**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

***All Meetings will be held at the WHCP Meeting Room***

***516 Race Street, Cambridge, MD 21613***

***2019***

Saturday, January 12, 10:00 am

Saturday, March 9, 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 pm

Thursday, July 11, 7:00 pm

Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 9, 7:00 pm

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**December 5, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Chuck McFadden (President), Judd Vickers (Vice President), Mary Ellen Jesien (Treasurer) Michelle Barnes (Membership Director), and Tom Puglisi (Secretary), constituting a Quorum of the Executive Committee (five of five members being present)

**Board Members Attending:** Greg Boss, Roman Jesien, Dave Thatcher.

CAN President Chuck McFadden opened the meeting at 6:35 pm at 104 Willis St.

1. **Oct 4 Executive Committee meeting minutes.** Approved unanimously.
2. **Discussion on Board Nominations.** Neither Judd Vickers nor Tom Puglisi has received any additional nominations for the CAN Board. The Communications Committee has sent out an announcement soliciting nominations. Chuck has identified an individual who may be willing to be nominated for the Board and may be willing to lead CAN's social activities. Chuck will encourage this individual to accept the nomination. Nominations close December 13.
3. **Thanks to Dave Thatcher.**  Dave single handedly took care of the grounds clean-up at the Wallace Office Building. CAN will take over landscaping there in the Spring and hopes to erect a small sign there acknowledging this activity.
4. **Focus for January 2019 Annual Meeting.** Chuck initiated a discussion of the topics to be addressed at the 2019 Annual Members Meeting to be held on January 12, 2019. Election of Board Members will take place during the meeting. Additional possible topics include CAN's accomplishments during 2018 and a discussion of CAN's goals for 2019. Concrete steps are needed to implement specific goals that have not yet been achieved. Tom will distribute copies of the 2018 goals so Board members so can think about how to refine them for 2019. It was noted that the Saturday morning meetings have not been drawing much attendance, and that we need to do something to draw attendance to CAN meetings. Chuck suggested moving all meetings after January to evenings, with location at the library or radio station to be determined. Possible speakers for future meetings include representatives of the Cambridge Waterfront Development Corporation, the Cannery Park/Packing House Project, Cambridge Marketplace, the Pine Street Development Project, the Mission Workforce Project, and Cruise Line activities. Roman Jesien will invite the Waterfront Development Corporation to identify a representative to speak at the January 12, 2019, Annual Members Meeting.
5. **Goals for 2019.** Concrete steps are needed to implement previous goals that have not yet been achieved. We need to hone down our goals to a few concrete and manageable actions. Tom will distribute copies of the 2018 goals so Board members so can think about how to refine them for 2019. Additional goals might include
	1. Holding an annual CAN Jam
	2. Sponsoring or participating in the April and other clean-up days
	3. Providing landscaping and gardening maintenance at the Wallace Office Building.
	4. Making clear that one of CAN's core missions is developing and maintaining constructive relationships with the City.
	5. Helping the City to address the problem that affordable housing in Cambridge is plentiful but, in many cases, horribly substandard.
	6. Holding a realtors' meeting to acquaint them with CAN and its activities.
	7. Evaluating CAN's membership and dues structure going forward. CAN will keep its current (2018) membership structure for 2019. We need the Newsletter to emphasize current projects that incur costs.
6. **Discussion of Membership and Recruitment.** It was suggested that CAN needs to provide concrete products that people want if we are serious about recruiting new members. For example, CAN could actively offer space and speakers to educate the community about Mill Street and other projects. People need to think they are getting something from CAN in order to join and become engaged. It was noted that CAN is trying to build a reputation as doing good things on housing quality, planning, and zoning. CAN understands how the City works and could help people tap CAN's channels to help citizens access services that they need. Also, a number of CAN members are primarily interested in participating in CAN's social activities, rather then advocacy projects, and we need to strengthen and expand this activity. Welcoming new homeowners is a very constructive activity that CAN could undertake, but it takes a lot of effort and lots of volunteers. It was suggested that CAN needs more members who are willing to become engaged. We have a wide audience but a relatively small number of paying members and members who are willing to volunteer for Committee work. Board members need to recruit people personally. Perhaps we could offer membership for everyone at no cost. It was pointed out that community engagement has always been a major challenge in Cambridge.
7. **Greg Boss’s letter with Michelle’s edits.** Greg recently drafted an open letter describing CAN's desire to repair any damage in its relationships with the City. Much discussion ensured regarding the contents of the letter and whether it should be published in the CAN Newsletter and/or local newspapers. Greg stated that he would be happy with Chuck making clear to the City that CAN is interested in working constructively with the City. Chuck believes he has done this in recent weeks, and has made clear that official CAN positions will be labeled as such.
8. **Mill Street School Zoning.** Modest development of the Mill Street School property is favored by almost everyone, but disagreements arise as to the size, traffic, and neighborhood compatibility. The Planning and Zoning Commission has decided to have a public awareness information/education session in January and a Hearing in February on an Overlay Zone for the Mill Street School property. Discussion suggested that perhaps the proposed overlay zone for the property should be tied to adaptive reuse of the School Building. Judd will develop language to include adaptive reuse in the overlay proposal.
9. **Partnering with Cambridge Empowerment Center.** At the suggestion of City Council Commissioner Dave Canon, Michelle Barnes met recently with the Director of the Cambridge Empowerment Center (Portia Johnson-Ennels) about identifying partnering opportunities. It turned out that the Center's primarily need at present is professional cleaning services. CAN does not have the skills to take this on, but the Director is open to partnering with CAN on activities of mutual interests. Perhaps CAN members could help with painting and similar projects, if the Center also provided volunteers to help. Ms. Mary Losty, a Member of the Empowerment Center Board, also indicated recently that the Center may be open to partnering with CAN on activities of mutual interests. Michelle will pursue conversations with the Center Director and Chuck will speak with Ms. Losty.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.