

Blue Bell Hill Civic Association General Membership Meeting

November 13, 2018

Minutes taken by Brooke Giles

Attendance (25 people)

Special Guest: Josh Cohen

Reverend Joe Williams led us in a moment of silence for Veterans Day.

Announcements:

Reverend Joe Williams raised that the corner of Johnson and Walnut Lane s too dark. He would like to see more lights at the bus stop.

Reverend Joe Williams shared a Thanksgiving volunteer opportunity. There is a dinner for the homeless at 12 noon on Thanksgiving day at 5817 Germantown Ave. Volunteers meet at 10am, service from 11am-12 noon, at 12 noon there will be a sit down meal. If interested please contact Reverend Joe at 215-813-1226.

Neighbor raised that there is a light out at the Walnut Lane circle. Civic will report.

Announcement made about a free memorial concert for the victims of the Pittsburgh shooting. See attached flyer for additional information.

- The Independence Sinfonia, under the direction of Maestro Daniel Matsukawa, will perform a free memorial concert for the victims of the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. **The concert will take place on Sunday, November 18 at 7:00 PM at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA.**

Memorial Clean-up

- Thank you Stas Zawislak and John Dixon
- Tree and plants donated by Secret Garden nursery.
- If you can volunteer your time to help plant or continue the clean up please contact the board.

Holiday Party

- Saturday, December 15th at 6pm
- Philadelphia Canoe Club
- BYOB and potluck
- All are welcome, Civic will share extra flyers with the church to invite congregation members.

Lincoln Drive/Walnut Lane Bridge Update

- Lincoln Dive, from the city: “For the month of November, the contractor will continue to schedule regular night closures on Sunday thru Thursday nights from 9pm to 6am. They do not expect to be on-site every week night during the month of November, but there will be closures as the contractor completes temporary line striping/ drainage/median barrier/etc. Also, contractor will continue daytime work this month [of November] with the use of temporary, intermittent, single-lane closures between Wissahickon and Ridge Avenues during the off-peak hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.”
- Walnut Lane bridge is almost complete. Soon contractors will have to stop for the cold weather, final items will be completed in the spring.

Invasive Lanternfly update

- USDA in our area surveying houses. If they are interested in surveying your property they will leave a door tag for you to contact them.
- If you see the insect please KILL and REPORT.
- More information on flyer attached or www.agriculture.pa.gov/
- **USDA Spotted Lanternfly Public Meetings and Workshops**
WHEN: November 20, 2018, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
WHERE: The Penn State Center Philadelphia, 675 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-public-meetings>

Vision Zero Application

- BBHCA Speeding/Traffic Committee is applying for the Vision Zero program to make our neighborhood a “Slow Zone.” Slow Zones will mean 20MPH and traffic calming (like speed cushions) will be installed. Install corner clearances within 20’ of some crosswalks, preventing people from parking here. Required that traffic calming be installed for at least five years after installation.
- Committee is needing every block in the neighborhood that sees speeding as an issue and wants to participate to sign a petition in support of the application. Committee is seeking volunteers to get neighbors to sign the petitions. Please contact Stas at staszawislak@gmail.com if you can help. **Currently seeking assistance on Bridget street, Park Lane, and Kingsley street.**
- Walnut Lane and Wissahickon Ave do not qualify for this program.

BBH Speeding/Traffic Committee

- The committee is seeking new members. If you see traffic or speeding as an issue in our neighborhood please sign up. Meetings are only when needed, main communication is through email. If interested please reach out to the committee chair, Loie Grossmann loieg@mac.com.

618 Park Lane Update

- House neighbor is very concerned, currently the structure is causing rodent issues.
- Owner tried to tap into sewer line unsuccessfully. Then reached out to neighbors to see if they could tap into their sewer lines. Both declined.
- Josh Cohen, Councilman Jones assistant, is currently helping the civic resolve the issues with the structure.
- Full update from Liz Biagioli, Chair of the Properties Committee: Two and a half years ago an undeveloped lot on 618 Park Lane was purchased by AG Homes LLC. They soon thereafter began construction on a large single family home. Due to permitting issues, construction completely stopped. So for the past two years, we have had to deal with a large shell of a house where once a grassy plot existed. Since it is a shell of a building, all of the wood has been continually exposed to the elements. After speaking to the L&I's North district supervisor, I was told that he will check with their legal department to see what is possible. His intent is to pull any existing permits and then have the property deemed vacant. The problem is the structure will continue to stand. After Josh further inquired for us, the supervisor said he will visit the site today to take photos, then contact their legal department to see if we can declare it a public nuisance and have him remove it.

Recent Car Break-ins

- Holidays are approaching and break ins usually increase. PLEASE keep all valuables out of your vehicle and lock your car!
- Always report to 911 even if nothing is stolen. When neighbors report we get increased police presence.
- With a string of recent breakins the Civic reached out to the 14th police district to ask them to attend our meeting. They could not but provided us with this information on meeting opportunities for neighbors: **"We do have monthly meetings which cover the same topics that you have an interest in. We do 4 Police Service Area meetings per month in the 14th district, plus a Town Hall style meeting at the district Headquarters. Your area is PSA #3, and that monthly meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 11/14/18 at 7pm. Located at 6950 Germantown Ave. in the New Courtland Senior Center. The Captain's Town Hall meeting is scheduled for 11/20/18 at 7pm here at the 14th District. All of our meeting times and locations are posted under the 14th District page on www.phillypolice.com"**

Dog Waste Signs Update

- The board has hung permanent clean up after your dog reminder signs around the neighborhood.

Water and Sewer Line Protection program

- Josh Cohen spoke about the cities new protection program for water and sewer lines. The plan is \$8 a month. Please see flyer or visit <https://awrusa.com/philadelphia>.

Upcoming events at a glance:

- **The Independence Sinfonia FREE memorial concert for the victims of the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, 11/18/18, 7:00 PM, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA**
<http://independence-sinfonia.org/>
- **Captain's Town Hall meeting 11/20/18 at 7pm at the 14th District building**
www.phillypolice.com
- **USDA Spotted Lanternfly Public Meetings and Workshops, 11/20/18, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, at The Penn State Center Philadelphia, 675 Sansom Street, Philadelphia**
<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-public-meetings>
- **Thanksgiving volunteer opportunity 11/22**
- **BBHCA Holiday Potluck, 12/15/18, 6:00pm at The Philadelphia Canoe Club, 4900 Ridge Ave. Potluck, BYO, music, fire, quizzo, and 50/50 raffle** bluebellhill.net