

WCA Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2013

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

username: wca
password: waterford12

Meeting called to order by President Ed Good @ 1930. 22 people in attendance, 3 officers

September 2013 meeting agenda provided to membership, along with current amended budget prepared by Treasurer Betsy Gibson.

Motion made and passed to approve prior meeting minutes as posted on WCA website.

Treasurer's Report:

Amendment made to include \$600 budget increase for tree planting. Nick Ratcliffe clarified that the \$200 reflected in the budget was only a piece of the total \$600. \$300 from the insurance company, \$100 from KLB, and the \$200 from the WCA budget.

Committee Reports:

1. Beautification: Nick Ratcliffe

WCA President, Ed Good, wrote a letter to the VDHR in follow up from an approved motion made at May meeting. The content of the letter addressed eased lands in and around the Village and the request from the WCA that the VDHR routinely inform the President of the WCA of any plans to amend open-space easements that the VDHR holds or may hold on any properties within the Waterford Historic District. Mr. Ratcliffe gave an update regarding the current outcome of letter and the letter was included for review by membership. Summary of letter is that the VDHR notified the WCA that all proposed easements and amendments to existing easements are considered at the quarterly public meetings of VDHR and we can keep ourselves informed by consulting their website of www.DHR.virginia.gov one month prior to their quarterly meetings held in March, June, September, and December to determine whether the Board will consider any business pertaining to the Waterford Historic District.

Conservation easement meeting held at Loudoun Mutual last night to discuss what a 'conservation easement' is, how to apply for it and complete discussion of tax incentives for conservation easements. These easements are typically done for properties greater than 20 acres, but the County will work with smaller lots and more then willing to discuss the options and incentives that are pertinent to those smaller lots.

Tree planting is scheduled for the Saturday, November 30 and Saturday, December 7th. Paying approx \$50/tree, mostly native species trees. About 6 spots in village designated. This will use every penny from the \$600. Please contribute shovels and such for the endeavor and contact Nick Ratcliffe for more information.

No other Committee Chairs present.

Old Business:

1. Waterford Alley Meeting:

Jeff Bean presented updates from August alley meeting held at the Old School. It was a good meeting, county wants to work with us, and want the alley issue to get straightened out. Want us to take the initiative with our neighbors. Jeff's advice was to think long term about how these decisions will affect those coming in the future. We have a unique opportunity now to do this right the first time and get it legally documented. Jeff discussed that particularly the "Newtown" surveys are relatively accurate and those records are intact. We can go to the courthouse and do title research and find out if you have an alley on your property. Encouraged all to think about public safety first b/f closing an alley and have a fire assessment done first. To abandon an alley there is a simple form, an agreement must be made with alley neighbor (if one says no, case is over), then fill out a form, there will be notice of public hearing and then Board of Supervisors votes. Neighbors must agree where the property line is and then the deed will no longer show alley and reflect the new property designations. The County would like to batch these together, but there is no deadline. Can be done now and in the future.

Nick requests that Jack Roberts (?) give Ed a couple of sample alley forms to see what information is needed.

New Business:

1. WF - WCA Christmas Event:

Ken Rosenfeld introduced Amy Smith who presented the idea of a joint Christmas event this year. Amy acknowledged the help of Mary Kennesson and Sherry Satin in this endeavor. Would like to schedule the event for December 15th, 3-6pm. Many ideas highlighting the Village such as a Christmas reading in the John Wesley Church, and the ornament decorating event for kids. Would like to reach out to the PTO at Waterford as well as coordinate with Laura Shaw and Jeff Bean for their annual caroling event also at the JW Church. Event for the residents of Waterford, but also to attract an outside crowd as well. Motion made and approved to have joint event for Christmas in Waterford.

2. Nominating Committee Report presented by Sherry Satin.

WCA nominees are Liz Hale for President, Annie Good for VP, Betsy Gibson for Treasurer, and Caroline Malone for Secretary.

3. Nominations from the Floor:

No nominations from the floor. Slate to be voted upon at December 5th meeting

4. Appointment of Officers of Election:

Jeff Bean and Bob Jackson

5. BBQ Booth from Dave Parker:

We are working with Mr. B again this year. Still a big push to fill volunteer slots to staff the booth. Thank you to all volunteers to date. We are 2/3 way there, need more! Please contact Dave for Saturday and Sunday to help out in particular. Email Dave Parker to help.

6. Traffic and Parking Report from County Officials:

Many complaints from outside the village have been registered with the County regarding parking and traffic inside the village. County officers and Sheriff's officials have responded. An inspection was done within the village. Some violations noted. Officer Lopreto present at the meeting and noted findings in a document attached to the agenda. One of the biggest offenses was parking the wrong way in front of your house or a place of business, such as the Post Office. The recommendation is to cooperate by simply parking the right way, especially in front of the post office. There is no parking next to a yellow curb, no parking on sidewalks, these are for everyone's safety. Please keep parked car out of the intersection b/w Main and Second St. These recommendations from the County and Sheriff's office will be sent out to WCA membership to inform us of the rules that the local law enforcement will be operating on. Please recognize these officials are trying to help our community and work with us, not punish us.

7. Chesnut Tree Project - Presented by Nick Ratcliffe

Mr. Ratcliffe presented on behalf of Bill Hunley, who has a passion to restore the American Chestnut trees to our local forests. Bill attended a Beautification committee meeting to initiate a campaign to reforest the chestnuts around Waterford. This would be a joint project b/w WF and WCA to purchase the trees. The trees are 15/16 American Chestnut and 1/16 Chinese Chestnut. This 1/16 seems to be enough for the tree to survive the blight and give the tree the opportunity to reforest. The American Chestnut Society is committed to reforesting and will be monitoring the process. They will survey trees that have been planted and collect the nuts from those that are thriving in Waterford. This will, in theory, establish a hardier specimen for propagation. WF has agreed to provide the land, soil tests are being done to see where the best spots are to locate the trees. WCA to come up with funding for project. Cost is \$300 for 4 trees. We would like 8 trees. This is equal to 2 subscriptions to American Chestnut Society. Mr.

Ratcliffe is hoping individuals will come forward to sponsor. Mr. Ratcliffe and Mr. Jeff Bean volunteered to sponsor one membership each. Private individuals can also sponsor this. Contact Nick Ratcliffe if you are interested in supporting this project. Kathleen Hughes also mentioned Loudoun's conservation efforts of monarchs.

1. Welcome Bob Schmidt and Melissa Sutton, relative new members to community.
2. Meeting adjourned 8:30

Next Meeting: December 5, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Malone
WCA Secretary