

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
January 11, 2017

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Donald Schildt, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Dewese, Ken Kellar of the Woodsboro Times, Roger Wilson, Government Affairs Director with the County Executive's office, and 38-50 citizens.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch, to approve the Town meeting and closed personnel meeting minutes of December 14, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. FREDERICK BICYCLE COALITION PRESENTATION – TOM RINKER

Mr. Tom Rinker and several representatives of the Frederick Bicycle Coalition handed out information on a vision for a Monocacy Trail. The group asked for the Burgess and Commissioners support of the concept of a multi-use trail along the railroad tracks, that would adjoin to the trail being built by Frederick City. The total distance of the combined trails would be around 8 miles. They are proposing a safe and appealing connection between Frederick City and the Town of Walkersville. They plan to obtain funding through Federal and State grants.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to support the concept of a Monocacy Crossing Trail. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. WATER SUPERINTENDENT REPORT ON WATER PRESSURE

Ken and Tami Liebegott, 113 Bedrock Drive, complained that they have had water pressure problems in their home for the past 6 months. They have replaced a check valve, hot water heater, expansion tank, and pressure reduction valve, to no avail. Town staff has replaced their water meter, checked for defective valves, flushed the hydrants in their neighborhood, and taken multiple pressure readings at their house. Today's reading was 55 psi, a more than sufficient amount of pressure. Neighbors from 112 and 115 Bedrock Drive were in the audience and chimed in that they also have experienced pressure problems. On December 30, the Town recorded 50 psi at 115 Bedrock. Commissioner Russell Winch suggested the Town purchase 3 new pressure monitors and install them along the line to the Liebegotts home to try to target the problem.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to purchase 3 new pressure monitors to address this complaint. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. 2016 CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Andy Dewese summarized his 2016 statistics, noting 632 complaints received compared to 340 received in 2015. The increase is due to the new pro-active enforcement policy, rather than the complaint driven policy. 496 of the 632 complaints were initiated by the code enforcement officer. 554 were resolved through voluntary compliance and 52 were resolved through Town intervention.

5. HFP BUILDING PROCESS DISCUSSION

Ms. Hauver reported that she and Ms. Rollins have met with Arro Engineers' Lucinda Stevens to review the site plan and status of the implementation of the building. She expressed the need for someone to be the project manager and follow through with the specifications for the building so that it can be bid in the spring. No one is guiding the project. Commissioners Winch and Zimmerman reiterated that they felt volunteers could do the work during the construction of the building. There is disagreement on the wisdom and liabilities associated with this. General agreement was that Ms. Rollins did not have the expertise to handle the management of the project despite her willingness to do so.

Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to hire a general contractor to manage the building of the building. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Russell Winch in opposition.

6. MONOCACY SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Hauver reported that the Planning Commission wanted more information on the Draft Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan before forwarding comments to the Burgess and Commissioners. Mr. Tim Goodfellow, Frederick County Planning staff, would be attending the January 24th Planning Commission meeting to present the plan and answer questions.

7. UPDATE ON 125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Burgess Weddle reviewed the upcoming meeting dates of the 125th Anniversary planning committee as January 21st, February 18th, and March 25th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Hall meeting room. He invited all interested citizens to join in and help with the celebration.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DECEMBER 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the December 2016 financial statements and pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

9. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Gary Baker asked the status of the installation of the security camera system. There is no update.

Commissioner Gary Baker asked if the new speed trailer was being moved around the town. To date it has been located in Deerfield and Gladetowne. It has been moved to the shop to wait out any snow plowing operations that are upcoming.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis turned the floor over to Mr. David Ennis to report on the Green Team meeting held in her absence this past Monday night. He reported their discussions on solar viability for the Town, an upcoming presentation at the C. Burr Artz library, a site visit to Emmitsburg's facility, a solar assessment from the Sustainability Energy Commission, a grant application that is due in February, to be reviewed by the Burgess and Commissioners at their first meeting in February.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis noted that Dawn Hipsley will be the Farmers' Market manager, and she will contact the Fire and Rescue Company about possibly locating the market on that location.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked the status of the opening of the new diner as she has received multiple inquiries. She also announced the next Green Team Meeting will be Monday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall small conference room.

Commissioner Russell Winch cheered Congratulations to the Walkersville football team! Burgess Weddle reported that the new sign will go up in February celebrating both 1987 and 2016 football championships.

