

MALA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2004

President, Don Szalkowski, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Clarksville Public Library.

Present: Richard Allen, Richard Crouch, Larry Garrison, Jerry Mabrey, Clarence Neese, Skip Norcross, Don Sinkiewicz, Sharon Sinkiewicz, John Stinson, Don Szalkowski, Dewitt VanArsdale, Billy Wells, Garry Wilburn, Larry Wood and Bill Woodfin

Absent: Jerry Billingsley, Mike Cottrell, Jeff Jones and Mary Fran Lewis

Excused: Martha Day

Observers: Phil Hart, Paul Lautermilch and Judy Williams

The minutes of the last meeting have been distributed to the Board and posted on the Association's web site. There being no objections, the minutes are approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer provided a copy of the MALA current operating statement. He noted that receipts have exceeded budget estimates owing to the voluntary contributions, road impact fees with expenditures below budget estimates mostly because of the reduced cost of contract paving resulting from the competitive bid process. The report was approved.

President's Report: The President reported that vandals had destroyed some of the Merifield Acres entrance Christmas decoration lighting the night of December 3. This has been reported to the County Sheriff. He also noted that an unidentified property owner voluntarily replaced lights on the tree at the entrance. MALA's 2004-5 Telephone Directory has been distributed to Merifield residents by the District Coordinators. He noted that Richard Allen has been appointed as co-chair of the Youth and School Committee with his wife Jill. MALA has renewed its annual associate membership in the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce. The Virginia Southern Railroad responded to the recent MALA letter requesting repairs to the rough road crossing on Burlington Drive near Irongate Road. The railroad stated that these repairs would be provided for in the 2005 budget. A Stop sign is to be erected at the entrance to Merifield inside the pillars. The President noted that there were a number of property owners in arrears in their annual dues and that the Warrant In Debt process was being reviewed. Discussion centered on the need for a standard policy to be followed in this regard. Deer hunter's trucks should have a suitable identification displayed in the window to indicate that the truck is not abandoned. The President reopened the issue of a painted road centerline versus reflectors. Discussion noted advantages and disadvantages to both marking systems. The Roads Committee Chair agreed to research the cost/feasibility issue and report back to the Board. The subject of planting a live balsam/fir at the entrance to serve as a living Christmas tree was discussed. The Board approved and the President agreed to shop for a post-Christmas bargain.

Committee Reports.

Architectural: One house (Briarfield Rd) was approved.

Appearance and Beautification: No report.

Aviation: No report.

Common Facilities: No report.

Finance: The Finance Committee consists of Paul Lautermilch (Chair), Joe Noah, and Dewitt VanArsdale. MALA's investment portfolio totals \$61,210 and is invested in Fidelity Mutual Funds (Growth, Large Capitalization, Mid Capitalization and Puritan) in approximately equal portions. The Finance Committee has reviewed this portfolio and recommends that no changes be made at this time. The value of these investments has increased ~6% since the Annual Meeting owing to stock exchange changes. The Committee asks the Board's concurrence with this portfolio distribution. The Board concurred. In addition to the aforementioned mutual funds, the Association invests its operating funds in a Money Market account and a checking account. These operating funds total approximately \$21,000.

Political and Environmental: No report.

Roads and Maintenance: The planned application of tar and gravel has been completed satisfactorily. The use of herbicides along the walking path and in the vicinity of the tennis court will be deferred until spring when weather conditions are more suitable. Planned repairs to Stacey Ct. will be included in the 2005 work plan/budget. Modifications to the "island" on Highpoint Blvd. will be undertaken when the regular fall maintenance is completed.

Newsletter: The MALA Newsletter is being readied for distribution this week. It is suggested that the function and style of the Newsletter be discussed at the February Board meeting.

Security: A car with Florida license plates was parked alongside one of Merrifield's main roads. We determined that the vehicle was not stolen but by the time Security had a notice of removal printed for replacement on the vehicle windshield the vehicle was removed. A Merrifield resident delivered handbills on many Merrifield mailboxes. This is a form of solicitation and is in violation of Merrifield rules and probably could result in a trespassing charge. We have had two deer-related automobile accidents.

Service District: After seven months and two letters to the landowners, we have received 55.2% response. The vote is 266 in favor, 100 opposed, and 297 not responding. Among those responding, 72.6% are voting in favor. In order to petition the Board of Supervisors, the Committee feels we need to get 75% response and maintain the 70%+ positive votes. This means that we will need to get 132 additional responses. Our recommended approach involves sending a third letter to non-respondents only. It is to be included in the January dues statement and will include a self addressed stamped envelope. If we can get 60-80 additional responses, we can break down the remaining list and begin some individual contacts.

This report led to a general Board discussion concerning the timing of the next solicitation and the wisdom of including it with the annual invoice mailing. A consensus developed along the lines that the planned solicitation not be included with the regular invoice mailing and that in lieu of providing a stamped self-addressed envelope, that we provide a suitably formatted post card to return to MALA indicating the property owner's preference with respect to the creation of a Service District for Road Maintenance.

School and Youth: The annual fall hayride took place on October 31. Thirty-two children attended, accompanied by at least 40 adults. There were 8 Trick-or-Treat stops along the way. Special thanks to Dennis and Daniel Hayes (tractor drivers), Dennis and Nancy Hayes (provided and cooked hot dogs)

and to Laura Bosak, Kelly Crowder, Nancy Dahl, and Jill Allen for their assistance with the festivities. Next year we need an improved method of getting the RSVPs. We had nearly twice the number of attendees as compared with the number who called in to respond.

Welcoming: Two new full-time residents have been officially welcomed into the Merifield Acres community with a houseplant and area brochures.

Deer Control: No report.

E-Mail: Maintaining accurate E-Mail lists continue to be a problem.

Web: Nothing to report.

New Business.

Annual Meeting Minutes. The Secretary noted that in the recent past it has not been the practice to provide the membership with a copy of the Annual Meeting minutes. She explained that the members had received a copy of the meeting agenda and the proposed budget for the coming year. Further, the minutes are posted on the MALA web. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to not provide a copy of the minutes but rather depend on the Association's newsletter to convey the necessary information.

Community Center: A member raised the subject of the desirability of converting the stable into a community center with heat, power, running water and toilet facilities for use as a meeting place and facility for socials and other purposes. Lively discussion followed noted that this would likely be a very costly undertaking and that other venues for Board meetings could be arranged should the library not be available for some reason in the future. No consensus developed suggesting that this was an idea worth pursuing at this time.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next meeting of the Board will be February 8, 2005 in the Clarksville Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lautermilch
Recorder