

Minutes

Commissioners of Barnesville

September 20, 2021

Meeting called to Order at 7:32pm

The meeting was held via Zoom. 16 attendees

Minutes for the August 2021 meeting were approved

Reports

Financial Report

ARPA—First disbursement should arrive by Sept. 30th. Tracey will verify the revenue loss from the speed camera funds during the pandemic. The revenue loss portion has broader acceptable uses in the ARPA guidelines. We may be able to move forward with next steps on the storm water management plan and explore what would be required to provide a potable water supply at townhall.

Speed camera and traffic enforcement may not fit with approved expenses under ARPA, unless it is covid-related. There are provisions that might permit municipalities to support local non-profits that are responding to COVID. Money can be used over a three-year period.

Tracey reviewed the monthly financial report and indicated there are funds available to for one additional traffic patrol per month this fiscal year.

Beautification

No report provided.

Sustainable Barnesville

Committee will be meeting again in September. Committee welcomes ideas for projects or presentations.

Board of Appeals

No activities

Capital Improvements

Sidewalks—the survey of the lot boundaries was completed.

Traffic Calming

In August, there were 6 shifts for traffic enforcement. There were 90 traffic violations with 60% on Beallsville Rd and 40% on Barnesville Rd. The community requested more patrols on Beallsville Road as this seems to be the bigger problem. In September, 8 shifts are scheduled. On Sept. 16th there was a traffic accident resulting in a death on Barnesville Rd outside of the town limits. Steve Finley asked if the town would write a letter of support to Montgomery

County DOT for a warning sign about the steep hill at that location. The Commissioners agreed to do so.

Planning Commission

No meetings were held over the summer recess but the commission met to discuss the Sugarloaf Area plan in September. There is a great deal of local interest in the Sugarloaf Area Master Plan being considered by Frederick County. On behalf of the Barnesville Planning Commission, Meg Menke prepared a letter to the Frederick Planning Commission which was discussed and approved by the Barnesville Planning Commission and reviewed by the Town Commissioners. The Frederick County Planning Board replied with an acknowledgement. As a result of the strong opposition to a provision that would have allowed development of a 490 acre parcel near Sugarloaf in contravention of the preservation strategy for the rest of the area, the Frederick County Planning Board voted to remove the exemption for the 490 acres. This was good news for all residents of the area and was a direct result of the effective representation by a number of local groups and citizens including Sugarloaf Citizens Association. Lower Frederick County residents are petitioning the Frederick County Planning Board for more protected areas.

Community Events

Susan Pearcy agreed to become the new chair of the Community Events committee. The committee met and discussed how to redefine the role of the committee as the Community Connection Committee and have a greater impact for the community. The Facebook page will be used more for information sharing and outreach to people who are housebound or do not attend the town hall meetings. The committee will work with other town committees to have less overlap with presentations or events. The committee will hold a pumpkin carving contest in October and host the Santa visit to Barnesville in December.

Town Hall

Currently closed. The October meeting will be held virtually.

Communications

No report.

New Business

Trash and Recycling

Residents have reported that Titus is combining the trash and recycling into the same truck. One resident said trash often blows off the trucks and into their yard or cans are being left in the roadways. Mike will call Titus to ask about this issue. Tracey and Holly will look for the Titus Contract for details on the scheduled days. The problem may be the resident(s) comingling unaccepted items with acceptable recycling or error on the collection side. Options proposed: move trash and recycling to different days, or, pay the county to do the recycling. The next step is to reach out to Titus to understand better what the situation is.

In the future, it was suggested, the Community Yard Sale and the bulk pick up be closer together so that items that don't sell could be picked up on the bulk trash day.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm