

Commissioners of Barnesville
Minutes
November 2, 2021 – 7:30 PM Virtual Meeting

Call to Order
Approval of Past Minutes—October 2021

Reports:

Financial report

Monthly financial report presented. No unusual activities. ARPA funds received and waiting on additional information on the decision on how acceptable usage. Final ruling in December for use of funds.

Beautification

No report

Sustainable Barnesville

Frederick County Sugarloaf Plan (Livable Frederick Master Plan) is accepting public comment. Concerns have been raised over the preservation exception for 500 acres along I-270 near SR80. SCA/Tina Brown can provide more information and will write an article for the Tidbit.

Board of Appeals

One application for building permit is expected, BOA may be involved if the Planning Commission turns down an application. If the commissioners do not approve, then the applicant can apply for an appeal or a variance. Currently not at that point for this potential issue of a lot line and placement of the garage, depends on the applicants drawing if it indicates the 10ft setback.

Capital Improvements

Update on Sidewalk to Post Office

A draft agreement from the town attorney prepared and it is in process for the land donation. After that, it will need to go to the county for the scheduling of construction.

Park Development

No reports on the park. The plantings and Lauren Greenberger mulched again. The plants will fill in more next year.

Broken guardrail will be repaired by the town, it was installed by the town. It has been replaced prior. The contractor contacted has not replied. It may need to be removed, if the sidewalk will be going in that area. The choice wood was a town decision and the state did not install. Frederick Fencing fixed it in the past. Clean Cut Lawns will be contacted.

Traffic Calming

9 shifts in October (with Halloween) with 85 traffic stops, 11 were stop-sign blow-throws. Speeding equally between main roads. Two weekend patrols, with 42 stops on

weekends. Average violations between 40-60mph, highest of 75mph. Mayor received a letter from the county acknowledging they received her letter requesting signage on Barnesville Rd where there was an earlier fatal accident on the large hill. Traffic is back to normal and less impact from Covid restrictions. Be aware of bus traffic. We may need to either increase the budget or decrease the number of shifts for the patrol. December will have 8 patrols. The patrol on Halloween was very helpful, and it was on a non-commuting day. His presence made participants feel much safer.

Planning and Zoning

Did not meet in October or November. They are waiting for the commissioners to determine which items in the revised master plan will be addressed

Community Events

Community Outreach Team: Pleased with the turn-out (13 children and 1 adult) in the pumpkin carving event. The Team will host two zoom sessions:

Dec. 12, 2021—Zoom 4-4:45pm—Gingerbread Houses with Darina. Some kits will be available for those to participate. Mayor Callear and Darina will help with distribution of kits. Michaels has the kits available, Holly volunteered to purchase with the special pricing. The kits worked well last year and a hit with people of all ages. The Team will determine the number of kits to order

Dec. 16, 2021—Zoom 4-4:45pm—Luminary Craft with Dalis demonstration. There are 12 luminaires from last year and these are town hall. Hopefully, the ones from last year will go out to the park or they may be out for the Dec. 19th event.

Dec. 19, 2021—Liliard's Corner Park 4pm--Holidays in Barnesville with Santa. The Community Team will prepare 24 gift bags to hand out to children at the Santa event. Santa is scheduled to be at the park. The event will be done by 5:30, prior to dark. If the weather is good, event will be at the park. If the weather is bad, event will be at town hall. If it is chilly, maybe a few portable heaters can be brought over. Santa will be at Bonnie's store and will walk over to the park. Will there be caroling? These can be available for the event with Santa, if we can do this during the daytime at the park. Any caroling will be very informal. Town Hall will be the back-up to hold the event. The lights will be put on the tree, new to this year, and the big star will be placed back on the tree.

WUMCO Holiday Gift Collection—items may be dropped at town hall or on Dec. 19. A large box will be available for people to drop off toys and it can be available at town hall at other times.

Town Hall

Currently closed to the public. No maintenance issues.

Communications

Tidbit will be available soon, early December, according to Holly.

New Business

Rural Rustic Roads designation with Montgomery County Planning

There was an issue that since Barnesville is incorporated that the roads may not be designated Rustic Roads. But, since the county and state maintain the roads, the roads should be considered as this designation. A letter of support from the commissioners to continue the designation as Rural Rustic Roads. The benefit to the designation would be to maintain the roadways as smaller for less traffic.

The county lost about half of their contractors for snow removal for this season. Many states do not have enough drivers or equipment.

Whites Ferry reopening is at an impasse. Montgomery County Executive and MD state and VA state officials working towards reopening.

Adjournment