

Waterford Citizens Association

Minutes of the 3rd Quarter 2020 Regular Meeting

Date/Time: September 24, 2020, 7:30pm-9:00pm

Location: Video conference call hosted on Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Ray Daffner, WCA President, who chaired the meeting. A quorum was present.

Agenda. The agenda was presented and reviewed.

Officers Update and Approval of previous meeting minutes.

Ray noted that there are now three WCA Officers, as one Officer has resigned. Betsy Gibson is now serving, per the Bylaws, as both Treasurer and Secretary.

Jill Kadish, Vice President, presented the draft minutes for the April 23, 2nd quarter meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as drafted was made. Ray Daffner seconded the motion and confirmed by voice vote. No objections were made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Brown's Lane update. A +400 acre property on Browns Lane was listed for sale, and could be developed with +80 houses. The Waterford Foundation and the WCA Preservation Committee have been working on actions to promote a more suitable conservation outcome for our community. The Waterford Foundation has sent a letter to the property owner, the Dioceses of Arlington, and the WCA also sent a letter encouraging appropriate development on the parcel. [Link to letter here](#). The letter provides details on the history of the property, which was deeded to the Dioceses. Ray Daffner thanked Mary Sheehan and team for their outreach to the Archbishop of Arlington regarding the potential sale. A response from the Archbishop was received by Ray Daffner, and confirmed that no final decision has yet been made to sell the property. Mary confirmed that there is a conservation buyer interested in the property, and also provided an update that Sam's Place on Clover Hill has been sold to a conservation easement owner.

Committee Updates.

- **Water.** Mark Sullivan updated the group that the water feasibility study presentation is available for viewing and public comment, and has provided a link on the [WCA website](#). Mike Stup confirmed the water study ([background here](#)) will be looking at various approaches, including (1) quantitative approach looking at past studies, and (2) a study of responses from every listed owner. He and Sharyn

Frank have also asked water coordinators from Peonian Springs to share their experiences in a similar water-assessment process at a future WCA meeting.

The next step in this process will be an online Q&A response on the feasibility presentation in October. Questions may be submitted to Mike Stup (mike.waterford.va@gmail.com) or the Loudoun County Program Managers ([link here](#)). Mike is willing to be available for office hours if community members have questions. His contact details are available on the WCA website.

Peter Thomas asked if there was a start/end date set for the feasibility study? Mike confirmed that this will be set after the Q&A period.

Miriam Westervelt asked what options were proposed to Peonian Springs. Mike and Mark confirmed that we will share a link to the documentation on the WCA website, but that we don't know where they are leaning yet. It is important to note that they are analyzing sewer service as well.

- **Bury the Wires.** Ray introduced the proposal that we form an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate questions and opportunities with Dominion Power and other utilities with regard to burying all utility wires in the village. He shared that Dominion has a 'Bury the Wires' program and that there are new technologies in place (e.g., directional drilling) that make this less intrusive and less costly than when the issue was last addressed. Initially, the Preservation – Traffic – and Beautification committee chairs will work on our strategy to Bury the Wires, working similarly to the model we used with relation to traffic calming, and this group is looking for additional volunteers to join for a long term effort. This effort would focus on Burying the Wires for Dominion, Comcast, Verizon, and all utilities.

Cate Magennis Wyatt asked if we've referenced the previous, 2005 plan. Ray confirmed they have, and that there are new financial programs to investigate. Cate recommended we could engage other companies and public programs to support this activity as well.

- **Traffic.** Meredith Imwalle confirmed there was a virtual stakeholder meeting in August where consultant proposals were heard, and that they are now waiting on a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) response, which will be received in the next 2-3 weeks. (For background on traffic efforts visit the [WCA web site](#)) In summary, mid-term solutions reflect an approach similar to that in Aldie with calming concepts at the 3 entry points to the village. Meredith shared that the

byway feasibility study is identifying obstacles only at this point and not yet a route (which may take up to 16 years to build).

Cate Magennis Wyatt asked: If the consultants have considered the National Historic Landmark designation? That all 3 entry point roads are scenic byways? How we may use exceptions similar to those used in Williamsburg? She confirmed that there is precedent in overriding the VDOT playbook with these exceptions. Meredith confirmed that they did consider these important designations and have worked with the Commonwealth Transportation Board to push back on VDOT. Cate and Meredith will connect post-meeting on strategy and explore options on any further next steps we could take.

Peter Thomas inquired if the team had worked with Catoclin District Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner. Meredith confirmed they have, and that Supervisor Kershner was in favor of a byway and very supportive of our efforts.

- **Preservation.** Mary Sheehan and Jill Kadish shared that we launched, in coordination with the Waterford Foundation, a virtual Historic Waterford Scavenger Hunt in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Landmark designation. Submissions are being accepted through October 2nd, and a raffle of all correct responses will be held on October 4th.

Most exciting was the announcement by Mary and Ann Belland that the Historic Marker was approved, and will be installed by the end of this year. Ann, Stephanie Thompson and Bronwin Souders are working to finalize the wording and placement.

Cemetery Committee. Ann Belland reported on the WCA Cemetery Committee. She shared that the Eagle Scouts have completed a fence on the Fairfax Street side of the cemetery, and they are building a tool to lift headstones that have fallen. Mary Hutton will plan headstone cleaning soon, so volunteers should please reach out to help by contacting Ann or Ed Lehman.

- **Membership.** Ed Lehman confirmed everything was running as normal. Ray thanked Julia Thompson and Ed for the new resident initiative, where interviews were conducted and welcome messages introducing new residents were included in WCA outreach.
- **Beautification.** Not present.

Waterford Foundation Update. Stephanie Thompson, Executive Director of the Waterford Foundation, confirmed that the Foundation held a Schooley Mill meeting where the amended easement was approved. She is now communicating with Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff to agree on specific language and it expected to be finalized early December.

Stephanie shared that the Virtual Waterford Fair is starting and that tickets to the streaming sale are available. All new residents should reach out to the WCA or Foundation with email addresses to stay up-to-date. Volunteers are still needed and asked that everyone share Fair information with their personal networks.

WCA Nominating Committee - 2021 Officers Slate. Jonathan Daniel represented the Nominating Committee, also composed of Peter Thomas and Kathleen Hughes, and presented the slate, put forward the motion by this committee, and confirmed that biographies will be available on the WCA website [SEE BELOW]. Officers nominated for the 2021 term include:

- Ray Daffner – President
- Jill Kadish – Vice President
- Mary Sheehan – Secretary
- Julia Thompson - Treasurer

Elections will occur at the WCA December meeting. Ray Daffner opened the floor for other nominations. There were none and the board closed the floor.

Peter Thomas noted that we'll most likely need to introduce alternative voting strategies due to distancing complications.

Governance Review. Ray Daffner introduced the idea of having a group of volunteers with experience in municipal governance to review and propose adjustments / updates to the WCA Bylaws. Cate Magennis Wyatt suggested that the Loudoun Historic Village Alliance may be a good resource. Mary, Mike and Cate agreed to work on this, and find ways to empower our political strength. Their proposals will be shared at the December WCA meeting for members to comment. Anyone else interested in taking part in this initiative should please contact Ray or Jill.

COVID-19 Update. Mary Sheehan shared that members should look at the Virginia Public Health website for local updates, and that it looks like trends are going in the right direction. She also introduced and encouraged the use of the [Covidwise App](#) , supported by the VA Department of Health, available for voluntary case identification and tracing.

Treasurer's Update. Betsy Gibson confirmed that everyone had received budget. She shared that \$245 will be provided to balance out the extra cost incurred on the Historic Marker. She asked if anyone had objections. None were identified.

Air Quality Initiative. Ray Daffner introduced an air quality monitoring program suggested by Mike Stup, called PurpleAir.com. Mike shared that we could approach this monitor as a community tool that may help us with the establishment of KPIs in relation to traffic and other village initiatives over time. There is a one-time fee (\$279), and the WCA will need to set up installation and administration. Mike and Ed Lehman volunteered to set up the monitor if purchased.

Mary Sheehan asked what monitoring would be needed. Mike confirmed that they would set a cadence of reporting, and that once we establish a baseline the device would provide us with scientifically valid measurements. Cate Magennis Wyatt added that we could use the 2011 Loudoun Environmental Indicators baseline studies, and that she would donate the one-time fee to purchase. Julia Thompson mentioned that a new neighbor has expertise in water testing. The group (i.e., Cate, Mary, Mike and Julia) confirmed that they will work together to study how to best leverage these resources. Those present voted to approve the \$279 purchase of the monitor.

Ray asked if there was any new business and there was no response from the participants.

Ray adjourned the meeting.

Nominations for 2021 Officers of the WCA

September 2020

President - Ray Daffner

Ray has lived in Waterford for over 20 years and has raised his three kids in the Village, all attending Waterford Elementary and graduating from high school in Purcelleville. His work has focused on development and business finance in rural low-income areas. He recently left his position in Washington, DC and now works from home in the Village (yes to no commute!). His volunteer work in Loudoun focuses on interfaith efforts, and he has worked extensively with LCPS on multicultural education programming, with elected officials & civic organizations in the County on matters related to tolerance and diversity, and helped found a non-profit focusing on interfaith education and outreach in Loudoun. When not in the Village, his wife Corinne and he spend some time at the beach in Lewes DE, and enjoy biking, hiking, and being outside as much as they can!

Vice President - Jill Kadish

Jill moved to Waterford in 2018 with her husband, Simon Thomas, and their son from Old Town Alexandria, VA in search of a more rural lifestyle. She currently works at a consulting firm focused on

increasing representation of diverse populations in clinical research. Previously, she was with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) where she initiated corporate partnerships leveraging new technologies in health care delivery. Prior to joining ADA, she and her family spent many years based in Barcelona, Spain. Jill is excited to continue being a part of the WCA and to supporting the preservation and community efforts that have made Waterford the special place it is today.

Secretary – Mary Sheehan

Dr. Mary Sheehan is currently Chair of the WCA Preservation Committee, the focus of which is to support a preservation and conservation perspective on village public infrastructure, open spaces and private residences, in collaboration with the Waterford Foundation. She served as Secretary of the WCA for two years (2016 and 2017), and has been a previous member and Chair of the WCA Traffic Committee (2015-2019) which prepared the County Board-approved Waterford Traffic Management Plan. Professionally, she is an international consultant on global environmental change and health, and Associate Faculty at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona, Spain) where she teaches and conducts research on cities, climate change and health. She has published widely on environmental health.

Treasurer – Julia Thompson

Julia Thompson and her family moved to Waterford two years ago, and she is honored to be considered for the position of WCA Treasurer. Originally from North Carolina, Julia moved to the DC area in 2008 to work for the federal government and attend graduate school. She met her husband Sam, and the two joined the US Foreign Service, serving collectively in Belgrade, Serbia; Baghdad, Iraq; Tripoli, Libya; and Tbilisi, Georgia. Julia now works for a consulting firm in talent management, and she and Sam have two wonderful kiddos, Claire (age 5) and Gray (age 1), as well as a dog and three chickens. They were delighted to find such a beautiful place and welcoming community in which to raise their family, and Julia is eager to contribute to the WCA's valuable work and get to know all of you better.

Submitted by 2020 WCA Nominating Committee – Jonathan Daniel, Kathleen Hughes, Peter Thomas