

## HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION (HCA)

- To strengthen the sense of community, responsibility, and livability in the Highlands for all residents.
- To protect, preserve, and further the residential quality of the Highlands neighborhood.
- To maintain an open line of communication among the Highlands neighborhood, the Borough of State College, the University community, and other Borough neighborhoods and agencies.
- To facilitate the exchange of information among HCA residents.

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 1, 2020

7:00 pm

Zoom Video and Telephone Conference

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#### Meeting Convened at 7:05 pm

1. **Meeting Attendees:** Mark Huncik, Eric White, Margaret Sebastianelli, Susan Venegoni, Tsultrim Datso, Charima Young, Danny Shaha, David Stone, U. B. Bakker, Ron Fllipelli
2. **State College Borough Response to COVID-19 - Recap and discussion of local guidelines and activities presented at the Monday, March 30, 2020, virtual meeting of Borough staff and members of the Neighborhood Coalition:**
  - a) Resources and collaboration update: information on local precautions & prevention collaborations with medical and educational groups; business guidelines and resources
  - b) Managing the symptoms of COVID-19: testing sites, measures that require primary care physician communications, warning signs requiring emergency actions
  - c) Governor's stay-at-home directive effective April 1, 2020, role of police in the community's welfare (e.g., force is healthy and fully staffed including an Ordinance Enforcement staff who patrol the neighborhoods to ensure compliance), parameters

for social distancing and good hygiene practices to help stop the spread of Coronavirus

- d) Gatherings resulting in violations and/or complaints: remains the same - permitted gatherings is defined as 3-5 people related or unrelated sitting on a front porch or 3 children playing in the front or back yard, 2-3 people walking a dog or running together but maintain separation of 6 feet apart from each other; State College Police Department (SCPD) approach: Stop-Talk-Reinforce
  - e) COVID-19 testing sites are: Mount Nittany Medical Center (emergency only), Med Express on North Atherton Street, Primary Care Physician or those with or without insurance, Penn State's University Health Services (for students or family of students), Mount Nittany Physician's Group or Penn State Health patients (drive thru clinic at 1700 Old Gatesburg Road), Geisinger patients to be tested either in Bellefonte or Lewistown offices
- Complete read of the Borough's COVID-19 policies and practices and links to resources (e.g., food banks and donation sites) and daily updates at <https://www.statecollegepa.us/coronavirus>

### **3. Open Discussion:**

- Daily updates posted to the Borough's COVID-19 web site late in the day
- Treat self as infected and stay home; hospitalized patient names not publicized
- Trash/refuse collection services remain unchanged at this time according to Centre County Refuse & Recycling Authority; recyclables suspended (43 county-wide drop off sites) Borough sites are Hamilton Square at 224 W. Hamilton Ave. and Westerly Parkway Mall at 560 Westerly Parkway
- Fullington Bus (Greyhound) suspended trips in and out of State College
- Changes to airline services unknown but reports indicate a low number of seats occupied on recent flights
- Unemployment benefits for various groups (e.g., landscaping businesses, musicians) uncertain at this time
- Parks closed but reports of groups playing sports continue - see something, say something if it creates discomfort for your safety

- Borough residents reporting fraternities have students staying and playing during the COVID-19 pandemic and wonder how/if the Borough officials will enforce established guidelines
- Strong support expressed for more frequent short and crisper notices to Penn State and State College Area School District students to stay home, follow the schools' requirements for distant learning and related activities
- No word from Penn State regarding status of Maymester or Summer Sessions
- University plans coordinated approach for helping students move out of residences
- Off-campus rental units report 10%-20% occupied - local landlords developing a similar plan for students to return
- The E. Fairmount Park project's preliminary work has been tree removal and brush clearing; major work may begin this fall or spring 2021
- Planning the HCA spring yard sale and fall neighborhood engagement activities (e.g., LION BASH) on hold, Summers on Allen postponed, no word on Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts
- Parking restrictions on streets suspended and free parking in garages
- PA legislature voted to extend deadline for filing earned income taxes to July 15, 2020; property tax deadline not extended as of this date

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 pm**

**Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, April 2020**