

## **Waterford Citizens Association Minutes of the 1st Quarter 2020 Regular Meeting**

The first quarter regular meeting of the Waterford Citizens Association (WCA) was held January 23, 2020 at the Old School. A potluck social began at 6:30 p.m. and shortly after 7:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Ray Daffner, WCA President, who also chaired the meeting. A signup sheet was passed and reviewed by the Secretary, Carol Smoots, who confirmed a quorum was present.

### **AGENDA**

The Agenda, draft minutes from the 4th quarter regular meeting and various Committee reports for the Social Committee and WCA 2020 Budget were distributed and will be attached to these Minutes.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

The officers for 2020 were introduced: Ray Daffner, President, Jill Kadish, Vice President, Betsy Gibson, Treasurer and Carol Smoots, Secretary. Each provided a brief summary of their background and goals for WCA. President Daffner and all of the Officers joined in thanking the outgoing Officers for their service: Christy Hertel, President, Tim McGinn, Vice President and Richard Rogers, Secretary and Treasurer. The attendees applauded the outgoing Board for their excellent service.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Carol Smoots, Secretary, presented the draft minutes for the fourth quarter 2019 meeting, attached. A Motion to adopt the minutes as drafted was made and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT AND EVENT UPDATES**

**TRAFFIC:** Meredith Imwalle, Chair, reviewed Committee activities and in particular reported on the meeting with the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held on January 21, 2020. This meeting considered traffic problems in the Village and the Supervisors voted on a proposal to address them. Meredith noted that in addition to her presentation, a number of citizens from Waterford addressed the BOS, explaining the Village's traffic issues and proposing solutions. It was noted that a large percentage of Village residents attended the BOS meeting to add their input and support, and that the "crowd" was commented on favorably by several BOS members.

To audience applause Meredith reported that the BOS approved, by unanimous vote, a proposal to place electronic traffic speed signaling devices at the three entry points to Waterford and to study and implement additional traffic calming measures over the coming months.

Further, Meredith reported that Loudoun County staff committed to the BOS that a full study of traffic calming and safety options for the Village would be prepared and presented for

their consideration in the summer of 2020. Additionally, the BOS unanimously voted to also study options for constructing a road to bypass the Village. County staff agreed to have the bypass study prepared in time for consideration at a fall, 2020 BOS meeting. Meredith and Committee member Mary Sheehan confirmed they would be working with County staff on the traffic studies and traffic calming measures. Meredith and Mary also noted the Committee is seeking funding from the WCA (discussed further below) to place larger signs at each of the Village entry points, providing better notice of the speed limit and making it clear that Waterford is a National Historic Landmark, a unique and highly prized designation. Meredith stated that one goal of the new and larger signage is to help motorists better understand the importance of Waterford to the County and Nation and to therefore drive more slowly and with more care on our streets. Richard Rogers noted that a great deal of time and effort had gone into the design of the new signs.

Ray and the Board then presented Meredith and Mary with bouquets of flowers as a thank you for their extraordinary efforts and excellent results in finally getting the BOS to approve traffic calming funding, and for undertaking other traffic improvements in the Village. The meeting attendees gave Meredith and Mary an ovation as well.

There was further member discussion concerning what the new signage would look like and what specific changes to Village roads and bypass options would be presented to the County. President Daffner asked that a full discussion of the bypass topic be postponed and said a special meeting would be called in the future to discuss bypass options and other traffic pattern changes/improvements. Ray clarified that if the budget item concerning the new signage was approved, then the Committee would be authorized to purchase the signs. Meredith and Mary assured attendees that sign design would be reviewed by the membership before the signs are ordered. Additionally Meredith and Mary informed members that no major road changes would be recommended by the Committee to the County unless a substantial majority of the membership approved of the proposal.

#### UPDATES:

##### 1. Loudoun Historic Villages Alliance

Jill Kadish introduced Madeline Skinner, leader of the Loudoun Historical Villages Alliance, and affirmed that the WCA will continue to play a part in the work of this informal alliance of historic villages. The purpose of the Alliance is to give all smaller historic communities in our area a higher visibility and greater voice before State and local leaders. Jill noted that Richard Rogers would continue to represent Waterford on the Alliance. Richard affirmed his willingness to do this. Ms. Skinner thanked the WCA for its participation, noted there are currently 12 towns and communities that are members, and stressed that the Alliance has given all these communities a far more effective voice in the development of the County's Comprehensive Plan and before the BOS on a wide range of issues. Ms. Skinner said the Alliance is working to add additional historic communities and towns and to work with County staff and leaders on zoning issues and on further revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Skinner pointed out that the Alliance is an informal organization working to advance common interests, with each member village working on issues specific to their community. Finally Ms. Skinner

noted they are also compiling a lot of historical data and research on member communities and hope to turn this material over to the County library so it remains an accessible public resource.

## 2. Corner Store

Sarah Holloway provided a report of changes at the Corner Store. She noted that her business partner Cathy has moved out of the community so she will be continuing her work at the Store alone. Presently Sarah plans to start serving coffee and pastry at the Store beginning on March 1st and hopes to soon thereafter add further enhancements, including possibly a lending library. The Corner Store will continue to sell local crafts and local products. Sarah added that she is also talking with the ABC about possibly obtaining a license to serve beer and wine at the Store. The attendees applauded her plans to serve beverages and food items. At the suggestion of Ann Belland, Sarah said she would be happy to add books and brochures on Waterford history to the Store.

## 3. Waterford Foundation

Stephanie Thompson provided a report on developments at the Foundation. She noted they are actively seeking more volunteers for many Foundation activities, including help at the Second Street School, cataloging donated items and advancing improvement projects at the Mill. Stephanie alerted members to two important upcoming dates: a retirement party honoring Margaret Good for her excellent service to the Foundation and community, to be held January 31st, and an all community meeting on February 6th to provide an update on Foundation financial challenges. Stephanie said she hoped as many people as possible will attend both events and in particular the February 6th meeting since it will affect the entire community. She added that the Foundation needs to make material changes in order to meet its financial obligations. Finally, Stephanie provided a brief update on planned renovations at the Mill. She noted that the Foundation is working with the County on Mill renovation issues.

## 4. Introduction

The Chairman introduced Reverend David Douthett to the attendees and asked him to provide a little background information on himself and his Church. The Reverend has been the Minister of the Catoctin Presbyterian Church here in the Village for over 16 years. He noted the important role the Church has played in this community for many decades and welcomed all to attend. The audience provided a warm greeting.

## ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE:** Jill Kadish, Social Committee Chair, provided an update on recent activities and planned events. She added that a more complete summary of committee activities was available at the back of the meeting room (attached). Jill summarized that the Committee has already held several popular, well attended social events, including a village-wide social, pop up pub and coffee hour in the Corner Store. Jill said the Committee plans to hold a spring social, more community coffee hours and other events aimed at getting Village residents together in an informal social setting at least once each season. The Committee also wants to provide more advance notice of events so attendance at the events remains high. Several

attendees complimented Jill and the Committee for planning and hosting all these enjoyable events.

Jill also provided an update on planned fundraising events in order to raise additional revenue for WCA projects and activities. A central item of discussion concerned the annual food stand that is sponsored and staffed by WCA members at the Waterford Festival. Jill said she wants to put a group of members together to consider options for the food stand for the 2020 Festival in order to enhance WCA revenues. She invited interested members to participate and asked them to [contact her](#)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Ed Lehman led a discussion on how to encourage more residents to join the WCA. Ed said he planned to send a notice to everyone with a Waterford zip code inviting them to join and participate in the WCA. He noted this has not been done for two years. Ed also discussed further improvements in the WCA database, confirming he now has an email for almost everyone living in the Village. There was a discussion of possibly going door to door to talk directly with people who are not currently WCA members in order to encourage them to join.

Ed also noted that for members to access the non public portions of the WCA website, they need to enter the user name “members” and then the password: 20197 Waterford. He encouraged everyone to review this information.

The Chair noted that Ed has had to do most of this Committee’s work alone and invited others to join the Committee.

#### **WATER SUBCOMMITTEE:**

Mark Sullivan, Chair, provided an update of Subcommittee activities and plans. He noted the Water Subcommittee has a web page that is now available. It provides a status update, resources and background information. Mark reported he has participated in meetings with the County, Loudoun Water, the Village Water Coordinators, led by Mike Stup and Sharyn Franck in order to assist with the feasibility study the County/Loudoun Water will be conducting. One of the issues he discussed concerned broadening the scope of the County Water Feasibility Study to include more of the Village, specifically all property within the existing sewer district. Mark reported that discussions on this issue were ongoing but no decision has been made. Mike Stup added the perspective of the Water Coordinators. Mike asked how we could even vote as a community to possibly do a study that includes all of the homes in the sewer district, adding it could take 12 to 18 months to complete such a large scale feasibility study, and approximately one year thereafter for discussion of the results. This would mean two to three years before any proposed decision could go before the BOS.

