

Special Meeting for Traffic Concerns

Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2019

Opening

The Special Meeting for Traffic Concerns was called to order at 7:00pm on October 29, 2019 in Traditions by Melissa Hamilton.

Present

Melissa Hamilton, Steve Wisneski, Kerry Skeffington, Art Flores, Chief Michael Heckman, Nick Loving, Linda Herbert, Frank and Mandy Rebac, Christian Jaworski, Robert Clark, Sara McKinney, Cassandra Kormendy, Branden Dahl, Janice Wisneski, Wilbur and Sarah Oudman, Doreen Olguin-Flores, Angel Bernahl, Julie Polarek, Karen Riefe

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed. Steve Wisneski 1st, Art Flores 2nd.

Open Issues

Discussion regarding neighborhood traffic concerns:

Chief Heckman stated he is aware of our concerns regarding speeding and other traffic violations. It is a concern throughout all the neighborhoods in Burns Harbor. His main priority lately has been monitoring the school buses for violations. He said that in Porter County there were 34 citations issued for school bus violations, Burns Harbor had 10 of those violations, four in The Village and one of which led to an arrest.

A previously submitted question said the stop sign at Burns Blvd. and Weaver Way is a particular problem. Chief Heckman said he has written a lot of tickets at that intersection. One solution he felt would be beneficial is to have four-foot-wide crosswalks painted at the intersections. Chief Heckman said his research has shown these to be effective. Linda Herbert asked if the word STOP printed on the pavement at a stop sign would help as well. Frank Rebac said he felt that more stop signs along Burns Blvd would make it more difficult for people to speed down the street. Sarah Oudman asked who would be responsible for painting the crosswalks.

Christian Jaworski asked if Speed Humps would be possible in The Village. Linda Herbert asked if it would be the Town of Burns Harbor responsibility to pay for them. Nick Loving stated money has been budgeted by the Town for 2020 already. Chief Heckman said his recommendation now would be to start with the crosswalk painting because any speed bumps/humps would need to wait until Spring due to the snowplows. Linda Herbert said she feels the speed humps would be the most effective. Kerry Skeffington stated she felt they would be effective as well with the question being where they should go and how many The Village could get. Burns Blvd, Harbor Way alley and especially Chesterfield/Harbor Way since there is no stop sign except at Clifford Way and Chesterfield.

Chief Heckman stated officers will continue to patrol regularly and for residents to please not post anything on Facebook when they see the Police patrolling.

Nick Loving asked if Stop signs should be added on Burns Blvd. Mandy Rebac said she felt it would help. There was some discussion that if people don't stop for the sign now, will they stop if more are added. If more stop signs are added, will it cause even more people to cut down the alleys to avoid the signs? Cassandra Kormandy stated her daughter is frightened by speeding cars, especially around the Playground Park. Janice Wisneski asked if it was a State Law for cars to yield to pedestrians when in a crosswalk. Chief Heckman said it is the law and if observed by the police, a person can be arrested.

There was some discussion regarding the parking on the street. Chief Heckman stated that there is no law against parking close to an intersection unless there is a stop sign. Then you must park 30 feet away. When parking a car, the right front tire must be 12 inches from the curb. If the car is parked in the wrong direction, and their tire is more than 12 inches from the curb, they will be cited.

Mandy Rebac asked if the flashing stop sign would be an option. She said she moved to the neighborhood because of it being child friendly and with these traffic issues, she doesn't feel they are safe. Royce Rebac said he thought the flashing sign would be helpful in case the trees block the line of sight down Burns Blvd and for people that are visiting the neighborhood and don't notice the sign. He also thanked the Police for their work.

Steve Wisneski stated that he has seen people driving down Burns Blvd and upon seeing the bus, turn onto Weaver Way and speed down the street to try and beat the bus. Janice Wisneski asked where the people that have been issued tickets are from. He said that 99% of the people were from Traditions and one was a contractor in the Village. Angel Berndahl asked if the Traditions residents could be made aware of this problem. At this time Julie Polarek introduced herself as the new Property Manager at Traditions. She said there hasn't been enough presence with The Village in the past, but this will change in

the future. She said that all the residents have gotten newsletters from Traditions with multiple reminders about the school bus, watching their speed and being aware of their surroundings. Nick Loving said he felt that part of the issue is the population of Traditions is transient and not vested in the neighborhood. Julie Polarek said that may be the case, but they will continue to try and make their residents aware of the problem. She said that Traditions is a spring-board and some of their residents purchasing homes in The Village and do feel a sense of community. Sarah Oudman stated that not all the people that speed through the area are from Traditions. She has observed Village residents speeding down the Harbor Way alley. The Chief said that he hasn't been patrolling those areas as often especially during the school bus times.

Sarah Oudman questioned the Chief regarding the use of photographs to give tickets. If there were cameras placed at the stop signs and someone ran it, could a ticket be issued? Per Chief said they would actually have to observe someone commit the violation in order to issue a ticket. Sarah Oudman asked if the Town still had the sign that flashes the speed of the vehicle passing. Chief Heckman said that he does have it, but it is not working as well in giving statistics. He will try and set it up again next week if it is in working order.

