

Commissioners of Barnesville

Minutes

March 21, 2022

The meeting was held in a hybrid manner. 7 residents were in person and 6 were logged in via Zoom. All 3 commissioners were in person.

Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from February 2022 approved

Financial report

ARPA is much more flexible under the new guidelines and there is discretionary spending up to \$10 for municipalities. We do need to prepare a report annually and submit a report by the end of April. The commissioners will re-examine the budget and reassess what the top priorities for spending should be.

Beautification committee

The committee met and will work with the Monocacy Garden club to mulch and weed the beds around the train station and town hall. The goal for the town sign beds will be to remove the plants and replace the mulch with large decorative stones. This should make the beds less maintenance and remove the need to carry water to those plantings. The proposed budget would be 200-1000 for the bags of rocks, landscape fabric, and other supplies. The commissioners approved. The existing plants could be transplanted elsewhere in town-maintained beds.

The Annual Town Clean-up will be on April 9th at 9am. The Monocacy Lions will work with Barnesville residents to pick up trash along the four roadways.

Sustainable Barnesville

The park plantings did well over winter and there will be some maintenance for grasses in the beds. The committee will apply a pre-emergent herbicide on beds near the plaza. The bed by the park sign will have annuals planted. The wildflower beds along the fencerows should be mowed one time in the spring, prior to emergence of stems.

Some of the ARPA funds may be used at the park to install a well-pump and water source for watering. Phase 2 of the park called for the installation of a water feature. Some discussion was held on what type of improvements should be done during phase 2 and if donations could be made to the park, such as a buy-a-brick campaign for a walkway.

Board of Appeals

No activity at this time

Capital Improvements

Sidewalks: The title search and appraisal for the strip of land from the park to the post office was completed. The initial agreement for the donation of the land has been obtained. The deed transfer is needed. The county is on board with completing the project during 2022.

Stormwater drainage: The concept plan that was developed for West Harris Road may move into the next stages. The county said there is not enough damage to warrant a large project given the other needs in the county. The next stage of the development plan would be to explore bids to complete part of the management by the town. The ARPA funds may be used for portions of the project. The portion of work proposed for the church would be minimal. The bulk of what needs done would be in the right of way for the county. The concept plan called for new trenches to be built to redirect and join the existing outflow. Stage 2 of the Green Street Grant Program would be to have an engineering team design a management plan and Stage 3 would be to implement the plan. Holly will look for her contact information for a grant writing consultant through MML that may assist with the Chesapeake Bay Trust grant program.

Traffic Calming

8 Patrols were conducted and speeding violations are the most common stop. Streethawk will be asked to include on their invoice the days and times patrols were completed during the month. One attendee asked if more weekend posts could be included. With the weather warming, scenic traffic on the weekends has increased.

Planning and Zoning

No activity at this time

Community Events

Spring Park Dedication—proposed date of May 14th. This will be an informal event with beverages and snacks. Mildred and the Commissioners and Park Committee will dedicate the park for its official opening. Additional parking will be arranged at the Baptist Church or at St. Mary's.

Barnesville's 275th Celebration. Proposals for the Event include a pot-luck dinner for residents with the town providing the main dish. The Community Connections Team will work on developing a plan for a parade, live music, and a historic display. The town will provide \$5000 towards expenses.

The committee will check with local communities for conflicts on dates for the event and with St. Mary's for the use of the pavilion.

Town Hall

Available for Reservations. First reservation is mid-April.

Communication

The Tidbit is almost complete for the next issue. It will be distributed in April

New Business

Potomac Edison will be doing line upgrades, the lines are 100 years old. In addition, they will replace poles with taller ones, replace conductors, and install some underground lines. New voltage regulators will be installed near the post office. While this work is done, Potomac Edison will also install new LED lamps on all poles. Potomac Edison will let the town specify what types of light shields for each pole. If residents have light shining into their homes, they may contact Commissioner Mike Zuckerman and request different style lamp shields to prevent this. The lamps will be dark sky compliant and reduce glare into homes. The town will probably gain 3 new lamps at intersections. If Potomac Edison completes this project to replace it with LED bulbs at this time, there will be no additional cost to the town except the new lamp shields. The warmer LED lamps will be used, not the intense highway lights. Power should not go out as they replace the equipment.

Speed Feedback Signs. Mike Zuckerman spoke with the county traffic engineer about installing speed feedback signs in Barnesville. The signs are installed and use solar powered digital displays to inform drivers of their speed and flash when drivers are over the limit. The town, Rustic Roads committee, and Streethawk will be consulted about the installation of the additional signs. Studies show these signs can drastically reduce speeding.

George Hillard, retired Fire Chief, passed away.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm