Minutes

The Town Commissioners of Barnesville

July 20, 2020, 7:30PM

Virtual Meeting during Corona Virus State of Emergency

Called to Order at 7:35PM

10 residents and all commissioners present

Approval of Minutes—June 2020 minutes approved and will be on website

Reports:

Financial Report-

Preliminary Financial Report available for the endo f the Fiscal Year. Income tax from the State of Maryland arrived in July. Currently, the town has a deficit of approximately $12k for the fiscal year. Additional expenses include $4,000 over budget for park expenses not yet reimbursed from grant and Covid-19 related expenses of mailing copies of the Tidbit and loss of income from not renting Town Hall.

Beautification-

Sustainable Barnesville-

Linda Pepe and Sustainable Barnesville received 450 trees to distribute. Trees were delivered on Thursday and distributed by Sunday. A fantastic team of volunteers made the event a huge success. $300 donated and 132 free trees. Several trees are being kept by Sustainable Barnesville members to be planted later at the park. An article about the project was published in the Monocacy Monocle.

-Extra Row for WUMCO—Donations for WUMCO will be collected outside Town Hall on Saturdays 11am-12pm and delivered to WUMCO, or people can drop produce donations at the WUMCO office at the Poolesville Baptist Church on Willard Ave. When donating directly, please mention it is for Sustainable Barnesville.

Board of Appeals

No Pending Business at this time. There was one potential Special Exception, but no updates at this time. The board still has one opening seat and individuals may self-nominate to Paul Levine or Mildred

Capital Improvements

Sidewalk – County drafted a plan for sidewalks along the Park, this will be reviewed by engineer consultant, commissioners, and landowners impacted. The Master plan revision received comments at state level, including the MD-DOT suggesting potential grants for non-traditional sidewalk construction. For Crosswalks, the state forgot the crosswalk between the Baptist Church corner and the Town Hall corner. The town is petitioning the state to complete the crosswalk. The state moved 2 crosswalk signs that blocked the view of the stop signs.

Storm Water

Chesapeake Bay Trust for the Green Infrastructure Planning and Design grant. The RFP received comments and contractors can be solicited. Town’s engineering consultant needed additional information regarding water run-off from adjacent properties.

Streetlights—no report

Park Development

The construction of the Park has fallen behind on schedule, waiting on county permit office to approve fencing (received) and electrical (still waiting).

Traffic Calming

Streethawk patrolled West Harris Road and issued 3 warnings. Many recent violations in Barnesville were failure to stop at the stop signs. The town increased patrols to 5 shifts per month after reducing due to less traffic during the Covid State of Emergency.

Planning and Zoning

Public Hearing (90minutes) was successful with multiple public comments received. Additional time for comments was given until the following Friday. Comments were not received at the time of the hearing from Montgomery County. The State of Maryland replied from several departments. An additional chapter on housing is required by the state. The Planning and Zoning committee will meet again on August 8th to continue work on the revised Master Plan

Events

August 4th at 6pm Dr. Eben Kirksey will be the first presenter for the Barnesville Speaker Series. The seminar will be held through Zoom.

Future Speakers invited include Chuck Copeland (History of Blacks in the Ag. Reserve), Kenny Sholes (Historic homes in the Ag Reserve), Ana (Breaking the Exclusion Principle). Other suggestions explored are a Children’s Program, County Elected Official, a speaker about the “village” concept of helping hands for the community.

Black Lives Matter letter of support to the county for improved policing policies

Town Hall

—Currently closed to the Public

Communications

The Tidbit will be distributed electronically later in July or early August.

The Book of Barnesville will be donated to the State Archives. The pdf copy is available for the Town.

The Town website will be revised later this summer by Stone Graphics. A working group to view and comment on the new website is being organized.

New Business

Census—The deadline for initial completion of the Census is approaching. There is help available if you need to still complete the census.

Town signs were repaired, this was last completed in 2011.

Building and Use Permit Fees—question was raised on how can the town recover costs associated with use-change permits. A new form will be developed to include reimbursement process with a deposit or escrow system. Motion was passed to develop the new form along with the current building-zoning permit. The Zoning Ordinance mentions a Building Permit and a second section a Use Permit.

Montgomery County 311 was contacted about a property use for an auto-repair business. The county replied that since the property is located within town limits, the county is not responsible for investigating or enforcement of permits. The concern is that it is an illegal or unlicensed auto-repair business and there may be environmental health and safety issues. The Town currently does not have any procedure for enforcement of business licensing.

Next Town Meetings on March 8 at 5:30pm with the Town Dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.