

**Community Relations Committee
MINUTES
February 3, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Members present: Ann Wild (chair), Julie Stanish, Bridget Hartman, Kathy Strom (Council liaison), Erin Kopelman, and Cathy Wolf.

Cathy Wolf moved to approve the January 6, 2011, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Julie Stanish, and the minutes were approved.

In response to Al Lang's proposal to have Town residents have a back-and-forth conversation with the Town Council, Bridget Hartman proposed that instead of the one-way communication currently in place at Town Council meetings, that there be a 5 minute per topic back-and-forth conversation for up to 20 minutes at each Town Council meeting. The rest of the committee was in favor of this proposal, which we will submit to the Town Council.

Kathy Strom presented some of the results related to Town communications from the Town Survey. A majority of comments were positive regarding the Forecast. However, there is confusion among some residents who believe that the Town runs the Town Neighbors listserv, which is not the case (it is a private listserv). The Town Crier e-mail alerts come from the Town of Chevy Chase. Therefore, we proposed that a quarterly e-mail go out on Town Neighbors presenting the rules of the listserv, and that on the Town Crier that the Town's logo be added to the messages from the Town, so it can be distinguished as a formal message from the Town. The committee also suggested that the Town Crier no longer be referred to as a listserv, but be given a new designation. We will report back our suggestions to the Town Council.

The Chevy Chase Dinner Out group's next dinner will be on a Thursday in March 2011. Julie Stanish is considering RiRa or Guardado's.

The Winter Events for Families are

1. The Bob Brown Puppeteers Show on January 16, 2011, which was a big success
2. On Sunday, February 13, 2011, Let's Create—Making Art from Recycled Materials (This event was later canceled and postponed until April.)
3. On Sunday, February 27, 2011, the Chili Dinner at Chevy Chase Elementary School

The Bake Off will be on March 13, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. It will be judged by Spring Mill Bread Company for cookies and brownies. There will be certificates for all participants and a prize for the winner of the cookies and also for the winner of the brownies.

We are going to do a Newcomers Event and Wine and Cheese Reception from 6-8:00 p.m. on April 15, 2011, to meet new neighbors. We would like to have nametags this time to help residents get to know one another.

The Town History Day will be called Celebrate Chevy Chase; it is on May 1, 2011, from 1-4:00 p.m.

The Garden Tour will be on May 22, 2011. We have decided against the plant swap at the Garden Tour because the tour already has more than enough features. Six homes are already signed up to be shown at the Garden Tour. Also, we are not going to do a Discussion and Desserts before the Garden Tour because there will be a master gardener at the tour to present and answer questions.

We are considering more Discussion and Desserts topics.

We are hoping to schedule the VIN Etching to promote car safety on the Sunday of the weekend of Trash and Treasures, which has now been scheduled for April 9-10.

Ann Wild shared with the Committee her mid-year report to the Town Council on the activities to date of the Community Relations Committee. Minor changes to the report were suggested.

Ann Wild shared that Jean Carlson reported that one person had responded to the request for volunteers at CCES. She will investigate whether teens can serve as mentors. There is no new information regarding the 6th grade budget.

Julie Stanish discussed her attendance at the Climate Protection Committee meeting. Their primary mission is to reduce household energy use.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin L. Kopelman