

**Police and Public Safety  
Commission Meeting  
8 November 2012**

The Boonsboro Police and Public Safety (P&PS) Commission held their monthly meeting on Thursday, 8 November 2012 at 7:00 PM on the first floor of Town Hall. Members present were Commission Chairman Chris Sarnecki, Commission Members Cindy Collier, Bob Glausier, and Scott Stavrou. Absent from the meeting were Commission Member Frank Lum and Council Liaison Sean Haardt with prior notification. Boonsboro Police Department (BPD) Officer Charles Stanford was in attendance for Police Chief Jeff Hewett. There were no guests in attendance.

Meeting Minutes from the 10 October 2012 P&PS Commission Meeting had been previously hand delivered to Commission Members by Chairman Sarnecki. After additional review of the 10 October 2012 Minutes, **Motion** by Glausier, second by Stavrou, to officially approve the 10 October 2012 P&PS Commission Minutes and Motion unanimously carried.

Sarnecki welcomed those in attendance and then distributed the Agenda for the evening's meeting. He introduced Officer Stanford and noted that Officer Stanford will assume the position of BPD's Chief of Police, effective 1 December 2012. For the benefit of Officer Stanford, Sarnecki reviewed some of the past achievements and current and future tasks charged to the Commission. He gave an overview of the naming of four previously unnamed alleys in town, the Commission's role in the planning and organization of the Town's annual National Night Out (NNO) events, review of the posted speed limit on High Street and the recommendation of the three-way stop sign now on Park Drive near Shafer Park. Sarnecki advised of the Commission's current task of addressing the concerns of a trio of citizens about their concerns associated with Cemetery Lane. He detailed the future tasks of identifying the excess and inconsistent street signage around town and lastly, the need to identify the deteriorating and damaged sidewalks of Boonsboro which Sarnecki will seek further guidance from Town Manager Debra Smith. He expressed the desire to keep the meetings informal, however; the Commission takes its duties seriously and approaches issues before it in a thoughtful and consistent manner. The members present welcomed Officer Stanford.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Sarnecki gave Officer Stanford a brief synopsis of the observations given by the three (3) guests: Reverend Joseph Donovan, Pastor, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mr. Thomas Bikle, President, Boonsboro Cemetery Board and Mr. Rodney Cline, Secretary, Boonsboro Cemetery Board from the 12 September 2012 P&PS meeting. These guests, based on their independent observations, felt that it would be best to make Cemetery Lane a one-way street with traffic moving (west/southwest) from Main Street to Reeder's Alley. A major contributing factor to their recommendation was the grade of S. Main Street and the limitations it causes to the driver's line of sight when exiting Cemetery Lane onto S. Main Street. Furthermore, they believed that the grade contributes to the increased speed of vehicles along Main Street which also hampers the decision time of drivers exiting Cemetery Lane onto S. Main Street. Cars legally parked on S. Main Street can exacerbate the reduced line of sight. Pastor Donovan and Messrs. Bikle and Cline remarked that changing Cemetery Lane to one-way would be to make it easier for funeral processions to enter Cemetery Lane to the destination of Boonsboro Cemetery. Lastly, they felt Cemetery Lane was too narrow to accommodate two-way traffic.

Sarnecki shared Chief Hewett's primary concern during the Commission's 12 September 2012 meeting. Police Chief Hewett strongly believed that any recommendation put forward by the Commission to Council should be consistent and without exception thus easily enforceable. Hewett and Sarnecki independently recalled the Town's 2003 *Downtown Revitalization Study for the Town of Boonsboro* (aka "The Mary Means Study") which recommended that Reeder's Alley's current configuration be reversed to a one-way street traveling south/southeast from Potomac Street towards S. Main Street. Sarnecki charged the Commission members to study the areas of interest and report their findings or thoughts at the next meeting. He stressed that a thoughtful approach to this task is important and noted their recommendation to Council should not be rushed. Commission Member Stavrou suggested that an email be sent to the three (3) aforementioned guests apprising them of the Commission's continued efforts to address their concerns. Sarnecki volunteered to email Pastor Donovan and Messrs. Bikle and Cline. These efforts included, but were not limited to, two (2) separate site surveys of the area by the Commission as a group on Saturday, 6 October and Saturday, 3 November 2012. Participants included Commission Members Collier, Glausier, Stavrou and Sarnecki. Commission Members were also encouraged to study and observe the areas during their normal daily activities and at different peak traffic times. Members concurred that a third (and final) site survey, if possible, should be conducted in a sedan vice a sports utility vehicle (SUV) to further study the line of sight and prior to the Commission's next meeting in December 2012.

