

Notes from BOD Working Session Sep 22, 2016

Attendees: Ed Brandt, Mike Dallas, Bob Fox, Jerry Howell, Bruce Ullman, Will Hummell

Ed Brandt reported that the Westmoreland HOA is trying to block Gateway from getting a license to occupy the group home in their neighborhood. The license for the Woods has already been granted. There is little chance they will be successful, however. Ed also mentioned that Paul Ward of The Woods wrote to the Governor concerned over the safety of his children who go to Walsingham. The response he received for the Governor's Office was essentially written by the Dept of Health and Rehabilitative Services and was their party line. Ed will follow up with Sen Norment on our most recent letter to him.

Will reported that he was aware of only 11 people from all neighborhoods who had contacted anyone about the group home. Eight were Yorkshire residents. This was a disappointing response to the open meeting last week that seemed to garner so much support. Bruce will send out a reminder to encourage wider participation. Will also mentioned that the press, particularly, the Channel 10 interview with Ed, has painted the Group Home as benign and its residents as victims of our narrow-mindedness. He said the only way we could reverse this would be to somehow change this perception so people saw us as the victims and the issue as safety rather than property values.

Bruce reminded everyone about the Gateway Open House Friday from 1-3 pm and that he would send a reminder about attending to the Association. Mike said he would attend.

Mike reported that the City's legislative agenda for the state would be coming to us for comment and he would follow up to make sure we get it. He also agreed to contact Sharon Scruggs and ask her to follow up on the resident of The Woods who mentioned he would be willing to buy the property.

Jerry agreed to check into the possibility that Middleburg had not actually filed a trust for the property and, if true, if they could legally lease it.

Moving Forward

There was general agreement on the following going forward:

- Yorkshire needs to back out of leading the fight and insist The Woods HOA take the lead
- Any queries from the media should be referred to BOD members or Will Hummel
- We should fully support the City's legislative agenda
- Public pressure in any form should be directed at Middleburg as they have the most to lose by angering the community

Bruce Ullman, Secretary