

Highlands Civic Association

- 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 area.
- 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

MINUTES
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
7:00pm
Zoom Video and Phone Conference

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

1. Introductions: Mark Huncik, Eric White, Neal Sullivan, Margaret Sebastianelli, David Stone, Vinnie Scanlon, Ron Filippelli, Carter Pontz, Spud Marshall, Laird Jones, Alexis Burke, U B Bakker
2. Borough Updates:
 - Minutes of the recent Neighborhood Coalition and Borough staff meeting were posted to the HCA LISTSERV August 28, 2020. Summary: 1. Initiation of the process to identify an interim replacement for Councilman Dan Murphy – questions pertaining to the position may be addressed to Council members or Mayor Filippelli; 2. Adoption of the amendments to the local ordinance on masking and social distancing; 3. Report from Police Chief Gardner on compliance in general, for larger gatherings, awareness and education to advise the community of the ordinance and its requirements, fraternity compliance; 4. Reminder of the three dashboards reporting Centre County COVID-19 data; 5. Update on the number of positive cases by zip code based on individual's primary residence. Citations for violations of the temporary emergence ordinance have begun. The fine for violating the ordinance is \$300 plus court costs.
 - Applications for the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Application for Small Businesses will be accepted through Friday, September 11th at 5:00 pm. Businesses must be for profit, licensed, headquartered and operating in Centre County; operate from a physical location in Centre County, and have experienced a revenue decline due to COVID-19. The amount of the

loans awarded will be determined by the number of the viable applications. Non-profit business loans will be available at a later date.

3. Open discussion:

- Members' acknowledged increased student physical activity in the neighborhood and discussed the wisdom to include sports activity such as jogging and cycling under the mask and social distancing requirements.
- Members questioned community knowledge of the scope/boundaries of the Borough's COVID-19 emergency ordinance.
- College and Ferguson townships have adopted ordinance guidelines for required masking, social distancing and social gatherings.
- SCASD school board meeting 9/2 to discuss the COVID-19 data and impact on in-person classes and PIAA sports. The school district has employed an epidemiologist to assist with data analysis and decision-making related to student health and safety.
- An informal report given by a Penn State student indicated that most students living off campus intend to remain for residential or remote learning, as required.
- Mayor Filippelli reported on the optimism expressed by local merchants with the increase in downtown activity.
- A status update was given for off-campus student housing and parking garage construction projects.
- Mark Higgins, Centre County Commissioner, will speak about the election, ballots, etc. at the next HCA meeting in October.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Sebastianelli, September 2020