

## WATERFORD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (WCA)

February 27, 2001

The regular business meeting of the WCA was called to order by President Jim Behan at 7:30 pm on February 27, 2001. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the previously distributed minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2000 as written.

President Jim Behan introduced the WCA Board of Directors, including Officers and Committee chairs for 2001, who are:

President: Jim Behan  
Vice President: Chet Gibson  
Secretary: Edith Crockett  
Treasurer: Stephen Rubin

### Committees

Audit: David Godfrey  
Beautification: Jeff Bean  
Cemetery: Kevin Chadwick  
Fund Raising: Bern O'Dell  
Fourth of July: Charlie Brock, Lynda & Peter Buck  
Hospitality: *vacant*  
Land Use: Kathleen Hughes  
Streets: Ed Good  
Water & Sewer: Paul Rose  
Youth Activities: Ken Dunn

He praised the excellent work that Evelyn Godfrey has done as chair of the Hospitality Committee for the last several years, and noted that a volunteer to follow her in this position is being sought. Peter and Lynda Buck had graciously agreed to handle the refreshments at this meeting in the absence of a Hospitality Committee.

### Old Business

Copies of changes to the WCA By Laws having been previously distributed to the membership, a motion was made to approve the amendments as provided was made and seconded. Diana Arney noted that Roberts Rules of Order requires that each amendment be voted on individually. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the individual bylaws as proposed. The President declared the amendments as passed into the WCA bylaws.

The President reported that a letter to reduce the speed limit on Clarke's Gap Road to 35 miles per hour had been sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) but no reply has yet been received.

### New Business -

Treasurer Steve Rubin provided copies of the proposed 2001 WCA budget .It showed comparisons for each of the various income and expense categories by year since 1997. He noted that, as a result of the WCA's new nonprofit status, a one-time new income entry in 2001 was for tax refunds for the prior 3 years. To date, 3 checks totaling \$850.55 have been received from IRS. Still outstanding is the refund from the State of Virginia for the last 3 years.

Jim Behan stated dues for the calendar year 2001 will be payable after this meeting; and that those who haven't paid by next meeting will be ineligible to vote. He reviewed the new categories of membership and the number of votes allotted per category as follows:

Household dues of \$20.00 entitle a family within the designated Waterford area to 2 votes. An individual membership for residents within the designated area at \$10.00 entitles the member to a single vote. A youth membership, which has no dues, is not entitled to a vote. Businesses within the designated Waterford area are entitled to one vote upon payment of **\$50** dues. The new category of Non-profit organizations with dues of \$20 entitles the holder to a single vote. Associate members include those individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations outside the designated Waterford area. These members are entitled to all the rights and privileges of regular members, except that they may not vote at regular WCA business meetings.

It was suggested that with the considerable number of new families moving into the local areas, the WCA should pursue recruitment of new members. The new phone directory is expected to contribute to the enrollment of new members. Revenue from the WCA Barbecue at the Waterford Fair in October 2000 was down from 2000 revenues, primarily due to vendor insufficient supplies. Revenue from the T-shirts sold in 1999 was \$1500; and a profit was realized; however 2000 revenues from Waterford caps didn't meet revenue projections; and costs were higher. Sales of caps this year will go to this year's bottom line - current sales efforts are underway.

Expenses were fairly consistent over the last several years. These included a \$100 proposed gift to Sandy Sitka at her retirement., a smaller donation to the Waterford Foundation than in previous years, and an increase in the WCA donation to the Loudoun Fire & Rescue Squad, in recognition of their unflinching support during the WCA's July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks. New this year is a contribution to the Catocin Conservation District Association of \$250. As usual, the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities constitute the Association's biggest expense. Costs for the new Waterford Telephone Directory, to be published this summer, are projected at \$1.73 per copy, for a run of 150. A new item - Youth Activities - has also been funded for 2001. Due to the revised status of the WCA as a nonprofit entity, an allocation for taxes is no longer required. A correction to the assets shown as of December 31 2000 from \$11,867 to of \$10,867 was noted. A detailed copy of the 2001 budget is attached to the minutes of this meeting. It was noted that the budget might require adjustments later in the year.

Discussion on the budget ensued on ways in which to improve WCA finances, in light of increased costs. Kathleen Hughes suggested selling advertising space to companies who do business with Waterford residents, such as Loudoun Mutual Insurance and possibly the Texaco station. It was noted that the first edition of the Phone Directory increased membership by more than 100%. The Ways and Means Committee is currently soliciting ideas from members for ways in which to increase income. Diana Arney stated that the directory should not include non-Waterford businesses, nor accept any advertisements. Paul Rose

Suggested that businesses making donations and/or joining the WCA be given special recognition in the Directory, either with an ad or with copies of the Directory itself. It was noted that a number of individuals listed in the current directory have unlisted phone numbers as well as email addresses that appear in the Directory, which they might be reluctant to have made available to businesses.

