

Minutes
Public Safety Commission
Town of Boonsboro
September 21, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Boonsboro Town Hall Annex
21 North Main Street
Boonsboro, MD

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Kim LaBrush

Present: Kim LaBrush, Robert Ecton, Ena Bovell Martin, Teresa Leizear, Kyle O'Connor – Boonsboro Volunteer Fire Department Representative (BVFD), Chief Kevin Morgan – BPD, Marilee Kerns - Council Liaison

Absent: Harry Nogle, Bo Quinn, Rick Stevens, Jeff “Jay” Metz – Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Representative

Guests: Assistant Mayor Tony Nally

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the August 18, 2023 meeting were emailed to the committee for review. There were some minor corrections made to the August minutes. The minutes were approved with the noted corrections by a motion from Kyle O'Connor and second by Robert Ecton and vote by commission.

Citizens Comments: none

Old Business:

Commission Appointments: The Mayor & Council approved the appointments of Teresa Leizear and Robert Ecton at the September meeting.

CPR Equipment: The CPR equipment was ordered and understood to be received at Town Hall, but has not been picked up by Jay Metz, Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Representative.

Opticom Traffic Signal: Chair Kim LaBrush reported Washington County contact David Hayes has forwarded the paperwork to Capt. Hartsock, also with the county, for the completion of their assessment and request to then be forwarded to State.

Crosswalk: Kyle O'Connor – BVFD Representative stated concern with the white “STOP” lines marked on North Main Street by the new flashing crosswalks. He stated that cars have stopped in the road because of the lines when the lights were not flashing and no pedestrians were in the crosswalk. He feels this is a hazard. Council Liaison stated State Highway Administration (SHA) installed the markings at the crosswalk. She will relay the concern to Mayor & Council.

Fire Hydrants: The BVFD representative stated that there are fire hydrants not painted correctly in town (ex: 809 Brookridge Drive). The two commission members that are also

members of fire stations (Kyle O'Connor and Robert Ecton) stated that there is a difference between flushing a fire hydrant and a flow test. Liaison Kerns stated she knows public works do routinely perform flushing of hydrants and that she noticed some hydrants in town freshly painted. It was stated that flows of hydrants can change due to additions to a waterline, etc. Council Member Kerns will relay this message to Town staff.

Sycamore Run: The commission had inquired last meeting as to when Sycamore Run becomes maintained by the Town vs. Developer. Council Member Kerns stated she knew the Town was reviewing the final punch list with the Developer and thought this was happening soon – Assistant Mayor Nally stated it was November 1, 2023 for Town Maintenance to start. Robert Ecton expressed concern that there are not “Yield” signs at the circles and stated a Stop sign is twisted and needs fixed and that it should be a Yield sign.

Stop the Bleed Kits & Defibrillators: The commission had inquired last month if this equipment was in the police cars. Chief Morgan reported that all the police cars are equipped with this equipment. He stated that an BPD Officer administered CPR as he was the first to respond to a call and saved a life by doing so until emergency rescue personnel responded. Chief Morgan stated that he thought an anti-choking device such as “LifeVac” would be safety equipment the police cars should carry. The devices are approximately \$70.00 according to Robert Ecton. Chief Morgan may purchase them with seized funds, as equipment is an allowable expenditure of such funds.

New Business:

Chair LaBrush stated that there is congestion and may be unsafe in the park area when sports practice and the Farmer’s Market are happening simultaneously. Chief Morgan stated he was unaware of any reported incidents.

Sidewalks: Commission Members and Chair Kim LaBrush met at 6:00 pm and walked Lakin Avenue. Problem areas were noted and Lakin Avenue was in better condition than Potomac Street. Council Member Kerns noted the commission concerns and will bring them to Mayor & Council. The Commission will meet next month at 6:00 pm and review sidewalks on another Street.

Assistant Mayor Tony Nally stated he was concerned with the parked car on North Main Street near Thomas Alley that this is blocking traffic from going around the vehicles sitting in the turn lane to turn onto Maple Ave from North Main Street. Member Teresa Leizear states she experienced this traffic backup this evening coming to the meeting. Assistant Mayor Nally reported the issue to SHA and the Town Manager. SHA is to follow up. Chief Morgan stated this is a problem – it is not marked as a “No Parking” area and he recommended we request it to be red curbs and no parking. BVFD Representative Kyle O'Connor requested we include this to extend down past the traffic light to allow for the turning of emergency equipment and to aide in clearing the intersection in the event of an emergency vehicles have a place to move over. BVFD is having a similar issue with vehicles parked on St. Paul Street near the entrance to Fire House Alley, that emergency equipment can’t see and/or navigate the turn easily. The

commission is not sure if there is curbing there that can be painted red. The Commission is making a formal request to the Mayor & Council to follow up and recommend to SHA that the area at North Main Street and Maple Avenue intersection be designated no parking.

Boonsboro Police Department – No further report

Boonsboro Fire Department Report – Kyle O’Connor

Kyle stated that School House Court, under management of Washington County Housing Authority, has made little progress in properly displaying and lighting house numbers.

Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Company Report – Jay Metz – No Report

Council Liaison Report – Marilee Kerns

Kerns reported that a new Town Planner/Code Enforcement Officer has been hired. Member Teresa Leizear stated that she has been frustrated with the lack of response and action when residents report code enforcement issues. It was suggested she make a new report and/or meet with the new planner. At the September Mayor & Council meeting it was reported that the Post Office is being worked on and owner plans to have building completed in October and ready for occupancy. The new Ace Hardware Store is progressing nicely, and Campus Drive and Maple Avenue Intersection has passed SHA approval. Construction on the Fletcher’s Grove side should have approvals needed. The Campus Drive portion is still a work in progress with the School Board, the County, the Town and a property owner. It is on track and hopefully can have construction next summer while school is out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by motion from Kyle O’Conner, second by Ena Martin and commission consensus.

Next Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2023 –

Meet at 6:00 pm at Town Hall for Sidewalk inspection – location TBD

Meeting at 7:00 pm Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,

Marilee Kerns