



Coves at Wilton Creek E-Bits

January 18, 2016

January 14, 2016 Special Board Meeting:

The purpose of this Special Meeting, which was scheduled as the reconvening of the November 16, 2015 Special Meeting, was to approve the Amended and Restated By-Laws for the Coves at Wilton Creek Owners Association. In attendance were Board Members, Peg Meushaw, Jeff Loustaunau, Jack King, Carolyn Schott, Scott Campbell, and Maggie Hurt. Six members (three couples) attended. Secretary Carolyn Schott reported a total of 91 voting units were represented by three (3) in attendance and eighty-eight proxies.

The motion to approve the Amended and Restated By-Laws was approved with a vote of ninety (91) to zero. The Board is very appreciative of all members who responded to the call to submit a proxy, making the long process to update the Coves By-Laws a success. The Board also extends their gratitude to the Document Revision Committee for all their time and work to present the revised By-Laws for approval. Members of that committee are Ric Bauer - Chair, Ed O'Connor, Barbara Ettner, and Jim Knupp.

Last month, a most unfortunate incident occurred in the Coves when two very large dogs escaped from their yard and attacked a small dog that was being walked by its owner, on a leash, on Wilton Coves Dr. The small dog suffered multiple serious bite wounds and had to be transported to an emergency vet clinic in Newport News for immediate surgery and treatment. Gratefully, the wounded dog has since recovered, but the incident was extremely traumatic for the owner as well as the dog. It was reported to Middlesex Animal Control for investigation, and the attacking dogs have since been removed from our Coves Community.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated event. There have been other incidents as a result of unrestrained dogs that have resulted in injury to our neighbors. Or the unrestrained, unleashed dogs have severely frightened a neighbor and or visitor.

In view of this, the Board wants to remind all pet owners of their responsibilities under Article V, paragraph 25 of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of the Coves at Wilton Creek Owners Association: **“All pets, except felines, shall be either carried or kept on a leash when outside the owner’s Lot or Unit.”** Each of us, as owners, needs to be cognizant of this rule, abide by it, and if necessary, remind fellow owners to obey it as well. The rule means that not only must dogs be on a leash when walked in our community, but they **must** also be restrained from escaping their yards and approaching anyone, walking with or without a pet, on the streets of our community. Even if your dog is normally friendly, the people and animals they approach do not know that for certain, and animals can sometimes act in unpredictable ways. Electric or “invisible” fences can be an effective means of restraining dogs, but they are not 100% effective and some dogs will find ways to escape them. Dogs should not be left in a yard unsupervised just because an owner has an electric fence. In the recent incident, both of the large dogs lived on a property with an electric fence, but they still found a way to get past it. And since that incident, reports have emerged of a number of their prior escapes – including other worrisome encounters they had with both pets and people. We urge all owners to report any such incidents in the future to the Board, so that we can address it quickly. The Board has rights under the Virginia Property Owners Act to enforce our Covenants, and potentially impose a fine on violators. Owners should also recognize that regardless of any actions the Board might take, the owner of a loose animal could face significant legal

consequences if their animal causes serious injury or damage to persons or property, and the injured parties decide to take the violators to court.

Of course, being a responsible pet owner means more than just keeping dogs on a leash or within your yard. As a courtesy to all your neighbors, please do clean up after your dogs when they “do their business” on other people’s property. And please quiet your dogs if they are outside and barking, so that we can all enjoy the peace and tranquility our beautiful neighborhood offers. Let’s all work together for the safety and enjoyment of all concerned both the two-footed and the four-footed residents in the Coves!

Winter Chats at the Coves

The first in the series of three “Chats” was held on Friday, January 15, 2016 in the Coves Clubhouse. Joe and Carolyn Schott presented “From Victim to Violators”, a slide show and discussion about their boat collision off the coast of Delaware on Friday, July 13, 2012. They shared their experiences when a 38 foot sport fisher power boat ran into and over them. The months and years that followed were filled with insurance negotiations, PTSD recovery, and the worst of all was being sued by the captain of the boat that hit them.

Approximately twenty-seven people attended and engaged in the discussion with excellent questions. Hopefully, everyone benefitted in some way from the presentation and will enjoy many years of safe sailing or boating on the water.

On the schedule for February 5th is John Koontz who will share with us his knowledge about solar power. This presentation will be very interesting and informative, so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Contact Your Board: Please keep in touch with your Board Members. Let them know your concerns, thoughts, suggestions and ideas.

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E-Bits are published by the Communications Committee of the Coves at Wilton Creek Owners Association. The purpose is to keep our owners aware of what is happening around the Coves and in our area. If you have any items for the next E-bits, send them to covesatwiltoncreek@gmail.com, which is maintained by the Chair of the Communications Committee. Appropriate items are news, information, for sale, for rent, cautions etc.