Ed Lehmann noted that a mailing will go to all 20197 addresses asking if they want to be in the book, and asking if they also wish to renew and/or become WCA members. It is the listee's option to include or not include specific information in the listing in the Directory.

Nick Ratcliffe commented that the WCA's role should go beyond focusing on funding of the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities, and commended the WCA for establishing a new Committee for Youth Activities and for making a contribution to the Loudoun Lacrosse team and supporting that group at its inception 8 years ago.

**(NOTE: WCA has always had a Youth Activities Committee, are you sure Nick said "new" committee?)**

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the 2001 budget as presented.

With respect to inclusion of non-Waterford residents in the upcoming new edition of the directory, discussion ensued as to how to deal with Paonian Springs members who either (a) have children going to

school, (b) attend local churches, or (c) fall under both. It was proposed that these groups fall within the category of Associate members. Motion was made, seconded and approved to designate these as eligible for Associate membership, with all the rights and privileges of regular members, except for the right to vote. It was noted that the boundaries of the Waterford zip code of 20197 extend to such as areas Stumptown and Taylorstown. These do not match the boundaries as established for the Waterford elementary school. The elementary school boundaries, in turn, do not match that area defined as the Waterford area in the WCA Bylaws. Motion was made by Bob Jackson, seconded by Kathleen Hughes, and pass unanimously that the WCA Board review and determine which boundaries should apply for the purpose of distinguishing between regular and associate membership eligibility. Jim Behan noted that there are former residents of Waterford who would like to continue to receive news & be members of the community, and that this factor should be part of the Directors' discussions

July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee Linda Brock introduced Diana & Terry Arney, Evelyn Godfrey, and B McConnell as additional members. A meeting of the Committee is scheduled for March 12. A request was made for new volunteers to participate, with the view to take over from current volunteers.

Fundraising -Bern O'Dell reported that a form had been sent to the WCA membership via email, with additional copies made available at this meeting, to solicit ideas for fundraising activities. He urged individuals to return their suggestions to him as early as possible to allow the Committee to proceed with prioritizing its initiatives. In the meantime, the remaining Waterford caps were being made available at \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

Streets - Eric Breitreuz, reporting for Ed Good, who was unable to attend this meeting, stated that good progress was being made. - We have placed ourselves on the 6-year secondary road plan for the county as VDOT had proposed, although we are on the periphery of the plan's priorities. Sally Kurtz has been made aware of our interests. A request has been made to the Loudoun Board of Supervisors (BOS) for \$95,000 to serve as leveraging funds that would release an additional \$375,000 in State funds for-road engineering, burying of wires, traffic calming measures and related activities. Loudoun County staff has recommended approval of the amount requested to the BOS for its 2001 budget.

A meeting has been set up with Senator Warner & Representative Wolf for next Wednesday, March 7, to argue for Federal funding for an additional \$7million. The request for federal funding program focused on land use initiatives, and is timed to coincide with the Catocin Conservation District Association and the Waterford Foundation's own initiatives; in essence, a 3 pronged approach. Eric emphasized that it was critical to have county support if the requests for additional funding are to be successful even in part. Jim Behan thanked Eric and the Waterford Foundation for its leadership and for the fine job done at the recent BOS meeting.

Water & Sewer -

Chairman Paul Rose stated that there was nothing new to report at present. Our most critical period is coming up. The Loudoun Department of Health has a good mechanism in place for getting flow rates on each well drilled; however, it suffers from a lack of funding & staff needed to enter rate data on maps, and other relevant documents. The Committee is looking for suggestions as to what we can do. Kathleen Hughes asked whether the Committee could look into what the comprehensive county plan contains with respect to Waterford. Paul Rose noted that the plan cuts down on development and on wells, but critics of the plan. **(remove period)** want proof of the negative impact that greater development would have. Neil Hughes commented that in a letter from the Waterford Foundation to the Planning Board, it stated that a proposed plan for clustered wells is not feasible and not appropriate development. A question was raised with respect to possibly uncapped wells on the Huntley property, and the potential for contamination. Also of concern were safety issues with respect to such open hole. Paul Rose indicated he believed that temporary caps have been put on; however, he will check.

Youth Activities - Ken Dunn was unable to attend the meeting. There was nothing new to report.

