

Boonsboro Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2016

Present: Chair, Rick Byrd; Terri Hollingshead; Marty Love; Kristy Smith; Boonsboro Police Chief 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.

Marty Love moved to accept the December minutes with one correction: the spelling of Mr. Love's last name under the Fire Department report. Seconded by Terri Hollingshead. Minutes accepted.

Old Business

Speeding on west Main Street: Sean Haardt will reach out to the SHA regarding a 25 mph limit from 67 to the Maple Avenue, and a 30 mph zone until the end of the town limits. These recommendations are in light of construction of new businesses and increased traffic in Boonsboro. Commission members noted that other towns along state routes have a 25 mph limit in the downtown areas.

Mr. Haardt recommended that we reply in some format to the resident inquiring about a suggested change of direction for Thomas Lane. He will follow up with Megan Clark regarding the best follow up to include in a letter.

The potential for a traffic light at Alex's convenience store was tabled. Kristy Smith suggested that perhaps we invite a SHA representative to a meeting of this commission to explain what our options are with Main Street as a state highway, and advise us on making recommendations. Sean Haardt will follow up with an appropriate contact for this initiative.

Marty Love will recheck the street lights on Park Drive and notify Ms. Clark if they are still out.

Terri Hollingshead will ask Megan Clark to forward pricing or an invoice for the temporary pedestrian warning signs to Kristy Smith so that she can use them in a donor advised ask at the Community Foundation.

New Business

Commission chairman Rick Byrd reminded the members present to be on the lookout for granting opportunities. Kristy Smith shared a program called Safe Route to School that may offer funding for improvements for pedestrian traffic. Sean Haardt reported that the town has an application in the works for this program for sidewalks along Maple Avenue. Mr. Haardt also distributed an informational sheet about some grants that may be available to us.

Chief Stanford presented the results of the speed monitoring for Park Drive. In alignment with the results from Saint Paul Street, there is a low percentage of enforceable violations. While no further recommendation was made for Park Drive, the Public Safety Commission, with the support of Chief Stanford, will formally request installation of stop signs along Saint Paul Street at Ford Avenue, making the intersection a three way stop. Mr. Haardt will present this recommendation to the mayor and council.

In other traffic concerns, discussion regarding a turning light or lane at Maple Avenue and north Main Street was held. Chief Stanford suggested it may be as simple as changing the lines on the highway there. This topic is one that could be shared with a SHA representative at a future meeting.

Kristy Smith presented an outline for Know Your Neighbors events. The tentative plan is to have a table encouraging like-events at National Night Out, and provide interested residents with a “how to” guide. The cost of such an event would be approximately \$25-\$30. Perhaps we could consider sponsoring the first 5-10 events, if we have a budget for such programming.

Sean Haardt noted that the PSC may wish to request a budget for the commission that would encompass not only the typical \$1,200 for National Night Out, but also for other programs that we may wish to explore. Kristy Smith made a motion that we request of the mayor and council a budget of \$2,500 for the coming fiscal year to include \$1,200 for NNO, with a surplus for other programs and initiatives of which we may become aware. Seconded by Marty Love. Sean Haardt will take this request to the mayor and council.

The recommendation was made by Mr. Love that the town purchase traffic signs from the county, as they have better pricing and larger signs. Chief Stanford agreed. Mr. Love will get a contact with the county for Megan Clark to pursue.

Boonsboro Police Department Report

Chief Stanford shared that the crosswalk timing at the town center has been improved. When the walk light comes on, the traffic lights are red in all directions, and there is a slightly increased time in which pedestrians can cross the street.

No other pressing police business.

Boonsboro Fire Department Report

There was no representation from the Fire Department. However, Mr. Love shared that the ordinance for reflective house numbers for the county appears to have changed, and thus, the town may have to change the local ordinance. The size for reflective house numbers has been changed from 3 to 4 inches.

Mayor and Council Report

Sean Haardt shared that the State of the Town was shared by the mayor at the last council meeting.

Other Discussion

There was some discussion regarding construction debris in the Fletcher’s Grove area, and the lack of street signs for Chase 6. These issues may be followed up with the town, but are not in the PSC wheelhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Smith