At the 10 October 2012 meeting, the Commission unanimously agreed that the existing traffic pattern of vehicles exiting Reeder's Alley onto Potomac Street was dangerous and posed a serious "blind spot" for drivers. All Members commented that when exiting Reeder's Alley onto Potomac Street, drivers had to slowly force the front of their vehicles into oncoming, eastbound traffic on Potomac Street. Line of sight to observe oncoming traffic could be greatly diminished by cars legally parked in the parking lot servicing Vesta Restaurant, Potomac Street Creamery etc. and further exasperated by cars legally parked along Potomac Street. Lastly, safely exiting Reeder's Alley onto Potomac Street was greatly influenced by the kindness of drivers on Potomac Street allowing enough room and time to perform a turn or continue across Potomac Street towards Shafer Park. Commission Members reached a consensus that the confusion encountered on Reeder's Alley is due to its one-way and two-way status at various stretches near Trinity Evangelical Lutheran and Mt. Nebo churches. They felt that reversing the current status of Reeder's Alley to making it a strictly one-way road, from Potomac Street to Main Street, would aid in the outbound flow of traffic. No consensus was reached on what recommendation should be proposed for Cemetery Lane.

As a result of the 6 October 2012 site survey of S. Main Street and Cemetery Lane, Sarnecki sent Town Planner Megan Clark an email on 9 October 2012 and requested information regarding the grade of Main Street. He forwarded his request to Town Manager Smith on 24 October 2012 and learned from Smith on the same day that the Maryland State Highway Administration (MD SHA) maintains Main Street from curb-to-curb. She advised that the Town must provide a sensible reason as to why this information was being requested. She commented that there may be some delay and/or "push back" from MD SHA if it is not deemed as a major safety concern. Sarnecki accepted that there may be a significant delay and informed Smith he was following up with the comments made by Pastor Donovan and Messrs. Bikle and Cline. Officer Stanford noted that most likely that the grade on Main Street did not adversely increase the travel speeds of drivers. Stanford felt that the faster speeds on Main Street reported by Pastor

Donovan and Messrs. Bikle and Cline could be attributable to their perspective as bystanders. Sarnecki reminded the Commission that a similar phenomenon was observed on High Street after concerned residents reported excessive speeding on this residential road. After a thorough assessment by the BPD and an extended radar survey, it was found that cars were generally traveling below the posted speed limit.

During the 10 October 2012 P&PS Commission Meeting, Liaison Haardt raised the suggestion that the Commission should consider the Town's *Comprehensive Plan* (aka "Twenty Year Plan") because its impact could possibly mitigate or compound any recommendations put forth by the Commission. An original request for a copy of the Town's *Comprehensive Plan* sent to Town Planner Clark on 12 October 2012. Sarnecki forwarded his request to Town Manager Smith on 23 October 2012. She provided soft copy immediately upon receipt of Sarnecki's request (23 October 2012) and followed up with a hard copy of the *2009 Comprehensive Plan* to Sarnecki on 6 November 2012. For the scope of the Commission's duties, the most pertinent information was contained in Chapter 6, "Transportation Element" of the *2009 Comprehensive Plan*. Sarnecki passed out copies of Chapter 6 to each Member and called attention to Map 6.1: "Boonsboro's Road Network" on page 6.2 and the "Planned Roads" section starting on page 6-7. After review, the Commission determined that the possible extension of Chase Six Boulevard to Maple Street (MD Route 66) and the expansion of Warrior Boulevard to connect to Lappans Road (MD Route 68) to Rohrsersville Road (MD Route 67), while creating a by-pass around Boonsboro, would most likely not/not have an effect on the traffic around Cemetery Lane and Reeders Alley. Sarnecki encouraged the Commission to further study the entirety of Chapter 6 of the *2009 Comprehensive Plan* prior to the next meeting. Lastly, Sarnecki reported that Chief Hewett responded that there were only three (3) reported accidents near the intersection of Cemetery Lane and Main Street.

At this point, the floor was opened up for continued discussion. Stavrou addressed the concern of how receptive the Council would be to any major changes. Officer Stanford countered that in his experience it would be best for the Commission to put forward its best recommendation and be satisfied that it had worked diligently and thoughtfully. Glausier emphasized the need to be deliberate so as not to fix one problem and inadvertently create more problems. He reminded everyone that the Commission will not make everyone happy or pleased, to include the Council, the three (3) gentlemen, congregants of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran and Mt. Nebo churches and others with its recommendation. This led to continued discussion about the interconnectivity of all the roads and how any changes to Reeders Alley would most likely need to be balanced with changes to the intersection of Potomac and Main Streets. The Commission raised the topic of the Town activating the dedicated left turn signal on Potomac Street enabling traffic to turn left from Potomac Street onto Main Street and other traffic signal recommendations from "The Mary Means Study" like simply changing the timing of the traffic signals at the intersection of Main and Potomac Streets could easily alleviate some of the traffic problems within Town. Members recalled their experiences before/after special events (i.e., Boonsboro High School football games, other sporting events, Boonesborough Days, Nora Roberts's signings, etc.) where they would wait through multiple cycles of the traffic signal to execute a turn onto Potomac or Main Streets. Collier added that people often take ill advised chances making left turns at the intersection. Glausier recalled that someone had crashed into the steps of his private residence while making a left turn from Main Street onto Potomac Street. Sarnecki relayed that during the 3 November 2012 site survey a vehicle failed yield to his right-of-way and dangerously cut across the path of Sarnecki's vehicle. The topic of delivery

trucks parked illegally on Main and Potomac Streets and their impact on traffic was also discussed.

Officer Stanford and Collier both questioned how the Council would disseminate an approval of the Commission's recommendation to the Town. Stanford suggested posting the information in the Town's quarterly News Letter and possibly The Herald-Mail newspaper. Glausier suggested a flyer to be included with the quarterly water bill. Another way to notify affected individuals would be through the Town's website (<http://www.boonsboromd.govoffice2.com>) and its Facebook Page. Lastly, Sarnecki suggested the use of flashing mobile message boards, similar to those used during the Town's special events, along the sides of the roads, near the area in advance to remind people of any upcoming changes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sarnecki reported that Collier was approached and accepted the responsibility on working on the preliminary NNO Mission Statement on behalf of the Commission. The NNO Statement was originally drafted by former Liaison Janeen Solberg. An area of concern with Solberg's preliminary Statement was lack of clarity in responsibility for dealing with situations where inappropriate or uninvited organizations or booths would attend without being vetted through proper channels for inclusion.

As noted in the Agenda, Sarnecki queried the Commission on the current scheduling of its meetings on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM. The general consensus of the Commission was that its current schedule and time was acceptable and worked well with the Members' schedules.

**LIAISON REPORT:**

There was no Liaison report.

**POLICE REPORT:**

There was no police report.

Sarnecki advised that the next Commission meeting would possibly be held on Thursday, 13 December 2012 at 7:00 PM.

**Motion** by Glausier to adjourn, second by Stavrou and Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Christopher J. Sarnecki  
Chairman, Police and Public Safety Commission