

Boonsboro Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2015

Present: Chair, Rick Byrd; Terri Hollingshead; Kristy Smith; Chief of Police Charles Stanford; Council Member Sean Haardt

Chairman Byrd called the meeting to order just at 7 PM.

There were no citizens present to offer comment or concern.

Terri Hollingshead moved to accept the August Minutes. Seconded by Kristy Smith. Minutes accepted.

Old Business

Chairman Byrd and Sean Haardt both commented on the thank you letters for National Night Out. Committee members each signed the letters this year, which included a call to action. They have been sent out, Sean Haardt did receive a “thank you for the thank you,” so we know they have been delivered.

The town engineer was not immediately onboard with the installation of speed bumps around Shafer Park and on Saint Paul Street to deter speeders. The PSC discussed the issues with plowing and maintenance. Chief Stanford will request a speed monitoring system from the county for Shafer Park Drive and then relocate it to Saint Paul Street. Terri felt that this would give us better data when requesting speed control devices be installed. In the meantime, Rick will do some research into the speed bumps at Volvo, the installation costs and maintenance issues. An additional suggestion of the placement of a stop sign at Orchard Drive and Saint Paul Street, making that intersection a three way stop.

At the most recent council workshop, discussion of no parking signs for the left side of Shafer Park Drive and the left side of Park Drive (behind the houses that face McKeldin Drive) was tabled. Sean will bring this up in the next workshop, and request a total of 8 signs for the area.

Chief Stanford reported that the portable pedestrian signs used during Boonsborough Days did improve the safety of pedestrians. He has asked that Mr. Haardt recommend to the town manager the purchase of 4 additional signs. Terri made the motion for the recommendation, and it was seconded by Rick and passed.

New Business

Chairman Byrd recommended that each committee member do a little research into grants for which the PSC may qualify. Kristy has some background, and will look into opportunities presented recently at an event sponsored by Congressman Delaney. Sean Haardt noted that if Boonsboro is able to become a Sustainable Community, this status could improve our position in obtaining some grant funding.

Boonsboro Police Department Report

Chief Stanford attended the town hall in Hagerstown addressing the rising heroin problem. He has begun discussion with Dr. Hamilton at Boonsboro High School, and other leaders, regarding bringing a similar program to Boonsboro. M & T Bank has tentatively agreed to sponsor such an event.

Boonsborough Days went very smoothly from a law enforcement perspective. Only two minor accidents were reported, and neither of them occurred in the downtown area.

The chief noted that new stop signs that have been placed are significantly smaller and less visible than the original signs.

In addressing speeding issues and nuisance houses, it was noted that the return of a neighborhood watch system might help address some of these issues. Perhaps the town hall event would be a good place to introduce the idea. Additionally, we may consider a Know Your Neighbor display or booth at National Night Out.

Boonsboro Fire Department Report

There was no representative of the fire department present. Chairman Byrd did say that he had not been sending recent meeting notices, as the department had not participated in quite some time. Mr. Haardt emailed the contact at the Fire Department regarding attendance.

Other Discussion

The September 11th Remembrance Parade was interrupted by traffic before it was finished. The fire department should be aware next year of the areas affected, mainly the High Street/Main Street intersection.

Mr. Haardt indicated that he had received an email from a local flight attendant who was not in favor of the celebratory nature of the parade. The committee agreed that the tossing of candy should be eliminated, and that participants should be reminded of the nature of the event.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Terri, seconded by Kristy at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Smith