There was discussion about where the crosswalks should go. The residents in attendance along with Chief Heckman viewed the map provided by Melissa Hamilton and made notes about where they felt the crosswalks and speed bumps would be most effective. They will be placed at all the intersections and at several other areas that are not intersections but where people will often cross. The paint is going to be a white semi-reflective. There will also be speed bumps placed in the Playground park alley and several in Harbor Way alley in the Spring. The Chief said he will count on the homeowners of The Village to help him assess how these interventions are working and that he is open to reassessing the situation. Everyone was thanked for attending, especially Chief Heckman and Nick Loving.

Agenda for Next Meeting

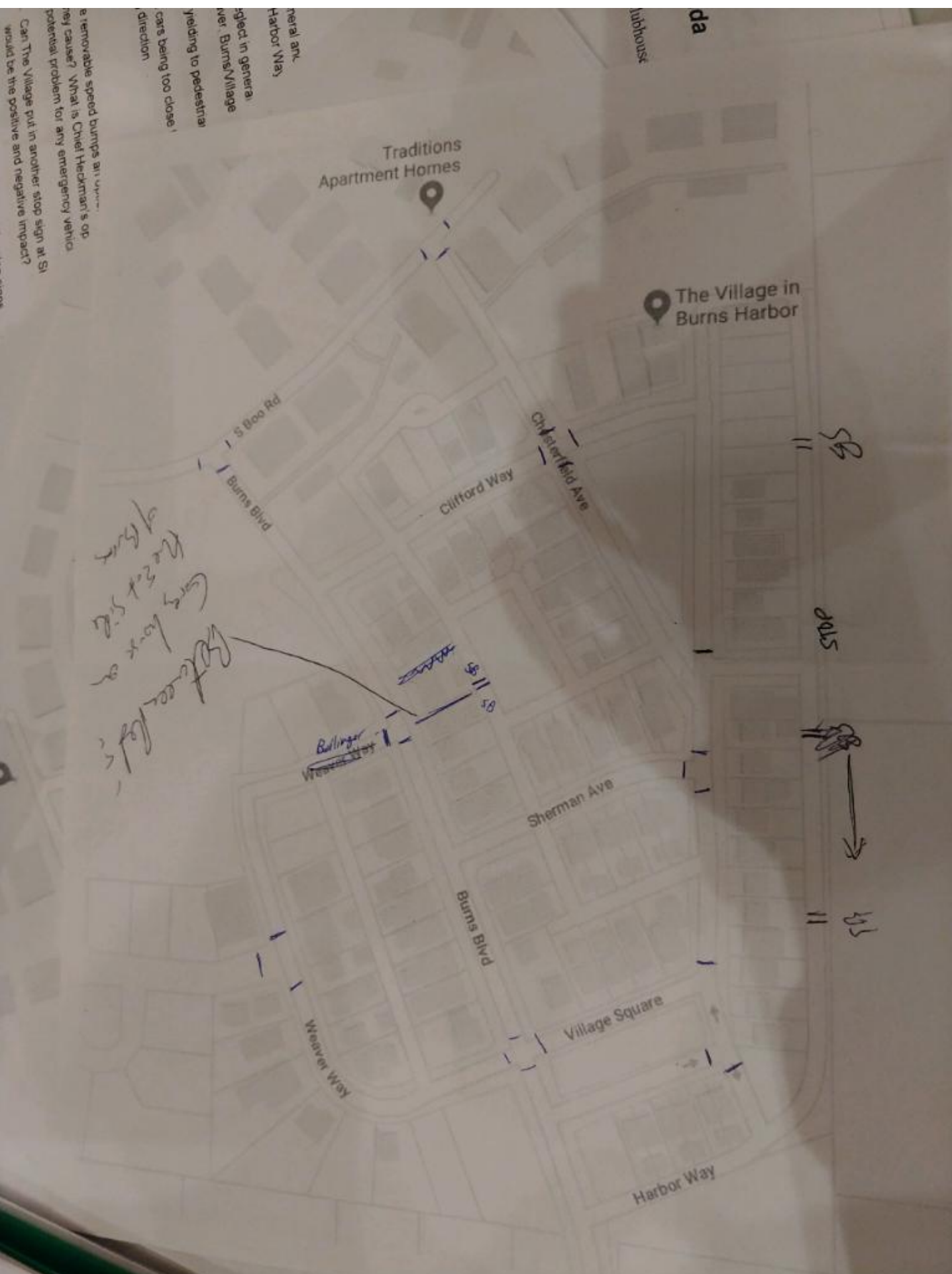
The Annual Village Meeting

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm by Melissa Hamilton. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on November 14th, in Traditions.

Minutes submitted by: Kerry Skeffington

Approved by: Name



removable speed bumps are...
Chief Heckman's op...
potential problem for any emergency vehic...
Can The Village put in another stop sign at S...
would be the positive and negative impact?

Between Bollinger West and the rest of Burns
Cars have a
No 2nd side

Bollinger West

S 8

S 15



S 15