Christy Hertel asked Mark if the Water Subcommittee had started door to door canvassing yet. Mark said no, they are waiting for more information from the County and Loudoun Water before beginning that activity. He said the Water Subcommittee is currently in an information gathering mode. Nick Ratcliff commented that several years ago the WCA decided it would not be a decision making body on water issues and asked if Mark’s group was trying to change that decision. Mark said no, the Subcommittee is only working on a framework

for everyone in the Village to provide their views. Mark added they are currently working on two upcoming informational meetings: one to look at financing for public water, which Ray Daffner plans to conduct, and then a meeting to discuss how water issues may affect vacant lots and future land development in the Village, which Paul Rastas will conduct.

No dates were provided but Sharyn Franck, Mike and Mark said they would be happy to conduct a special meeting to update everyone on water issue developments as they unfold.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE;** Nick Ratcliff, Chair, provided an update on Committee plans for 2020. He said they had the same plan as last year; tree planting will remain the key priority. Planting more American Chestnut trees will continue and work on clearing out drainage ditches in the Village is a necessary activity they are working on as well. Nick requested more volunteers for the Committee, adding they particularly need people who can handle a shovel and do physical work. The Committee also wants to do more sidewalk improvements this year and will make some money available to residents to encourage repairs to the sidewalks in front of their property. Nick added that next year the Committee wants to work on fixing the drainage problems on lower Main Street and will be seeking matching funds for this work from the County, as well as funding from homeowners and others.

**EVENTS COMMITTEE:** Ann Belland, Chair, announced that in addition to sponsoring the annual July 4th Celebration, the Events Committee plans to host an Easter egg hunt this year. The hunt will be held on the Loudoun County Mutual green. Ann provided pictures of Easter egg hunts that WCA has sponsored in the past and said she was happy to bring back an event so enjoyed by Village families in the past. Ann complimented Loudoun Mutual for their offer to make land available for the egg hunt.

On another topic, Ann handed out a letter to the WCA from Loudoun Mutual that described a meeting to be held at their offices on January 29th in order to discuss a zoning change application the company has filed with the County. Copies of the letter were distributed.

**PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:** Ray Daffner said that it was recently suggested by Ann Belland that the WCA restart the Preservation Committee. Ray noted that he supported this proposal and asked for volunteers to chair the Committee and for others to join as participants. Ann stated that in the past this Committee had been helpful in providing background information on Waterford historic resources to other groups, worked on open space preservation, educated residents on the value and meaning of Village buildings and land and provided speakers for seminars. Those interested in serving on this Committee were requested to contact Ray or Jill.

**BUDGET:** Betsy Gibson, Treasurer, provided the proposed budget for 2020, copy attached. Betsy said she also keeps track of monies not used by committees in the prior year and which are carried forward to 2020. She noted that expenditures for fireworks for the July 4th celebration and for cemetery upkeep and improvements are tracked separately. Betsy summarized the budget and noted that the proposed budget for 2020 was providing more money than is currently projected to come in as revenue in 2020, resulting in a budget shortfall. This is primarily due to costs exceeding revenues from last year's food stand at the Waterford Festival

and one time expenditures by the Traffic Committee to add new, larger signs at the Village entrances and for a new sign on the Bond street meadow providing historical information on that space. Betsy explained that the WCA currently has uncommitted money in the bank, which can more than cover all budgeted expenditures. She added the WCA also has a “rainy day” fund of \$10,000, in the form of two CDs, but clarified that the planned budget would not need to tap this fund. There was participant discussion on the budget and whether a special fundraising initiative was needed for the new signage. Richard Rogers noted we have more than \$9,000 in the bank, (plus the CDs), so it is not a cash flow concern. Mary Sheehan said the Traffic Committee feels it is important to build on the momentum provided by the BOS funding of street improvements by adding the signs this year; that this timing is important.

The participants also discussed the fact that the proposed budget did not currently include the \$500 contribution that WCA has in prior years provided for 4th of July celebration firework purchases. Betsy noted this was an oversight.

There was further discussion whether the extra funding sought by the Traffic Committee for both the traffic related signs, as well as the historical sign purchase also included in the Traffic Committee budget, should be approved or separately considered at a later meeting. The sense of the participants was that all of the funds should be provided as budgeted.

After further member discussion of the budget, Carol Smoots offered a Motion to approve the 2020 budget as presented by Betsy, with an amendment to add \$500 for the fireworks contribution. This Motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the members on a voice vote.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

There was additional discussion of the Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company application to the County for a zoning change from a residential to a commercial zoning designation for its current location. No decision was made concerning this matter but the upcoming meeting the company plans to hold with the community was noted and it was recommended by many that residents should plan to attend. Jeff Bean, in particular, spoke in favor of the Loudoun Mutual initiative and noted the Company’s importance and value to this community.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED

Carol Smoots, Secretary

February 9, 2020