

Town of Barnesville
Commissioners

Minutes
October 21, 2020

Started 7:31pm

September 2020 Minutes Approved
Financial Report-Audit Completed and posted on the town page

Beautification-no news and no recent meeting. The flowerbeds near the Town Signs may need different flowers to do better next year.

Sustainable Barnesville

- Committee meets the 2nd Monday of the month (virtually)
- Abby Stumpf (Monocacy 2nd grader) attended the meeting and brought up questions to the committee about the park
- Global Ecology students may want to volunteer at the park as well
- Bluebird boxes along the park will be added after construction is complete
- "Plant an Extra Row" project had donated 868 pounds of product by the end of September
- Exploring ways to expand food growing initiative for next season. Expand participation and perhaps easier drop off locations for produce. Donations have gone to WUMCO. There is also county-sponsored food distribution at Black Rock Arts Centre. Food scarcity will continue to be a major concern in the county throughout the pandemic.
- Fall Plant Swap organized by Jane Thompson, with 7-8 participants exchanging plants

Board of Appeals

- Brian Capaldo, nominee for vacancy on Board of Appeals, was approved by the Commissioners as a member of the Board of Appeals.
- Meg will forward the training info from the state to him
- No current Appeals

Capital Improvements

- Sidewalks: the County Dept. of Transportation prepared a sketch of the proposed walkway to the post office. It was shared with the landowner (Tolbert family) and they provided a letter of support that was sent to the County. Currently waiting for further design from the county.
- Stormwater grant for intersection of W. Harris and Barnesville Roads: 2 public meetings were held (1 virtual and 1 on site). Waiting for concept plans from the designer by December 31.

-Park Development: So far, we have been unsuccessful in having the County reduce the fee for electrical permit. The hardscaping work will begin soon. Planting of certain shrubs may be

postponed until late summer 2021, due to concern about plant damage from 17-year cicadas due next summer.

Traffic Calming

- September with 6 shifts and 52 stops, Beallsville Rd. most violations for speed
- Concern over a man camping overnight behind the old church across from Hilton's and behind Town Hall. Streethawk Patrol worked with County Police to talk to the man and have him transported to Shady Grove for Psychiatric Evaluation.
- Mayor sent official request to county to make Barnesville a "no J-brake" town
- Question raised if Streethawk can issue citations to motorcycles for noise. Streethawk said not unless there is a modified muffler. One motorcyclist was pulled over for speeding
- Speed Camera, still no update on camera installation by MARC

Planning and Zoning

- Nov. 14th Final Public Hearing- there have been sufficient changes to the draft Master Plan that a second public hearing is being held. Notice will be posted and meeting will be held virtually
- Summary of revisions: additional definitions, special exceptions, procedures for expedited approval for certain categories, chapter on housing, home businesses in accessory buildings and special exceptions, vehicle parking on property for a business permitted as defined.
- Question raised about Cottage Food Laws. Meg pointed out that the business facility may not necessarily have food safety guidance
- The updated Zoning Code to follow along with current business practices

Community Events

- Oct 21st - Ana Bracic's book discussion
- Oct 26th - Ann English's presentation on County Rainscapes program
- Nov. 12th-Councilman Craig Rice virtual presentation-agenda will be distributed
- Past event with Sen. Brian Feldman was well attended and good discussion

Town Hall--still closed to the public

Communication

- new Tidbit will be distributed soon
- website update in progress

Building Use and Permit Fees-waiting on attorney to see if charges can legally be changed to recover costs

Zoning Violations

- In regards to one property, the county was contacted. County said Barnesville has Zoning authority and they cannot address those issues. There is an Ordinance Violation process and the town can press charges for penalty fines. Question raised on how the Town could enforce zoning violations and if the case would go to the Circuit Court. Uncertainty on what to do if

suspected health or environmental risk. Suggested to bring this up at the Town Hall meeting with Craig Rice.

-Town consultant works with other municipalities on violation issues and Town could consult him

Town Events

-Halloween-county recommends not holding traditional trick or treating events. Town will not be putting out the traffic cones or safety lights on Halloween

-Lion's Club cancelled the Halloween Party this year

-Alternative Halloween festive ideas: house decorating contest, treats at town hall, Pumpkin Carving Contest with photos emailed to Town Clerk

-December Holiday Party will be cancelled

-December Holiday alternate ideas: House decorating contest, Light displays by the Town, Secret Santa exchange, Bonfire, Community sing-along-remote, Delivery of treats to individual homes, Luminaries to homes

New Business

-Air Traffic Noise concern raised. Michael Zuckerman would share online information about flight routes and density. Flights over Barnesville are on approach to Dulles and no longer following the Potomac River. Information online indicates 2020 flights are down as compared to pre-Covid days and there is a gradual return to normal flight traffic

--Mayor Callear reported a resolution to earlier misuse of town funds. The Town negotiated a financial recovery of \$50,000 that was received in FY2018. Recently the State's Attorney accepted a guilty plea from Lisa Lee Fedders to a charge of embezzlement. She was sentenced to a suspended sentence, with probation and community service.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:58pm