

The Regular Board of Director's Meeting of the Southampton Citizens Association was called to order by President Frank Dorman who noted the existence of a quorum on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 7:15 p.m.

Tim Fite was acting Secretary.

Board Members

("x" indicates present; "E" indicates excused)

Term ending October 2006		Term ending October 2007		Term ending October 2008	
Mary Blanchard	E	Frank Dorman	x	Sue Stewart	x
John McGrann	x	Caitlin Zettl	E	Bob Scott	x
John Cardwell	x	Jean Marie Hay	E	Bert Waters	x
Jonathan Young	E	Mary St. Louis	x	Jeff Donahue	
VACANCY		Bob Call	E	Tim Fite	x
		Past president	>	Wendy Inge	x

Guests

There were 9 guests present, including the following officials and candidates:
 David Hathcock, Councilwoman Graziano, School Board Member George Braxton, School Board candidate Jerry Miller.

Approval of Minutes

June 2006 Minutes were approved.

Presentations

Wendy Inge presented the results of the Cherokee Road survey

- Among the responses we have received, the votes are overwhelmingly supportive of increased fines for speeding on Cherokee Road.
- Unfortunately, almost 40% of addresses polled remain non-responses.
- David Hathcock praised the SCA for getting a 60% response, and offered the assistance of his office in attaining further responses via a special mailing to the holdouts.

David Hathcock presented status of the 4-way stop on Prairie survey

- The survey will not be performed. Instead, Councilwoman Graziano's office will proceed without a survey, based on the merits of the case.
- Mr. Hathcock listed these factors that recommend a 4-way stop: the intersection is adjacent to a school, it has a high amount of bus traffic and a high amount of speeding. It is also a true, right-angle intersection with high visibility.
- Mr. Hathcock emphasized this point: 4-way stops are opposed by Public Works, and for good reason. They generally increase vehicle-collision accidents in the long run, not reduce them. This intersection, and Ms. Graziano's support for the 4-way stop is not a

precedent, but an extremely rare exception, based on the special circumstances described above.

Committee and Officer Reports

Legislative Affairs

No report.

Neighborhood Team

John Cardwell reported on the most recent Team meeting. The topic mentioned was the new District Four Schools group, which has recently formed to improve schools and increase usage in our district.

There followed a discussion on this topic, including the group's purpose, composition and activities. Mary Blanchard attended their first meeting and is taking an active role in it. There was agreement that the Board should support District Four Schools in general. There was also agreement that we should promote via e-mail or postcard the group's next meeting:

August 29 at SRA

Meet and Greet at 6:00 p.m., followed by business meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Zoning

Bert Waters reported on the town homes on Old Westham, which are renting instead of selling, and are not selling well. Urchie Ellis reported that construction on the fourth tier of homes has resumed in the last week. Wendy Inge will make contact with the developer to find out what's going on with the high rental rate.

Mr. Ellis expressed concern over the new office building behind a home on Forest Hill Avenue. Mr. Hathcock stated that the City was not necessarily happy about the construction, but had found that it was being properly developed under its zoning and there was nothing to be done.

Mr. Waters updated the group on the planned development across the entrance drive from Mexico's new location. It is authorized for 40,000 square feet of development. Harper Associates plans to have a pet supply store as the main tenant, with 15,000 square feet. Construction is unlikely to begin for at least a year.

A discussion followed regarding two lots for sale on Forest Hill Avenue, concluding in a **motion by Ms. Inge, seconded by Mr. Waters, and passed**, to authorize Mr. Dorman to contact the brokers of the two parcels to determine how they are marketing them. Also to express to the Brokers and City Planning our concern regarding zoning and special use of those lots.

Mr. Ellis noted that there are several vacancies now in the Stratford Hills Shopping Center. We will attempt to contact the property manager.

Tim Fite updated the group on the attempt to create a pedestrian/biker infrastructure between the heart of our neighborhood and Forest Hill Avenue. Installation of Share the Road signs on the main entrance roads to The Shops at Stratford Hills has been approved by Harper Associates. The cost would be \$120, but Harper Associates is unwilling to pay for it. Mr. Fite stated that as soon as \$120 was made available from any source, the signs could be installed in short order. No recommendation was made that the SCA offer to pay for this improvement.

Communications

Bob Scott reported that the most recent minutes and newsletter had been posted at the Association website, along with Board member contact information.

Mr. Fite asked the Board whether we should appoint a backup to the Secretary, to help operate the e-mail system in the event of personal or technical difficulties. There was general agreement, characterized by one member as “if she wants to, she can.” Mr. Fite then clarified his point, inquiring whether a backup should *in fact* be appointed, since in the current month no notice was sent. Mr. Dorman offered to act in the capacity of backup operator.

Several compliments were offered by Board members, guests and the officials in attendance, for the latest newsletter. That newsletter was produced by Ms. Blanchard, who will be coordinating future newsletters. Particular praise was offered by Mary Argenteanu and Mr. Hathcock for the excellent front page article on schools.

Ms. Inge asked whether we were changing the names in our mailing list, as we used to, to say “Southampton Neighbor” for addresses which are not current with their dues. It was noted that the June minutes state that we are doing this. We are not doing this. Mr. Dorman explained that we intend to have a statement regarding dues status on each mailing label, but that there was a technical difficulty this time around. We will work to resolve the problem for the Autumn newsletter.

Treasurer

Sue Stewart reported a current total balance of \$8,797.94, with \$6,797.94 unrestricted. Membership is 295.

Schools / Education

- There was a **motion from Ms. Inge, seconded by John Cardwell, and passed**, to authorize \$40 for refreshments at a future District Four Schools meeting.
- Mr. Fite updated the group on the SCA IMBY grant proposal. The proposal has been selected as a finalist, Mr. Fite met with the grant committee last week, and the decision will be made prior to the next meeting.

Membership

Mr. Ellis and Mr. Fite inquired into the status of nominating for new Board terms and for Board Officers: who were we looking into, who had we asked and such. Mr. Dorman gave no report, but advised us that a committee was working on it. Mr. Fite asked whether it would be discussed openly in September, and the Board proceeded to other business.

Guests and Board members inquired into the status of plans for the Annual Meeting: what speakers were we considering, for what topics and such. Mr. Dorman gave no report, but advised us that a committee was working on it. Refreshments for that meeting were discussed, and Ms. Stewart agreed to contact former Board member Mary Frances Kastleberg about organizing them as in past years.

Guest contributors

Councilwoman Kathy Graziano

Ms. Graziano updated us on the budget amendments in which she continues to seek funding for important district programs, such as a hazardous waste center.

School Board member George Braxton

Mr. Braxton updated us on a school closure proposal. The proposal will be voted upon and shared with the public next Monday.

Other Business

Mr. Dorman proposed the possibility of holding a forum for School Board candidates. Mr. Ellis expressed concern that such a forum may violate the SCA Articles of Incorporation. After a discussion, there was general agreement that the Articles prevent us from participating in any candidate's *campaign*, or from expressing a candidate's views *on behalf of* a candidate. It was agreed that a forum – open to all candidates – in which *they* may express their views but *we* show no partiality, is an important public service, not campaigning. As such, a forum was deemed not a violation of our Articles of Incorporation.

There was **a motion from Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. Inge, and passed**, to authorize our sponsorship, alone or with other civic groups, of a candidates forum in October.

Mr. Braxton and Jerry Miller both tentatively accepted invitations to such a forum.

Adjournment

No other business coming before the group, President Dorman adjourned the meeting shortly before 9 p.m., and guest Guy Frank played a recessional on the SRA piano.