**Troop Committee/Parent Meeting**

**January 26, 2020**

Meeting convened at 7:20pm

Attendance

Paul Hurney, Gary McCabe, Ilya Rozhansky, Mike Matzka, Tendai Musikavanhu, Fredrick Mann, Nick Hurney, Nancy Mukundan, Shannon Williams

Troop Activities

Tendai reported that the Post Road District Freezeout at Camp Resolute went well. The scouts had fun, and the group left just before the sled races. The weather was much warmer than last year.

Ilya suggested that the troop go on a ski trip. Paul said that he will look into getting it on the schedule for next year, and the scouts could possibly get merit badge credit during the trip. Gary mentioned the two snow sleds that Ernie Bell built; they should still be at the Nobscot cabin.

Paul went through upcoming troop activities, which are listed on the sign-up sheet that families have received. The activities include rock climbing on February 8, camping possibly at Camp Squanto on March 6, archery (to be planned by Scoutmaster Chris Balboni) on March 21, camping in Vermont on April 3-5, the district camporee (aviation theme) on May 1-3, WHOA (summer camp for a day) on May 16, and camping in New Hampshire on June 5-7.

Paul asked that scouts confirm their plans to attend summer camp at Yawgoog. The camp needs a firm number of scouts attending in a few weeks. If our group is too small, we might need to share our campsite.

Paul also announced that scouts should consider attending the 2021 National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The event will be held the last week of July.

Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

Gary reported that the church is proceeding with a new wave of renovations, including work on the sprinkler and heating systems. The work will make the troop’s meeting space unavailable from mid June to early September. The troop should remove any items that it needs for the summer before work begins. In terms of meeting space while the work is happening, Gary suggested the Wellesley Community Center. The renovation project will be expensive for the church ($2.5 million). As a goodwill gesture, Gary suggested that the troop contribute $500 to the church’s capital campaign. After a question about the implications of donating to a religious organization, the troop committee was supportive of the $500 contribution. The final decision was tabled until the troop could reach out to parents for additional contributions. The troop has met at WHCC during its entire existence, and the church has never asked for payment. The committee agreed that we should include a letter of appreciation with our contribution.

Kiwanis Club

Gary reported on some recent events at the Kiwanis Club of Wellesley, the troop’s chartering organization. The annual Good Scout Breakfast honoring Wellesley Fire Chief Richard DeLorie was held in November. The breakfast raised approximately $1500 for the troop. Gary mentioned that the Kiwanis Club would like to get to know the members of the troop better. He encouraged us to send more scouts to the breakfast. They could work on their public speaking requirements. Tendai offered to help scouts with their speaking skills.

Training

Mike reminded adult leaders that many will need to renew Youth Protection Training in the next few months. Also, position-specific training is available for many leadership positions. Some training programs are online, while others require attendance in a class. The troop needs to improve its training statistics.

Advancement

The Eagle Court of Honor earlier this month for Dev Mukundan and Daniel Berk was well attended, and the troop will celebrate soon with two new Eagle scouts – Arhav Jain and Grayson Hargens. Mike suggested that younger scouts could be doing more in their advancement, particularly merit badges. He suggested upcoming merit badge universities. Also, parents can start using the Scouting app on smart phones to view and record some advancements for their scouts. Mike can assist with getting parents started with the app. It was suggested that parents could get together during a future troop meeting to learn how to use the app.

Treasury

In the absence of the treasurer, there was no treasurer’s report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.