Beautification Committee. Jeff Bean was unable to attend the meeting. Jim Behan reported that a comprehensive tree placement plan is currently in development. Tree #106 in a VDOT map of 1976, which

stands in front of Nick and Kathie Ratcliffe's house on Second Street is marginally within the VDOT right of way. It was severely damaged in a recent storm, and was in danger of falling. VDOT is not aware of the existence of the map. Some trees on the VDOT map lie outside property lines but also outside VDOT right of way, in a sort of 'no man's land'. Most of the trees in Waterford are in that category. According to Jim Behan, VDOT is reluctant to do anything with respect to trees in this group unless both the WCA & the WFI agree. This position functions as a safeguard to prevent property owners cutting down trees not actually on their own property as well as complaints by neighbors about trees being cut down. If WCA abrogates any responsibility for trees, VDOT can do as they wish with those trees. The question arose as to what is the liability of the property owner (WCA?) if a tree damages property? Examination of the tree in front of the Ratcliffe house by a VDOT arborist confirmed that the tree should come down. Nick Ratcliffe requested that WCA write a letter as early as possible asking that the tree be cut down. VDOT is awaiting such a letter before proceeding on any action. He reported that the VDOT arborist has agreed to talk to the WCA about how they assess trees for trimming/cutting down. The WFI has already written its approval to VDOT. Kathleen Hughes suggested that the Beautification Committee develop a form to petition for the removal of trees and related beautification activities. Motion was made by Ed Good (**Ed Good was not at meeting, might have been Nick. If not sure recommend you don't mention name.**), seconded and passed unanimously that the WCA Board establish a policy and render decisions based on that policy.

Land Use - Kathleen Hughes reported on a new organization recently formed, the Catoclin Conservation District Association (CCDA). CCDA already has a charter, officers, committees, and a web site: [catoclinedistrict.org](http://catoclinedistrict.org), to which WCA members are referred for further information. The CCDA charter is focused on land conservation and functions in a manner similar to other such organizations already in existence. Presentations have already been made to the towns of Purcellville, Lovettsville, Taylorstown, and Paonian Springs, and will shortly be addressing the Hamilton Town Council and the Lincoln Preservation Group. Membership in the CCDA is open to all with an interest in land conservation within the Catoclin area. Copies of a letter to the Washington Post defining the association's role were made available to the members. The CCDA will meet on 28 February with Supervisor Sally Kurtz to formulate language to request a grant for the CCDA similar to a \$20,000 recent grant to the Goose Creek Conservation District to write an ordinance.

Kathleen also reported on additional development taking place in the Waterford area. The WFI (**What is "I" in WFI, most folks just abbreviate it as WF.**) is working on the division and sale of the Carr property, which it had previously purchased. In addition, the Firestone property on Loyalty Road will be subdivided into multiple 25-acre lots. The Loudoun Defense Fund (LDF) has been formed as a coalition of all neighborhood groups that are concerned about continued land development initiatives, and is reaching out to citizens concerned about development in Loudoun both east and west. The group is collecting monies for the purpose of possibly filing suit against the county for waiving requirements re nitrates levels, septic tank installations, and other environmentally sensitive issues.

Kathleen Hughes is on a steering committee to develop an inventory of groups concerned with uncontrolled growth. Resources and advice from various constituent groups. (ex. Waterford, for historic properties issues, etc.) are sought for the purpose of developing information on the fiscal impact of development & communicating it to taxpayers. Kathleen requested that the WCA lend its name to the support the LDF. President Behan requested that a mission statement of the LDF be made available. Kathleen agreed to provide it as soon as possible.

Terry Arney noted that there presently is little or no county oversight on development sites with respect to slope, water recharge, or groundwater availability, all of which are critical to existing homes and farms.

Barbecue - Chet Gibson reported some disappointment with current vendor last 2 years. He is seeking possible new vendors for next October.

#### Other business

Edith Crockett reported on the formation of the Waterford Gardener's Club, which expected to hold a combination of daytime and evening functions to maximize area residents' ability to participate.

Evelyn Godfrey reported on preparations in progress for the retirement - potluck supper 1 March for Sandy Skyta, **(was it Sitka?)** the Waterford postmistress. Help was requested to set up tables for the potluck at the end of this meeting. A well-organized and energetic group is coordinating activities related to the party. Paul Rose noted that response to a request for donations for a gift for Sandy had been very gratifying, and that donations were still being accepted.

Peter Buck asked that the WCA take a look at Church St, which is not maintained by VDOT, but is considered a right of way. Excessive traffic on the street has created problems for homes on the street, including standing water when it rains. It was agreed that the Streets Committee should review it. Paul Rose asked to be on the task force, since he already has considerable knowledge about this issue, which is not new.

Jim Behan agreed to send an email and letter of support to the Loudoun BOS on behalf of the CCDA's forthcoming grant request. He also thanked Bob Jackson for his heroic and successful efforts to get refunds from the IRS for the last 3 years.

A motion was made by Bern O'Dell, seconded and passed to adjourn. The meeting was formally adjourned by President Behan at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith Crockett, Secretary  
Waterford Citizens' Association  
16 May 2001