Commissioner Russell Winch reminded everyone that at the February MML meeting, there will be a circuit rider grant writer who could possibly help with the green grant writing.

Commissioner Russell Winch also reported that he has a complaint from a real constituent; when jogging around town he requested that the Town increase the light intensity of the street lights. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis noted that perhaps the 20-30K grant for LED lighting would help.

Mr. Bob DePaola reported that he and Ms. Rollins met with the Maintenance Director of Lonza in order to schedule replacement of their water meter. It will be replaced during their May shut down of the plant, so that the 4 hour turn off of the water supply does not hinder their processes. In the meanwhile, the Town will bill them for water usage based on past consumption.

10. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Bill Jameson, 912 Greenfield Road, Dickerson, MD, opined on the Monocacy Scenic River management plan. He noted the article in the Frederick News Post and their opinion that everyone needed to be responsible for the river. He also passed around an aerial view of the FNP building and parking lot and wondered aloud if, with their 6 acres of impervious surfaces, were they were also being responsible for the river?

Ryan Palmer, 206 Braeburn Drive, local Eagle Scout, proposed building a wooden flag collection box for the lobby of Town Hall. He proposed that the Scouts maintain the box and collect the flags for honorable disposal as needed.

Tim, of Challedon Drive, asked that small game hunting be allowed in season at the watershed. After discussion of the weaponry, season, and timing of the usage:

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, that small game, i.e. rabbits and squirrels, be allowed to be hunted during that season, with air rifles only, and Monday through Thursday of the season when the Scouts are not occupying the watershed. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Suzan Thompson, 12 Liberty Street, reported that she came to the meeting because she was interested in the Monocacy Scenic River plan, but then realized she is opposed to the walking path along the railroad tracks. She was appalled that the Burgess and Commissioner would support this without public hearings or contact with the people it would affect. She noted that the bicycle group is the same group that ties up stuff throughout Frederick. She questioned how are we supposed to absorb 500 bicycles, what about emergency responders, who pays for the crop damage? She advised that people need to look at their website, that they are the owners of the bicycle shop.

Dick Brady, Chair of the Planning Commission, invited all landowners in Town and the Town's zone of influence, along the Monocacy River to the information Planning Commission meeting on January 24th, 2017.

Matthew Toms, noted that in the plan, regarding 83 acres, it is already in a Forest Resource Ordinance easement. He feels that not much research was put into the development of the Monocacy Scenic River plan. He encourages Walkersville to take time and consider it.

Mike and Sandy Kilpatrick, 28 West Frederick Street, resurfaced to present their copy of plumber Jeremy Peterson's evaluation of the installation of the water line to their property. They asked if a decision had been made and could the Town help them with their water bill. They asked that we give them an average water bill. Burgess Weddle assured them the commissioners would decide at the next meeting and mail them the decision, noting it was not necessary that they return to another meeting.

David Stone, of Emmitsburg, in response to the Monocacy Scenic River plan, requests that the Town say they got enough land from the river and stick with the 1978 plan.

Burgess Weddle asked that audience members opposed to the Monocacy Scenic River plan raise their hands. It appeared that was a strong majority of those in attendance.

Paula Toms, Linganore Road, expounded on her opposition to the Monocacy Scenic River plan.

Andrew Toms, 211 Stauffer Court, asked why this item is on the Town's agenda. He stated that he likes Burgess Weddle's statement that we should stick to stuff within the Town.

Ken Kellar, of Woodsboro, noted that County Councilman Kirby Delauter refers to the Monocacy Scenic River plan as a "taking". He read the plan and stated that it is not written for the lay person. He is horrified by the scope of it.

Matthew Toms, returned to the podium, to discuss the value of trees. He noted that our ancestors cleared the land to make it productive. He emphasized that property rights are in jeopardy and this involves the downzoning of people's property.

Morris Gladhill, 6107 Riverview Court, Frederick, noted that the designers of the Monocacy Scenic River plan have seen fit to place their yellow line through his bedroom. He reported the plan is trying to correct something that is not broke, that the Monocacy, Potomac, and the Chesapeake Bay are healthier than they have been in 50 years. He noted that environmentalists wrote the plan using obsolete data because current data would not support their hypothesis.

No further business, so the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager