

Minutes
Public Safety Commission
Town of Boonsboro
July 21, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Boonsboro Town Hall Annex
21 North Main Street
Boonsboro, MD

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Acting Chair Kim LaBrush
Present: Kim LaBrush, Ena Martin, Kyle O'Connor, Jay Metz, Marilee Kerns
Absent: Christi Weaver, Greg Seymour; Police Chief Kevin Morgan
Proposed Members Not in Attendance: Rick Stevens, Harry Nogle, Bo Quinn
Guests:

Secretary's Report: Last meeting of the Public Safety Commission was October 15, 2020
There was no formal motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting due to length of time
since the meeting and only one person in attendance was at that meeting.

Citizens Comments: None

Introductions – Brief introductions of the committee were made.

Kim LaBrush – Acting Chair and Committee reorganizer is representing Kinsey Heights development; Ena Martin is Fletcher's Grove HOA President and represents that development; Kyle O'Connor representative from Boonsboro Volunteer Fire Department; Jay Metz representative from Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Company; Marilee Kerns Council liaison.

Acting Chair Kim LaBrush stated that she attended the June Mayor & Council Meeting and agreed to reorganize the Public Safety Commission. At the July Mayor & Council Meeting Christi Weaver and Greg Seymour were appointed to 4-year terms – expiring June 2026. Kim LaBrush is continuing her 4-year term – expiring July 2024. This leaves three 2-year terms and one 4-year term with an anticipated one additional 4-year term as Christi Weaver has indicated she is going to be unable to serve. Those attending agreed to recommend appointment of Ena Martin to serve a 2-year term – expiring August 2024 and Rick Stevens to serve a 4-year term – expiring August 2026. Kim LaBrush will contact the others to see if they would like to serve a 2-year or 4-year term. With Christi Weaver resigning we will have a vacancy on the committee. She will ask Office Manager Kim Miller to post the vacancy.

Kim LaBrush agreed to be Chair of the Committee and Ena Martin agreed to be Co-Chairman of the committee. The office of secretary is open.

Old Business:

Chair Kim LaBrush gave an update on the upcoming National Night Out scheduled for Tuesday, August 2 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Schafer Park in Boonsboro. She stated the event will be much like past years with food donations from Boonsboro American Legion (Hamburgers and Hot Dogs), Bonnie's Red Byrd Restaurant (Steamer) and Thompson Gas (Pulled Pork and Beef). Other donations include Martin's chips, hug juice drinks from Weiss Market, donations of bottled water from area businesses and monetary donations. Last year approximately 1200 were served. Antietam Cable is supplying ice cream sandwiches and popsicles. New this year the NNO committee is renting a snowball machine and Boonsboro Mini-Mart will be doing Cotton Candy in addition to the Pop Corn she has done in the past.

Ice cream, snowballs, cotton candy, etc. will be set up in a pavilion separate from dinner food service. There will also be some groups doing some demonstrations, including Splits Gymnastics, Special Olympics Cheerleaders, a majorette group and the Police Canine Unit. The Fire Truck will be there to cool off the kids with their traditional water spray.

New Business:

Presentation of Chase Six Blvd/Campus Drive Intersection – Town Manager

The Town manager was unable to attend so no presentation was given. Council member Kerns gave a brief overview of the project and stated a Public Hearing Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boonsboro American Legion Post #10. A mailer will be going out to residents. The town is looking to get community input and support of the project to persuade the Board of Education to prioritize the project and work with the Town.

Washington Goes Purple – Christi Weaver

Christi Weaver was unable to attend so Kim LaBrush gave a recap that they are working to schedule another community collection event or a collection at the Farmer's Market again – the recent booth at the Farmer's Market was not well advertised. There was discussion about a Drug Drop Box located at the Police Department. Council member Kerns stated there used to be a drop box there, but was removed. There was a suggestion of placing a drop box at Boonsboro Pharmacy and Weiss Pharmacy was also mentioned.

Mission Statement – Kim LaBrush

Chair Kim LaBrush stated she did not locate a mission statement for the commission. She did some online research and said she came across numerous ideas – she would like the commission members to think about a mission statement and that will be a goal of the newly reorganized commission.

Future Training – Kim LaBrush

Chair Kim LaBrush stated she would like the Public Safety Commission to host Narcan Training and CPR Training. The last Narcan training class was in 2019 and she would contact the Health Department to see what is involved with getting a class scheduled. Boonsboro Rescue Company Representative Jay Metz stated that he may be able to work up a quote to do CPR Training – cost would depend on number of attendees and whether they wanted certification or just general knowledge demonstrations. Chair Kim LaBrush stated that she noticed some communities have CERT – Certified Emergency Response Teams. Jay Metz gave a brief overview of what a CERT does – such as searches for missing persons. Boonsboro Fire Department Representative Kyle O'Connor looked online and said Washington County has an Emergency Manager. It was suggested to contact Washington County and get some information.

Town Assessment Tour/Walk – Kim LaBrush

Chair Kim LaBrush stated that one of the commissions projects should be to walk through town and identify safety concerns, risks and potential hazards. The commission would give recommendations to the Mayor & Council and Maintenance Department. This would include such issues as sidewalk repairs, curbs that need painting, outlet covers in the park, etc.

Crosswalk Issues @ Shafer Park Drive & Main Street & Orchard – Kim LaBrush

Chair Kim LaBrush suggested we research options and provide recommendations to the

Mayor & Council and the State Highway Administration. Council member Kerns stated the Mayor & Council has been requesting flashing pedestrian cross walk signage and State Highway delays the project. The Mayor & Council has even entertained the idea of buying the equipment and installing, but have been told Town does not have the authority due to Main Street is a State Highway. Council member Kerns encouraged the committee to help keep pressure on SHA to get a lighted crosswalk installed. There was some discussion about the crosswalk signage on Main Street on the center line, but that is only allowed up temporarily for events. SHA will not let the Town leave it in place. The Boonsboro Police Department was putting the temporary signs out on Potomac Street at the crosswalk at the library in the morning and taking down in the evening, but do not believe this is still being done consistently. It was stated that we may need a crosswalk at Monument Drive and Potomac Street due to increased pedestrian traffic from Sycamore Run to the Shafer Park.

Boonsboro Police Department – No report – Chief Morgan was unable to attend.

Boonsboro Fire Department Report – Kyle O’Connor

Kyle O’Connor brought up the need for additional lighting on house numbers at School House Manor and that the emergency lighting that residents have do not all function. It was stated that the Washington County Housing Authority maintains School House Manor. Kim LaBrush or the Town staff can provide a contact. BVFD stated the need to repaint red curbs at some town hydrants – Crestview Development was mentioned and asked that the Boonsboro Police Department monitor and ticket parking violators within the 15’ hydrant zone. It was stated that there is still a problem with truck delivery to Dan’s Tap House parking in the street on St. Paul Street. Kyle O’Connor stated the “No Turn on Red” sign on St. Paul Street at the square is gone. Currently someone can legally turn right on red from St. Paul onto Main which is very dangerous due to limited visibility. He stated he reported on an advertised State of Maryland site and received a call back but was told a traffic study would need to be done before a sign could be put up. Kyle O’Connor believes there was signage there, but it came down during the recent intersection upgrade and paving. Maybe the Police Chief and Town Manager can follow up with SHA. The Boonsboro Fire Department and Boonsboro Ambulance made the request that the Town of Boonsboro plow snow for them during snow storms. They would like the entrance driveways plowed to allow the fire trucks and ambulances to get out. They do not have equipment and volunteers to always handle and this would be helpful to the volunteer organizations. Council member Kerns will bring up this request at our next town meeting. Reminder 911 Memorial Parade will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Company Report – Jay Metz

Jay Metz had no report for our first meeting and his first introduction to the commission.

Council Liaison Report – Marilee Kerns

Marilee Kerns repeated the Public Hearing regarding the school intersection and the desire to get public approval and participation to pressure the Board of Education to work with the Town and SHA to get this intersection done. Monday, August 15 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by Chair Kim LaBrush

Respectfully submitted,

Marilee Kerns