

College Heights Annual Meeting
October 24, 2019, 7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by president Steve Smith. He welcomed all in attendance and had the College Heights Board Members introduce themselves:

Steve Smith, president
Steve Mower, vice president
Kevin McGarry, treasurer
Linda Hendrickson, secretary
Marcia Heitzmann, member-at-large
Jonas Rubenson , member-at-large

Minutes from the 2018 annual meeting were read by the secretary, Linda Hendrickson. A change was made to read "Some people feel that the light at the intersection of N. Atherton and Park Ave. is so much better," in place of "People feel..."

Treasurer's Report – Kevin McGarry reported that after collecting dues, and paying expenses, there is a total of \$13,156.77. Everyone who lives in College Heights is a member of the association. There are currently 165 dues paying members which is on a voluntary basis.

College Heights Appearance Award – a nomination was sent to Steve Smith for 509 Orlando Ave.

Election of officers for a new 4 year term. Steve Smith announced the nominees and introduced each:

President - Steve Mower
Treasurer – Kevin McGarry
Member-at-large – Ian Boswell

There were no nominations from the floor. Steve Ross asked each to state their perceived rolls on the board. The nominations were unanimously accepted. Steve Smith will stay on the board for two years as the past president. At the next board meeting, a vice president will be selected.

Cathy Dauler, College Heights resident and Borough Council Member spoke briefly of the history of College Heights Association benefitting from the backing of the Neighborhood Coalition when dealing with some issues such as traffic through the neighborhood and student housing.

Update on the proposed West Camps parking Garage was presented by Steve Smith with much discussion.

- 1700 space garage to be built on White Course Drive to replace surface lots from other parts of campus, will be the largest on campus.
- Initially the entrance and exit was proposed to be off Buckout Street onto W. College Ave. Holmes/Foster neighborhood objected with concerns for safety with too much traffic to cross street.
- PSU is in favor of an entrance and exit at White Course Dr. off of N. Atherton with a right hand turning lane at that corner.
- Issue of so much more traffic would impact pedestrians trying to cross Atherton, Park, Curtain, and White Course Dr. as well as the congestion of more traffic on Park and Atherton.
- A traffic study was done by McCormick and Taylor consultants who said there would be more traffic than PSU anticipated. Stahl, Sheaffer Engineering also did a traffic study employed by PSU. PSU has said that residents don't know what they are talking about.
- PennDot and PSU have been asked to consider going past the edge of the golf course and out to Blue Course Dr. PSU objecting to that idea because of cost.

- PennDot has stated they would be in favor of what the neighbors and Borough want. They have the final say because Atherton is a state highway.
- One resident stated that there is a state law that there needs to be two entrances and exits for safety incase of emergencies.
- Some raised issue that it doesn't make sense to put more cars out on the Atherton corridor.
- Another issue is the inability of residents on Park and Atherton to get in and out of their driveways.
- Write letter from our association to PennDot , PSU, and the Neighborhood Coalition with our concerns.
- Eastern inner loop was mentioned.
- PSU needs to make more information about the proposed garage available to the community.
- The new island at Park and Atherton is narrower than the old one, and much too narrow for the users. The island must be able to handle walkers, walkers with strollers and cyclists. As currently configured, it is not adequate and increases the danger of this crossing.
- There needs to be better signage at this crossing. A flashing pedestrian crossing sign was recommended.
- There needs to be enforcement of the posted speed limit and the "no right turn on red" at Atherton and Park.
- Inform College Heights residents by putting information on the list serve.

Cathy Dauler, East College Heights small piece of property at the corner of N. Atherton and Woodland Dr. next to the Exxon Station.

Gary Green, owner of the Exxon Station, would like to purchase the piece of property currently owned by the borough. It has been stated that if the lots at the corner were consolidated, it could be developed into possibly 2 houses+. However, the Exxon Station is an historical building/contributing property and cannot be demolished without the HARB being involved. They would have to make a review, and it would

be up to the elected officials to make a final decision. Gary Green needs the property to make his lot more uniform. John Wilson, zoning officer, said the small piece of property is not large enough to build a house on. Tom B. made a motion to support Gary Green's purchase of the property at the corner of N. Atherton and Woodland Dr. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted in support of the motion.

Guest Speaker, Eric White, member of HARB, on the Highland board and Neighborhood Coalition. He informed the residents of what HARB is and its role in the borough.

- Historical and Architectural Review Board – ordinance to establish board was established about a year ago by the State College Borough Council. In the 1990's it was proposed but vetoed by the major.
- It is made up of 4 local residents and by state law must include a realtor, architect, and an inspector.
- The role of the board is historic preservation. Bellefonte, York, and Mechanicsburg each have a HARB. It is not just for home but other buildings, etc. It works to help maintain a character of a neighborhood. It also acts as a consulting board for owners to get ideas.
- The HARB is interested in what can be seen from the street. Issues that affect the look of the house and community such as windows, roofline, siding. Changes that an owner wants to do to the back of the house or the interior does not have to go before the HARB. It also approves the text on historical plaques.
- If owners want to make changes to their property seen from the street, they need to get in touch with the Borough personnel.
- The HARB in State College is a very flexible ordinance unlike some other communities. It makes recommendations to the borough council which has the final say.

Respectfully submitted by
Secretary, Linda Hendrickson

