

Commissioners of Barnesville

Minutes

November 17, 2025

Called to order at 7:35 pm

Approval for the October minutes

Attendees: 11 community members in person, 3 commissioners (1 online), and clerk.

Reports:

Financial: Income and expenses as expected. New traffic feedback signs and powerpacks purchased, \$11k.

Beautify Barnesville Curb Appeal Grants: Thank you to Mike O. for the idea of the grants and drafting the program. Thank you to Alex for the application form. The Commissioners appreciate everyone for applying and acknowledge the work the townspeople have proposed. A motion was made to amend the original budget to increase funds by \$5,000 (MZ). Motion seconded (MO) and Approved.

Community members asked if there is a way to know what was funded and the results (PL). Commissioner Alex highlighted that the application process requests before and after photos and that a summary of grants awarded would be available. Commissioner Mike O. mentioned photos could be available on the town website if homeowners approved.

Beautification: no report.

Board of Appeals: There has been a preliminary inquiry about the appeals process for a potential bird sanctuary. Shaina and Carlita's property had a previous owner who built a structure that was once planned to be a cat clinic. However, a new special exception would be required since ownership and the nature of the use have changed.

New Business: Introduction of Kevin Best, municipal attorney. Mr Best introduced himself and answered questions. He has been practicing law for 22 years and represented many towns in Maryland. He served in the Marines. When working with the Maryland Municipal League, Mr Best met Lib. He has a connection to Barnesville in that his great, great uncle marked through Barnesville with General Hancock as a member of the 4th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mr Best grew up in a small town in Indiana. Commissioner Mike Z thanked Mr Best for attending the meeting and for his introduction.

Capital Improvements: Historic artwork about the town was ordered and framed. One new print has been placed in town hall. A local contractor asked to provide an estimate to replace the

roof on town hall (Dylan Weaver). Given the historic structure designation, work would need prior approval by the historic trust.

Planning and Zoning: The board plans to meet after the new year.

Traffic Calming: There were 118 violations with a maximum speed of 70 mph on Barnesville Rd, resulting in 5 citations for the driver. Commissioners (AT and MZ) have reached out to Tippery in following up on Jim Brown's request to have a meeting discussing the traffic camera vendor changes proposed by the county. The county terminated the vendor agreement and is working with the camera supply company to provide services.

The replacement of the guardrail that was damaged in April during a single car accident was discussed. Jim Brown spoke with the county officer who suggested speaking to Sen. Feldman's office about moving the replacement forward with MDOT.

Community Connections: Upcoming Events: Apple Bake Off on Oct 26th was well attended! The Twilight event for November 5 took place inside town hall with a small group enjoying conversation and snacks. A Book Chat with Steve Vogel will be held Dec. 5 to discuss his newest publication. Steve will give a presentation followed by a question and answer session. There will be refreshments provided by the town.

Communications: Commissioner Alex announced a freelance writer was hired to work on content creation and communication. Krystal is preparing an edition of the Tidbit and has met with Holly. She has interviewed Steve Vogel about his new book.

New Business:

A community member asked when was the last time the town contributed to Monocacy Elementary's student assistance fund. It had been several years since the town contributed. The Commissioners agreed to contribute \$500. The clerk will check with the school who the check should be made out to. Other community contributions suggested this year were WUMCO, St. Mary's Church, and the Baptist Church.

For WUMCO's annual toy and gift card holiday drive, donations will probably be due prior to the town party or meeting. Residents were encouraged to connect with WUMCO. The town will check on the deadline for donating.

A community member asked if Titus had responded to an inquiry about yard wastes. They were told conflicting information. The town had not yet received a response. Commissioner Mike Z

asked if this is a service residents wanted? It may be an additional cost to the town if not included in the waste removal contract.

A community member asked if anyone has noticed power fluctuations lately or loss of internet service. Commissioner Mike Z mentioned this occasionally happens as the power lines switch through a relay if there is a momentary disruption. Commissioner Mike O suggested reporting any problems with the power to the utility provider.

Motion to adjourn (AT) and second (MO).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm