

WCA Annual Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by President Ed Good. There were 22 in attendance, including 3 officers.

Meeting agenda, 2012 proposed budget, and previous meeting minutes provided.

Paul Brown with Loudoun County Department of Construction attended meeting to brief membership regarding SAFTEA-LU grant. Prior to briefing, Mark Denicore gave overview of proposed project. Grant money currently designated for a walking path to give safe passage to students and community members to walk to Waterford Elementary School and the reverse trip into the historic village of Waterford. Paul Brown informed the membership that the WCA has 30 days to write a letter of intent for the grant money. There is approximately \$102,000 available.

The WCA has three options as outlined by Mr. Brown regarding the grant:

1. Proceed immediately with specified project. The project may not be started if project cannot be guaranteed to finish within said budget.
2. The WCA determines that the project cannot be started or finished, therefore, the money will be returned to the County to be reassigned to another SAFTEA-LU project within the county or given back to the Federal government.
3. Contact the County in writing to recommend a redistribution of the the funds to keep the grant money within the Waterford community. This redistribution of funds needs to be approved by the County.

Nick Ratcliffe inquired about a list of grant awardees in Loudoun to see if unused grant money could be diverted to Waterford. Mr. Brown noted that he would send a list of awardees and their proposed grants to WCA President, Ed Good. He also suggested that the WCA contact Supervisor Gary Higgins regarding the grant diversion from other towns/villages in Loudoun, most specifically noted was Taylorstown. Also of note, SAFTEA-LU grant money can only be transferred to other SAFTEA-LU projects.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written for the 17 November 2011 WCA membership meeting. The motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: provided by Mark Denicore in the absence of current treasurer Betsy Gibson. 2012 budget based largely on 2011 budget. 2012 budget is projected to overrun available funds secondary to reduced profits from WCA BBQ booth and reduced payment of dues to WCA. No questions over budget. Acceptance of 2012 budget was made, seconded and approved.

Ed Good noted there were six committee chairs being filled by officers that he is hopeful to see filled by other community volunteers. Sheet provided for sign-ups. Open chairs for: Audit, Environmental, Fundraising, Cooperative, Special Events, and Streets. Sharon Knipmeyer named to Special Events chair. Later in meeting Mark Denicore named to Streets. Thank you to Sharon and Mark! Four still open.

Nick Ratcliffe, Beautification Committee Chair, noted that “Keep Loudoun Beautiful” will be sponsoring its annual clean up in the Spring. Mark Denicore inquired if clean up could be scheduled earlier in the year to be more effective for the village. Mr. Ratcliffe asked that anyone with ideas for locations for new or replacement trees contact him directly and he would graciously accept any and all help on the Beautification Committee.

The member pages of the WCA website (www.waterfordcitizens.org) can be accessed by:

username: wca
password: wca2011

Old Business:

1. Proposed Bylaw Amendment-Definition of Members:

- (6) Any Individual Adult Member, Household Member, or Individual Youth Member who loses, or has lost, eligibility for membership because of a change in residence or a change in the definition of “Waterford Area” under Section 2 may continue to be a voting member in good standing by continuing to pay annual dues for the respective membership.

Motion for vote made and approved. Bylaw Amendment Change passed 16 to 5.

2. Vandalism reported in the Village, specifically damage to the Wohlfiel’s car, street signs taken from High Street and others, and a copper downspout was stolen. Discussion over possible Neighborhood Watch program. At the least, we must remain vigilant and talk about the vandalism to raise awareness.

3. Need to increase membership in the WCA. Discussion involving a WCA Social and membership mailing to solicit new and old members. There will be an Open House at the Old School on April 28th from 1-3pm. The Foundation has offered the WCA a table to host a Meet and Greet at that time.

New Business:

1. SAFETEA-LU Grant discussion. Mark Denicore provided information for an alternate route for the walking path. This path would go up Bond Street and tie in to the back of the Elementary School. It was noted that there was a possibility for donation of trail easements from land owners to make path possible. Motion made and seconded that the President of the WCA will write a letter of intent to Supervisor Higgins that the WCA intends to use the grant funds for its intended purpose and to ask for assistance in diverting Taylorstown grant funds to Waterford. The President of the WCA will also approach Taylorstown to ask them to recommend Waterford receive their unused SAFETEA-LU grant money for our project. Motion passed. Mark Denicore and Joe Keating to assist with this process and Mark Denicore named to Streets Committee.

Second motion made for the President to formally contact the Foundation for permission to use the land needed to create walking path to school. Motion passed.

2. Lyceum Events noted for January 29th and February 26th on Preserving Exteriors and Interiors of Historic Homes. The event for Hearth Cooking on Feb. 12 is full. Please direct further questions to Sherry Satin.

3. Internet Access:

Waterford Telephone Company scheduled for a "go live" date of April 1st. See website for updates at: waterfordtelephonecompany.com

John Anderson, resident of Waterford Ridge, spoke about a second high speed internet option from Comcast. He is hoping to increase interest in their services so that Comcast will be more interested in servicing this area. He is asking for WCA support to get the word out that this would be another option that had three upsides:

- a. Residents could remove their satellite dishes from their homes
- b. Comcast services (TV, phone, internet) would likely be less expensive than current provider.
- c. Increase real estate values secondary to improved internet access.

Sharon Knipmeyer has agreed to be the Point of Contact for the WCA on this opportunity.

WCA has agreed to send an email to membership notifying everyone of the possibility of Comcast service with contact information for John Anderson.

4. Books on CD Lending Program to be run by Susan Rogers. 80+ titles available. She hopes to set it up on side porch for easy accessibility.
5. A letter from the Waterford Foundation was sent to Ed Good regarding amendments to the easements on Foundation properties. An excerpt was read by Mr. Good:

"During committee discussions in the past eight months, the Land Use Committee developed a proposal for an easement amendment process that incorporates public input. This proposal was approved by the board of directors at the meeting on January 17, 2012. It provides for an informational meeting with the public and review of both the original easement and a redline version for the proposed amendment. Written comments submitted electronically to the Foundation will be reviewed by the Land Use Committee, which will subsequently prepare a report and recommendations for board consideration."

The next meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2012 at the John Wesley Church at 1930 hours and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Malone