

Ravensworth Farm Civic Association
General Membership Meeting
March 23, 2023

The meeting was brought to order by Marcie Winitt, President, at 7:35 PM. The meeting was the first General Membership Meeting held at Ravensworth Elementary School since March 19, 2020, due to COVID. It's great to be back!

Taste of Ravensworth: Thirty-five residents attended to sample treats provided by the eateries at the Ravensworth Shopping Center: Kilroy's, Jersey Mike's, Hong Kong Express, Dairy Queen, Swiss Bakery, and Anita's. I also spotted some treats brought by residents! Thank you all!

Business Meeting

Minutes Approved: The minutes from the October 20, 2022, General Membership Meeting were approved by the members.

Announcements:

Board of Director Elections: The election of the directors will occur on May 25, 2023, General Membership Meeting. The Association is looking for volunteers to fill these positions. Current board members served from 3 – 12 years, and three are planning to leave at the end of their term: Marcie Winitt, President, Richard Hildebrand, 2d VP, and Diwakar Sharma, Corresponding Secretary. Ginger Rogers, Recording Secretary and Marcie Winitt have agreed to run again if there are no volunteers for these positions. The Association would like more volunteers involved in the community – please seriously consider running for any of the board positions.

Inverchapel Calming Measures – A virtual meeting was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The Association Task Force in conjunction with Fairfax County have been working to find a solution to reduce speed on Inverchapel Road, especially at the curve at the Church. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the process, the proposal, receive feedback and answer any questions the attendees had.

The Association followed county procedures by forwarding a request to begin the study to the Braddock District Supervisor's office. A speed survey was conducted and the results were sent to the Task Force. A canvass was conducted and there were many that do and many that don't want speedhumps/bumps/tables. Another canvass/petition to reject the use humps/bumps/tables was forwarded to the Task Force and indicated 25 residents were against the devices.

A plan was developed for six speed humps and one speed table, and the placements of the humps/table were agreed to by the affected residents. The next step is to send ballots to Inverchapel Rd and Halleck Pl residents for their input as to yes or no for the devices. A majority (51%) of residents are required for approval to move toward installation.

At the end of the General Meeting, Peter Tran made his case for installing the humps/table. The main goal is to save lives. During the 24-hour period of the Speed Study, 878 cars travelled through Inverchapel with 15% going over 35 mph, or 130 cars/day. The devices will be a reminder to slow down and discourage outsiders from using Inverchapel as a cut-through.

Budget - Kristoffer Hull explained that costs for the printing of *The Farmer* have gone up considerably, about three times more, than when it was printed by Key School. Kristoffer explained that the teacher in charge of production has retired and the school made the decision not to continue this activity. As a result, there will be a \$6,000 shortfall for this year. What measures can be taken to prevent the unsustainable costs: 1) Increase ad rates? 2) Increase Membership rates?

Currently the Association has \$50K held in reserves in case of a lawsuit. Now, the Association is purchasing "Single Event" Liability Insurance policies to cover Association events. The cost is around \$100/event. Therefore, the Association is putting some of the reserves back into events such as catering this summer's BBQ, the Taste of Ravensworth, and the Fall Festival. It provided treats and coffee for last year's Holiday Lights Judging event at Lisa and Bill's house.

The Farmer – Kristoffer and Richard presented an overview of plans discussed by the board regarding *The Farmer*. The problem: The Key School will no longer print it, and the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts are no longer able to deliver it. As previously mentioned, outside vendor printing costs are three times more expensive than the school. And, since September, the Association has been relying on volunteers to deliver it. The Association has reached out to other schools and volunteer organizations but has not received any takers.

After much consideration, the board decided to reduce the number of printed issues to three per year, coinciding with the General Membership Meetings in October, March, and May. Per the By-Laws all residents must be notified in writing, in advance of the meetings. All eight issues will be available on the RavensworthFarm.org website. This process will begin with the new FY, October 2023. The advantages include:

- Reducing overall costs down to \$2,885.52
- Balancing ad revenue to approximately match at \$2625.00
- Less reliance on volunteers for delivery
- Can be revised next year based on feedback

Ravensworth Farm Swim and Racquet Club – Jen Auble advised that the Early Bird sign-up for reduced rates will end on April 7, 2023. Levels of membership include: Family, Couple, and Seniors. She explained that rates have gone up a bit due to increases in their expenses. Rates and sign-up are available on the Pool's website: <https://www.ravensworthfarmpool.com>. There have been some upgrades over the winter: white coat and tile work on the pool interior and the Tennis Court has been resurfaced, with another coat planned. Rumors have it that there may be a Pickle Ball Court striping along with a Tennis court!

Feature Presentation – Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw

County Budget: Presented to the Board of Supervisors. Tax Rate of \$1.11/\$100 value to remain the same. Property is assessed on current market value; there is an appeal process. The Board of Supervisors controls the tax rate, and when the budget is adopted in May, the BOS may reduce the rate. James mentioned that Real Estate Taxes pay for increase in services and that the BOS is limited by the state on how it can raise revenue.

Pay Raise for the Board – James explained that the raise is for the next BOS, in 2024. It was calculated using the average rate of county employees over eight years.

Traffic Calming on Inverchapel – James explained that post COVID there has been an increase in aggressive driving and there are a number of areas seeking traffic calming methods. There were 22 pedestrian fatalities in 2022. For Inverchapel Rd, 51% of the residents have to say “yes”. Many areas do not meet the 51% threshold.

1. What about speed cameras? James advised that there is a 6 months-1 year pilot program with speed cameras at several school and work zones. The use of speed cameras is not meant as a revenue generator, as in some areas, and the cameras are expensive.

Lake Accotink – The comment period of the process is midway through – all public comments are due by April 1, 2023. The BOS will review in the Spring. It will be open to the public with an opportunity to ask questions. James stated that he wants to find a way to dredge Lake Accotink.

Sampling of Q and A

1. When would dredging start if dredging is approved? – We need to see the public comments to figure out the next move. Even without COVID dredging would not have started until 2023. If all funding is in place, it will be 3-5 years before the project starts.
2. How will the birds and other wildlife be affected if the dredging does not occur? It will probably take another 3-6 months to study this issue.
3. When is the decision going to be made? Don't know yet. We don't want to rush. Want to review all the comments and re-study the previous proposal.
4. Can we see the comments? The FAQ will be updated. The comments aren't published since those commenting may not want to be publicly identified. Could request through a FOIA application.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on May 25, 2023 – Please Attend!

The meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.