The Town Commissioners of Barnesville

April 15, 2024 – 7:30 PM

TOWN MEETING

Call to Order – 7:30pm

Special Guests: The Lions Club with Dot Eldridge’s historic scrapbook. Dot had collected newspaper clippings of stories from the Barnesville area from the 1970s forward and put them in the scrapbook. Dot’s daughter Mary donated the scrapbook to the Lions Club. Gary and Jan Burdett saw the scrapbooks as part of the Lions Club Dinner Auction and suggested the scrapbook be donated to the Town of Barnesville. The book will be on display at town hall.

Reports:

Financial Report—recent expenses for town hall include repainting the interior and replacing the water heater. The water heater had not worked since 2020. State income taxes and property taxes are higher than projected for this point in the year. Traffic enforcement is as expected but spending may exceed the budgeted amount once with the change to the new vendor, beginning this month.

Beautification:

The Park Clean up for Spring will be done soon. Brightview will weed and put in mulch later in April or May. In the past, pine bark chip mulch was used, but Brightview will most likely use the shredded hardwood mulch. CleanCut will continue to do mowing. Lauren Greenberger has been maintaining the flower beds. The wildflower bed was mowed and small trees Lauren planted were mowed. She has since placed tree tubes to mark their location. The sumac and redbud trees are now marked along the sidewalk to prevent the state from cutting them down with their periodic mowing along the roadway.

The bluebird houses are doing well and are monitored. The purple martin houses will not be maintained this year unless another volunteer steps forward.

Sustainable Barnesville:

Roadside clean up was successful with approximately 15 bags collected. Rt 109 was the worst trash area. Thanks to all who helped to pick up trash for the event.

Board of Appeals:

No report

Capital Improvements

Streetlighting:

Tariff rates need approved by the state prior to replacing the bulbs and installing shields. This is a regular event and not linked to the town’s request for different bulbs and shields

Traffic Calming:

10 shifts in March with 2 weekend and 8 weekday shifts. Focus was on speeding violations, with 75 traffic stops. With RSSC, Officer Mike will continue to patrol Barnesville and follow the same schedule and patrol locations. Jim Brown will remain as the town’s point of contact.

Planning and Zoning

No updates on the inquiry about the unauthorized automotive business. The town is working with attorneys to get the issue resolved. A litigator is now retained and hopefully can work to resolve the issue. A further suggestion of reaching out to the county or state environmental health and safety division for the potential hazmat situation of automotive fluids entering the soil.

Community Events

Town Dinner was a success and well attended. The monthly meditation sessions continue to have steady attendance. More activities in town and at the park will be announced as the weather warms.

Town Hall:

The interior has now been repainted. The water heater and filtration system were updated. There is now a sediment and UV filter on the water supply for the building.

Communications:

Any news or events should be sent to the Town Clerk. A brief Tidbit may be issued in June.

New Business

Questions were raised on the number of distilleries or microbreweries opening in the Ag Reserve.

The ZTA proposed to the county for up to 10 lodging units for overnight guests was briefly discussed. The ZTA is in an early draft and changes are expected as it moves forward.

The Barnesville Master Plan revisions need to put into place with Zoning revision within the town. Issues of agritourism and lodging were discussed in the Master Plan.

Adjournment