

Minutes

The Town Commissioners of Barnesville

April 19, 2021, 7:30PM

Meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions

Call to Order

14 residents and all 3 commissioners present

Approval of Minutes from March

Reports:

Financial Report:

Discuss in the FY2020 audit to consider past 3-4 years of income taxes and not assume this year's taxes will continue.

American Rescue Plan requires a DUNS and SAMS registration in order for municipalities to receive funds.. The Maryland Municipal League has had discussions regarding the approved spending categories for the ARP funds. Public Safety may be an approved expense. Septic resources for the Town or stormwater mitigation may be approved. Additional suggestions of acquiring public land for a parking area for Town Hall or Lillard's Corner Park.

Beautification

The Monocacy Garden Club weeded and mulched the flower beds at Town Hall and Town Signs as well as the garden at the entrance to the Train Station. .

With the help of the Monocacy Lion's Club, roadside clean-up was completed in Town. A card should be sent to the Monocacy Lions to thank them.

Sustainable Barnesville

Plant an Extra Row project encouraged gardeners to plant extra vegetable or fruit plants to give produce back to the community.

The committee will be planning additional events soon.

Barnesville received the Silver PLANT Award through the State Forestry Board program. This is the second year Barnesville has received a PLANT award. The Commissioners thank Linda Pepe for her submission of the Town's tree nurturing programs to the competition.

Board of Appeals

Received a Special Exception application from Robin Snider for Rustic Routes Coffee Roasting business. The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 7pm On-line. Notification will be posted at the Post Office with the zoom link and notice will be posted on the Town Website. The public notice sign will be placed at the property 15 days prior to the hearing. The sign will include directions on how to access the virtual public hearing.

Capital Improvements

Sidewalks

State and County are working on finalizing the plans for a sidewalk to the post office from the corner of Barnesville and Beallsville Roads. The plans will include crosswalks at the

intersections by the park. The revised plan has been provided to the Tolbert family and the Town is awaiting their approval for either an easement or land donation for the sidewalk land.

Stormwater

The contractor submitted the final concept plan for the stormwater issues at Barnesville and West Harris area. A final Report for the DNR, EPA, and Chesapeake Bay Trust will be submitted as a condition of the concept plan grant received. Mitigation of the stormwater in the area includes recommended modifications at the church parking lot and along Barnesville and West Harris Roads. The county would be responsible for work done along the roads. Proposed modification in the concept plan will be provided to St. Mary's Church as well as a list of potential funding sources. The Town Engineer can work with the county in the engineering and implementation stage.

Other Issues

Glenn Beagle's property - the state has designed stormwater repairs, but has not yet fixed the issues.

Carol Perlmeter's property - the Town Engineer spoke with the county and is awaiting further information about stormwater mitigation options.

Sidewalks near the Mitchell's house are in disrepair and not up to code. We may need to solicit bids to conduct repairs. Mike Zuckerman does have the equipment to grind the walkways, if needed.

Park

Phase I of the park is completed! Weeding will need to continue throughout the growing season. The contractor will complete the beds at the south end fenceline, short-side of fence. Once all the payments to the contractor are cleared, then the final submission for reimbursement to the granting agency will be sent. Funding is expected 30-60 days after submission.

Traffic Calming

In March 69 citations were issued during 6 patrols, 40% along Barnesville Rd and 60% along Beallsville Rd. It was noted that traffic through Barnesville is increasing as more people are returning to work and the weather warms. Bicycle patrol stops have been suspended since November, but may need to start again in May. Several reports were given of bicyclists not following traffic laws. The Patrol officer continues to give warning to town residents and not citations.

Planning and Zoning

Infractions

As the ordinance is written, it is a criminal fine for infractions and this carries a challenging burden of proof. If infractions were changed to a civil/municipal fine, the burden of proof is less. Master Plan Revision includes several modifications which will require Zoning Text Amendments (ZTA). The Planning Committee will prioritize which to address first. Including: (1) defining "tourist home" and registration, (2) use permit augmented with zoning, (3) define when a special

exception is needed, (4) clarify for the Board of Appeals expedited vs. routine processing. The Town Attorney may be consulted to draft any ZTAs required.

Community Concerns over activity at residence on Rt. 109

The residence is believed to be operating an auto-repair business, including commercial vehicle repair. The County has been consulted for suspected infractions, however investigators may not trespass on private property and the burden of proof for several issues has not been met. The Permitting Office issued a violation regarding sediment control. The Housing Commission is waiting for further information regarding untagged vehicles and solid waste accumulation. The Town discussed the infractions with the County DEP. Hopefully, the county offices will work together to address community concerns over the property.

Community Events

Spring Wreath Zoom Craft meeting will be led by Dalis.

Carol and Cherry putting together Welcome Bags for newer residents.

Susan is working on a cookbook for the community and recipes will be included in the Tidbit.

Anne Sturm obtained a presentation for Barnesville through the Audubon Society about Misunderstood Wildlife. This will be presented via Zoom in early May.

Growing Up in Barnesville will feature 3 speakers in a virtual presentation on May 10, 6:30pm.

Honey, who has been the Barnesville Post-master, will be retiring on April 30. There will be a drop box at Town Hall for cards and notes. Community members may also wish to stop by before her last day. The Town will arrange for a gift basket for Honey.

Town Hall

Stormwater Drainage at Town Hall

The Town Engineer drafted a plan and the town received two bids for repairs in 2020. With the ARP funds, drainage at Town Hall may be addressed. Water is also accumulating at the property's edge in Carol's back yard. The removal of the bamboo from the area between Town Hall and Carol's property may be contributing to more run-off.

Use of Town Hall

A revised contract to use Town Hall is drafted to reflect how the facility was being used prior to Covid. One consideration would be the use of the facility by a non-resident needs a resident sponsor and that the resident sponsoring must be present during the use of the facility.

The revised contract does not take into consideration any modifications now needed due to Covid. t The Security deposit was increased to \$100 to pay for maid service, if necessary..

Communication

The Tidbit will be available by the end of April. Holly is willing to continue working on the Tidbit as needed.

New Business

Town Elections--

Absentee Ballots are available upon request.

Candidates were given time to introduce themselves.

Maria Castner Miller of West Harris Road has been a resident since 2014 and has a private consulting business.

Mike Zuckerman of Barnesville Road has been a resident for 18 months and owns a contracting business.

Mildred Callear of West Harris Road is currently a Commissioner of Barnesville.

Town Archives

Holly will continue working on the files and organizing information in Town Hall.

Appreciation for retiring Commissioners

Mildred read a statement she prepared for the Tidbit thanking Holly and Audrey for their work as Commissioners. Members of the community also shared their thanks. Holly and Audrey agreed they enjoyed the wonderful opportunity to be involved and give back to the community.