

Minutes

The Town Commissioners of Barnesville

October 18, 2021, 7:30PM

Meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19

Call to Order

15 individuals present

Approval of Minutes from September 2021

Reports

Financial Report, the first portion of the ARPA funds were received.

The accountants continue to work with the town clerk on the annual financial report and will file a 30 day extension.

A question was raised on the use of the ARPA funds. Is there a way to get pre-approval from the state on an expense? Response. No, use funds per guidelines. The final rule on APRA should be posted by the end of 2021. As a Non-entitlement Unit of Local Government (NEU), does Barnesville need to file a report for the end of FY 2021 or FY 2022.

Beautification Committee--No report at this time.

Sustainable Barnesville--The committee is working on certification under the Sustainable Maryland program. Part of the application includes assessing the town's carbon footprint. If the Potomac Edison plant is included, the carbon footprint is much larger. It would not be included in the application since it is outside town limits.

The committee can advise on the projected stormwater mitigation project.

Board of Appeals-- No activity at this time.

Capital Improvement

Sidewalk to Post Office--the land survey was completed. The town attorney is working on completing the necessary paperwork for land donation to the town.

Park--water supply estimate to have a spigot and water feature installed has been requested.

The Park committee and designer envisioned the fountain would feed into a dry streambed with plant materials for a more natural look down the hill. The existing boulders in the concrete were to have been part of the water feature, but are sunk into the concrete, mistakenly. The Redbud trees (donated by Audrey Morris) have been planted. The Park sign to include Town of Barnesville was ordered for installation. The damaged guardrail is waiting repair by the contractor.

Traffic Calming--In September, 8 patrols resulted in 73 stops, with 6 stop sign blow-throughs.

The patrols included 3 weekdays on Beallsville Rd, 3 weekdays on Barnesville Rd, and 2 weekends on Beallsville Rd/Barnesville Rd. The officer feels traffic is back to pre-covid levels.

As long as the budget permits, 8 patrols per month were advised.

The Town of Barnesville sent a letter to the Montgomery County Director of Transportation requesting a warning sign on Barnesville Rd past Monocacy Elementary in order to help slow traffic. The letter was sent in response to a recent fatal accident in that area.

Planning and Zoning--The commissioners met with the town attorney to discuss where to work on updating the master plan and charter in order to be in compliance with the State of Maryland. The town attorney will review the town charter to determine what areas need updated. The town attorney will assist the commissioners in prioritizing revisions to the master plan, especially where zoning is concerned. It may make it easier for applicants if the Barnesville Policies and Procedures were outlined in a flowchart indicating where a town permit is required and when to apply for a special exception or variance.

Community Events--The Community Connections Team is hosting a Pumpkin Carving and Decorating Contest. Entrants should contact the Team or Town Clerk by Oct. 30th. All ages are welcome to enter. Prizes will be awarded.

Trick-or-Treating in Barnesville is scheduled for Halloween, 6-8pm. Use of the traffic cones is highly recommended, maybe Clean Cut Lawns would assist with placing the cones and lights. Montgomery County recommends if you are handing out candy to wear a mask. Streethawk may be available for a patrol car that night as well.

Holiday season is coming soon. The Team will be having a Crafting with Dallis on Dec. 16th, on Zoom. Suggestions for a town holiday party or event were entertained. Requests for Santa to visit Barnesville were received. In the past the tree lighting and caroling were held, followed by an open house at Town Hall. Town Clerk will arrange for new lights to be strung on the tree in the park.

Town Hall--not open to the public at this time.

Communications--Holly will do one more Tidbit newsletter in December.

New Business--

Frederick County Planning Chair Tim Goodfellow visited Tina Brown's studio tour. He recommended citizens keep working on voicing opinions on the Sugarloaf plan. The exemption may be added. Montgomery County Representative Kai Hagan has supported conservation, but there is pressure for development along the 270 corridor. Montgomery County politicians do not wish to tell Frederick County government what to do.

Town Meeting was Adjourned at 8:55pm