA Residents

Results of Town hall Meeting held September 24, 2016

- There were 70 residents in attendance
- Issues such as plantings and walkways on the boulevards in The Village. Town has issued a statement that they will remove any walkways that have been installed before assuming streets in the Village. Approximately 50% of the Village already has plantings or walkways and the Town has already assumed these roads. John Hawley has been pushing back on the Town over this directive.
- A resident asked if one would still need approval for architectural variances after Development Permit System (DPS) is passed.
The answer is yes.
- There will be another meeting conducted by the FPC to review the DPS (Development Permit System) in November. No new open house meeting has yet been scheduled by the Town.
- Parking Bylaws is something the Town is discussing and the FPC is working with the Town to resolve.

6. Mid Term Financial Report

Ron McKenzie was introduced to the Residents as the Treasurer. He was appointed by the executive to take over from Robin Scott who resigned due to health issues. Ron presented the VCA financial statement to September 30, 2016. The bank balance is \$6907.03

7. Membership Committee- Erna Antaya

There are 198 homes and 89 paid up members. Annual fee of \$30 is payable at the April General meeting. Those who have not renewed their membership were asked to do so and new members were invited.

8. Social Committee – Marlene Sibbald

8.1 Sunset Socials – There was one Sunset Social held this year.

8.2 Dog Show – was a resounding success. \$11,000 was raised to benefit the Niagara Falls Humane Society. Marlene thanked all her committee members for their help.

8.3 Annual Christmas Dinner - Tickets were available at the meeting. For those members not in attendance, tickets may be obtained through the Social Committee. Cost of tickets: \$45. pp for members and \$55.pp for non- members.

9. Garden Maintenance Committee Report – Mona Babin

Mona expressed her thanks to all the helpers who maintained the garden this year. Volunteers are needed to assist with October garden cleanup. Please contact Mona if you can help out.

10. Christmas Decorating Committee Report - Dale DesIslets

Dale reported that the inventory has taken place at the storage locker. The committee has been busy checking lights (all 11,000) and replacing damaged or broken bulbs. Christmas Lighting ceremony will take place Sunday, November 27, 2016.

11. VCA Website – Bill Smelser

- ❑ The website address is: www.thevillagenotl.ca
- ❑ A show of hands showed that members are indeed using the site.

Bill listed the businesses in the Loyalty Program:

- Mori Gardens: 905-468-7863 (10% Discount)
- Bliss Hair Salon: 905-468-5344 (10% Discount)
- Gordon Harvey (Painter): 905-468-4530 (Bottle of Riesling per room painted)
- E-Scout Niagara: 289-271-0663 (Second rental free on weekdays)
- Creek Road Paints: 905-468-2412 (10% Discount)

12. Brookfield Homes - John Hawley

John was not able to be present. He did let Bill know that the mail box platforms were ready. Canada Post will make a final inspection and upon approval, will arrange to have mail boxes moved.

13. New Business – Bill Smelser

Garrison Village Drive – Stop Sign Location at entrance to the Mall.

- Existing Stop Sign implies that left turn into mall parking has priority
 - Close calls between drivers continue to be reported
 - Met with Town Engineering 1 November 2015
 - Discussed concerns and made recommendations
 - Town staff agreed to conduct survey
 - Further Discussions with Traffic Engineer 29 August, 2016
 - Consultant performed survey in July, 2016 and reported to Management
 - Still no Report available from Traffic Engineer
 - E-mail to Councilor Betty Disero 3 October, 2016. Betty promised to look into it.

Our Lord Mayor Darte popped into the meeting at this time and asked to be kept in the loop on this issue.

Nominating Committee – Mona Babin volunteered to head this committee.

Cathy Taylor said that even if a resident is away during the winter, they could still participate by Skype.

Positions required:

- President to replace Bill Smelser
- Vice President to replace Dave Antaya
- Communications Officer to replace Laura Jeffrey

14. Questions/comments from the Floor:

1. What are you doing about parking? (Dave Goodwin)
We are working with the Town to sort out Parking and especially Visitor parking at several levels of Town Government.
2. A new resident also asked about parking. His out of town visitor had received a ticket for parking on the street. He also mentioned safety on Garrison Village Drive (GVD) and how difficult it was to turn onto the drive with all the cars parked on GVD. (Joe Accardo)
3. Doug Widdicombe mentioned that the Town was redeveloping their Parking bylaw.

15. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm.