

**Regency at Providence  
Communications Committee Meeting  
April 21, 2014**

**Attendees:**

In Attendance: Rich Bergeman, Kathy Flaherty, Charlie Jones (*chairperson*), Dave Kendall, Dave Lowe, Katy Malone, Stan Rosenau, Rosie Shannon, Donna Smith

**Call to Order:**

Charlie Jones, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**Correction to the Minutes:**

Corrected minutes from the January 20, 2014 meeting (*changing the term "Guidelines" to "Activity Guide"*) were accepted.

**Reports:**

**Intra-Community Communications**

Donna Smith reported that that the 2014 community directories have been delivered. A directory update (*reflecting changes since January*) will be disseminated during the summer.

**Rap Flyers/Rap Classifieds**

Katy Malone reiterated that Comcast's business regulation of 1000 recipients per hour continues to regulate the distribution of RAP flyers and limits the sending of RAP flyers to two per hour, being bundled into no more than 100 recipients per email (thus, requiring her to send each e-mail 4-5 times to different portions of the community). If these numbers are exceeded, accounts can be "blocked" from sending email for a period of time. Katy noted that she continues to have conversations with Comcast staff about some recent difficulties.

Dave Lowe asked if perhaps we should pursue another carrier. Mail Chimp was mentioned as an option. This led to discussion as to whether the VOLO Village System might resolve this dilemma (*see Calendar below*).

**Calendar**

Rosie Shannon indicated that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to fit all of the calendar information on a single page. It was noted that perhaps it would entail two pages in the future or that the format could change. She also noted that when she sends a revision to the calendar, she encourages residents to check the website for the revision.

Rosie reported that she has spoken with Melissa Andrews, salesperson for the VOLO Village System that was discussed at the 1/20/14 Communications Committee meeting. It is understood that for \$2.50 per year per household (*with this price being maintained until the contract is cancelled*), there would be no limit to the number or frequency of messages (i.e., RAP flyers) being sent. Ms. Andrews indicated that she could do a live or video presentation on the benefits of this system. Reportedly, residents of each household

could determine if messages would be received by email, text or phone. Messages could be designated as “emergency or routine.” A main administrator and sub-administrators would be identified and only those persons could disseminate information. Residents could input their individual data (e.g., how information is received). Emergency weather alerts could be a part of this and there would be no chance of being “block listed” (*the current problem with Comcast’s system*). The system is “cloud based,” so all information is saved and it also has survey capability.

It was noted that Diane Bidy (through MidAtlantic) is aware that the system is being used in other communities. It was requested that it could be helpful to make contact with persons using it in another community (*it was inferred that the community manager may be the administrator in other communities*). Stan Rosenau indicated that with 335 homes (@ \$2.50), \$837.50 could be budgeted for 2015. (At this point, 298 of the 335 homes to be built in the community are built and occupied.) It was indicated that although there are no plans to separate from MidAtlantic, it should be assured that if we purchase the VOLO system that the rate would be maintained, whether we are affiliated with MidAtlantic or not.

It was concluded that the committee should meet with Melissa Edwards, the VOLO representative (in person or via teleconference), to clarify issues.

### **Website**

Dave Kendall reported that we are using only 15% of the available space on the website. He noted that he will be moving from the community at some point in the future when his home in Florida is built; it was indicated that Don Smolen may be willing to assume responsibility for the website.

Dave noted that the number of “hits” on the website continues to grow dramatically. There are 67 hits daily so far this year, as opposed to 36 in 2013 and 17 in 2012. Dave’s efforts in managing the website were lauded by members of the committee.

### **Newsletter**

Charlie Jones stated that Times and Arial are the fonts used typically in the newsletter. Dave Lowe indicated that the font size is changed to fit selected articles. Kathy Flaherty asked if there is any thought being given to limiting the length of articles; Charlie indicated that in that he would like to get more writers, he is hesitant to limit expression. Charlie did note that at times pictures are sent in such large sizes that he has to reduce them in order to fit the number of megabytes possible in an email.

### **Activities Guide**

In conjunction with the discussion that ensued at the last meeting of the Communications Committee (as the name of the Activities Guide was being discussed), Dave Lowe noted that the community name, Regency at Providence, has not been disseminated to the community at large. Charlie stated that he would remind Bob Derbyshire regarding his willingness to write an article and that this should be done as soon as possible.

**Township Update:**

In the absence of Todd Welsh, Stan Rosenau reported that there is to be another Gambone meeting with township on May 5, 2014. It is Stan's understanding that Gambone will be proceeding to build 49 carriage homes. He stated that all communication has been "up-front and forthright." Although the township staff indicated that 72 properties could be built, Gambone indicated that they had told Regency at Providence residents that it would be 49 and that they would not move ahead "without our good wishes."

**New Business:**

The next meeting of the Communications Committee will be scheduled in conjunction with the availability of a speaker from VOLO or in the fall.

**Adjournment:**

With no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Smith