

Minutes Town Meeting
Commissioners of Barnesville
Sept. 21, 2020

13 Attendees

Minutes from August approved

Financial Report-audit for prior fiscal year nearly complete. August financial report with not much activity. Grounds maintenance costs are currently above projected level due to summer mowing and repair to town signs. Reports will be posted on town website.

Beautification-no report

Board of Appeals-(1) no formal requests. (2) waiting for a response from town attorney for more information on coffee business and pending issues (3) another appointee is needed. (4) Brian Capaldo has volunteered to join the Board of Appeals and will submit a formal nomination letter.

Sustainable Barnesville-(1) Plant an extra row has been done well with plenty received. Working on improved collection and distribution. (2) Maybe have a speaker on recycling or group discussion through YouTube presentations (3) Ask for photos of animals, habitats, plants, etc. from the area to share in group. (4) Cicada alert with spring leaf out next year. (5) Bioblitz to log all plants and animals present in an area, maybe next year or can work to log bloom times.

Capital Improvements-

Sidewalks-site plant of walkway to the post office drawn and will send to county for feedback. The white home for sale on Barnesville road have plants over-growing sidewalk and needs trimmed. CleanCut Lawns will be asked to clean up weeds in cracks of walks. Snow removal contract with Kuhlman's will be renewed.

Stormwater Green Concept Plan-Barnesville and West Harris Road. As outlined in the grant agreement, a contractor was hired. A town meeting will be set up for introduction to the stormwater remediation options and for community feedback.

Park-(1) electrician is waiting for final county approval (2) hardscaping will begin third week of October (3) Committee worked to select hardscape and furniture and Fall planting options. (3) Verizon had parked 4 vehicles in the park grassy area and refused to move vehicles when approached. In the future, "No Parking" should be installed along roadside of park. (4) Permit Fee over-charged by approximately \$550 for "commercial" instead of a residential rate. Audrey has been working to get this fixed. Other suggestions of officials who might assist the town in resolving the matter are the Municipal Affairs office at the power company, Catherine Matthews at upcounty office, or Craig Rice.

Traffic Calming-(1) Streethawk with 4 shifts in August, 32 traffic stops--12 on Barnesville Rd, 20 on Beallesville Rd--and 12 Stop Sign violations. Sunday 9/21 alone had 23 traffic stops. September had 6 scheduled shifts. Question was asked where do the fines go that are

collected on these stops. The state gets the fines, the county fines are provided to the state to pay for services the state supplies. Within Barnesville, in 2017-2018, \$1063 was collected; 2018-2019, \$1431 was collected. Most of the recent violations were from individuals not within the local area.

(2) Speed Cameras--no news on camera installation by the MARC. Request is for 12-month camera and not portable. Position of camera will depend on clear line of sight, preference for coming down the hill towards town.

(3) Question raised about noise ordinance violation and traffic stops. Community concern over groups of car and motorcycle clubs riding through town and of large trucks braking.

(4) Crosswalk by Bonnie's store--the stop sign will be set back behind the painted crosswalk

Planning and Zoning Committee--(1) close to finishing the master plan (2) discussion on how to do special exceptions and executive overview. (2) Housing chapter now added as required by the state/county. A continuation of the Public Hearing will take place regarding the additions. Comments on accessory buildings (including both for business use and for dwellings), commercial vehicle parking in residential areas, simple vs. complex special exception process, and distinction between Small Business guidance and Agriculture/Farm Business.

Community Events: (1) Sept. 29th 7pm Zoom forum with Sen. Brian Feldman. Key areas for discussion are keeping the post office open, tax duplication payments to municipalities, fees from Streethawk ticketed violations, thanking Sen. Feldman for Stop signs and representing Barnesville, MARC area cameras, Black Lives Matter and State's Law Enforcement Bill of Rights.

(2) Oct. 21, Book discussion with Anna Braic (3) Oct. 26, Rainscapes presentation. (4) Additional event ideas accepted. (5) County has sent to officially discouraging Halloween or Trick or Treat activities at this time.

Town Hall--Closed to the Public. Park furniture will be delivered and stored indoors in late October.

Communications--(1) TidBit articles are welcomed, next issue will be in Oct/Nov. (2) No updates on the website revisions

New Business--(1) Cemetery (near Stratton household) needs additional volunteers to continue repairs. Gravel over the area and repositioning of gravestones in late October. If anyone has equipment to move gravel, help would be appreciated.

(2) Maryland Municipal League Conference will be Oct. 8-9 and virtual. Montgomery County MML discussed Gaithersburg Cell Tower Litigation as a FCC violation. Limitation on Fees upheld. Municipality can turn down tower applications.

(3) Masks are required at the Post Office by all patrons at all times, even if you are inside for a short time. Citizens asked that the Town request postal authorities to enforce mask requirement for all employees facing the public in the Barnesville post office.

(4) Poolesville Seniors are hosting an event with Skip Etheridge on the History of the Poolesville area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm