**LAKE SHORES CIVIC LEAGUE GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date of Meeting with Potluck: March 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. (social), 7:30 p.m. (meeting) Meeting Room 6 of the Bayside Recreation Center. Twenty-one neighbors signed in.

Date of next General Meeting: May 24, 2016

**Our Purpose:**

The purpose of this organization shall be to bring together for mutual benefit, those persons who are interested in civic betterment of any kind. It shall be operated along democratic lines, having no political affiliation, and being non-sectarian in the matter of religion

**Opening**

* All enjoyed the delicious potluck meal.
* Our President, Paul Berryman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for bringing food to share.
* Paul motioned we waive reading of the minutes from our general meeting in January.
* All approved – unanimous.

Mr. Frank Pogue led us in the Pledge of Allegiance then delighted us with a joke.

**Guest Speaker**

Our guest speaker, Barbara McKeever with the Norfolk Botanical Garden, could not attend due to illness. Barbara will give her presentation during our meeting in May.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Ending Balance – December 31, 2015 is $791.38

January – Deposit $25.00 from dues.

Ending Balance: $816.38

Dues for VBCCO are due. As the winner of the Christmas Lights Contest did not attend the meeting to collect the prize, the $25.00 will pay our dues with the VBCCO.

**Adopt a Street**

We will meet on Saturday, March 26, at 9:00 a.m. at the Pump House on Jack Frost.

**Neighborhood Watch**

* Rick Shelor reports larcenies from vehicles in our neighborhood.
* We are advised to lock car doors as larcenies from vehicles are a crime of opportunity.
* Reports: simple assault, fraud, trespassing, cruelty to animals on School Road.

**New Business**

Plan for our meeting in May:

* By-laws to be adjusted between now and our meeting in May: The Board will communicate via e-mail and during the board meeting in April.
* Installation of officers: No one has volunteered to run for office. Second Vice-President and Trustee are vacant. We are asked to submit names to be installed in May.
* The Crescent House on Diamond Springs Road by El Toro is now open and occupied. Eric Wagner attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Traffic Calming:

* The City came to Lake Shores regarding closing the entrance and exit to the neighborhood at each end of Jack Frost Road. Because Jack Frost is a throughway used by taxpayers, we cannot close each end.

Bayside High School:

* President Paul Berryman received a letter from the Bayside PTSA re: the Bayside High School official all-night, locked-in graduation party on June 14, held at Bayside Recreation Center. The party provides monitored activities from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. with parents. Activities include inflatables, casino night, prizes. This party, started by “Celebration of Life” is very beneficial. The Bayside PTSA contacted us to make a donation. Students in Lake Shores attend Bayside High School.
* Paul requests a motion to donate the $25.00 uncollected prize money from the Christmas Light Contest to the Bayside PTSA. A motion was made to increase the donation to $50.00. The vote was unanimous to donate $50.00 toward the Grad Party.
* Paul will give the address to Treasurer Mary.

**Noise Abatement:**

* Traffic noise from Northampton Blvd is ongoing problem in the neighborhood since they cut the vegetation along the Dominion power lines.
* Two weeks before this meeting, Jim, Craig, and Paul met for an hour with Phil Davenport, Director of Public Works but they offered no help as noise abatement along our neighborhood, and no money is in the budget - <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/city-manager/Form-of-Government/Pages/public-works.aspx>
* Jim has been writing letters and e-mails, representing our Civic League, including writing to Senator Wagner. Jim has taken photos of the de-vegetation.
* The vegetation along Northampton is controlled by Parks and Recreation.
* The City should have contacted the neighborhood prior to the removal of vegetation and fencing.
* Virginia Power has the right of way. Vegetation must be 50 feet from high power lines due to the Great Northeast Blackout, a Federal requirement.
* We will re-visit the berm and have Parks and Recreation plant along the corridor.
* The first vegetation planted died. Dead vegetation is the first thing people see while traveling along Northampton.
* We are the gateway to Virginia Beach and to the Outer Banks.
* Sound barriers would beautify.
* We have not been a “squeaking wheel.”
* According to Mr. Davenport, our neighborhood is very noisy.
* We must begin a letter writing campaign to City Council, the Mayor, the newspaper, Louis Jones.
* We are on the list for the City Improvement Plan.

### Mark A. Johnson, P.E., Public Works Operations Management Administrator for the City of Virginia Beach, sent plans to include a bike path. - Public Works Operations Direct: [(757) 385-1470](tel:7573851470) Email: [pwclrks@vbgov.com](mailto:pwclrks@vbgov.com)

* We have no access to the Lake Lawson/Lake Smith Park because we have no bike path.
* Neighbors who live along Northampton could have their homes re-assessed.
* The ditch along the corridor no longer drains. Algae is growing. Water flowed before “the fix.”
* After vegetation was cut down, the roots remain. According to the City, the roots restrict the flow.
* Property lines are on the ditch.
* The sound barrier could be constructed along the berm.
* The sound barrier along Navy Housing is the model.
* As the ditches will collect water, cut outs to permit drainage are needed at the bottom of the sound barrier.
* The right of way for the former Norfolk Southern Railroad is now a service road and Virginia Power easement.
* Traffic increased on Jack Frost due to the new Gate 3. When Northampton was widened from two to four lanes, traffic increased. More housing was built.
* We must stand up for ourselves; get on the list.
* Jim is more than willing to be our neighborhood spokesman.
* Noise surveys should be conducted before the vegetation grows back.
* According to Mr. Davenport, we are the noisiest neighborhood in Virginia Beach.
* Perhaps signs could be installed along Northampton: “No Engine Braking.”
* We should unite behind a few short term concerns.
* Lake Shores was an Audubon neighborhood.
* We had more trees and birds.
* Recommend meeting at Oberndorf Library with Mr. Davenport, WAVY TV, politicians, Scott Taylor,
* Get Scott Taylor or Randy Forbes involved.
* Find out where we are on the Improvement List, Five-Year Plan.
* Noise affects Shelton Park School.
* Our first step is to request a sound study, which is not in the City budget.
* Jim will research the cost of the sound study then bring the results to the Mayor.
* If noise is over the Federal limit, lower our tax assessments.
* Who conducts noise surveys for Realtors?
* We will send e-mail suggestions to members of Lake Shores Civic League and create a FaceBook page with a link to NextDoor.
* We could download a noise meter app.
* We can register the noise level as in NFL stadiums, concerts, churches, and clubs.
* The Shore Drive coalition dropped the speed limit on Shore Drive to 35 MPH.
* Perhaps the traffic light at Northampton and Jack Frost could change from sensor to blinking after 10:30 p.m., at no cost to the City, to help eliminate loud braking.
* We must present a “unified, respectful message.”

**Old Business**

None

**General Meeting on May 24:**

* The last meeting of the Fiscal Year
* Hoping for a good turnout
* Will discuss the amendment of our bylaws
* Presentation of candidates
* Invite Barbara McKeever with the Norfolk Botanical Garden for May

The motion was made to adjourn.

All are in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeanne Marie Macdonald*