

Minutes
Public Safety Commission
Town of Boonsboro
November 17, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
Boonsboro Town Hall Annex
21 North Main Street
Boonsboro, MD

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kim LaBrush

Present: Kim LaBrush, Kyle O'Connor, Jay Metz, Harry Nogle, Ena Martin, Bo Quinn
Officer Ted Ballesteros – BPD, Marilee Kerns, Council Liaison

Absent: Greg Seymour, Brian Smith

Guests: Jerry Itnyre, Alvin Gross, David Bell

Chase Webb – Boy Scout Troop 252 – working on his communication badge

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting were emailed to the committee for review. There was a correction to the minutes – School House Manor concern is house numbering – not lighting.

BVFD Kyle O'Connor gave an update on School House Manor stating Washington County Housing Authority worked on lights and the emergency pulls. He did not have an update regarding better display of house numbers. The minutes were approved with noted correction by a motion from Bo Quinn, second by Kyle O'Connor and vote by commission.

Citizens Comments:

Jerry Itnyre, 100 High Street – Lifelong resident of Boonsboro and High Street advocated for maintaining the since of community and wish to maintain their good way of life. Stated making High Street one way would be an inconvenience to the residents. Would like to see police monitor speed on street more and offered assistance to BPD for driveway for monitoring, assistance in mounting speed surveillance equipment.

Alvin Gross, 34 High Street – Stated that he was not in favor of making High Street one way. He would like to see speed monitored on High Street and St. Paul Street. Alvin Gross also offered assistance to BPD for speed surveillance equipment.

David Bell – 22 St. Paul Street – Stated that he did not want High Street made one way. This would be an inconvenience to him and the other residents. He would like to see focus on speed control.

Old Business:

Commission Appointments: No Public Safety appointments were made at the November Mayor & Council meeting. Council member Kerns state Safety Commission did not meet in September and she missed the October meeting and the appointments were not put on the agenda. She will have them placed on the December Mayor & Council agenda. Safety Commission recommending: Harry Nogle, Brian Smith and Bo Quinn for appointment.

School House Manor: Kyle O'Connor with BVFD gave brief update during minutes review.

High Street Traffic: BPD have not done traffic study due to equipment issue with the speed trailer. There must be a speed limit sign to mount the other speed equipment. Residents Jerry Itnyre and Alvin Gross both offered to assist with getting equipment placed on the street. Boonsboro Police department has been patrolling the street.

The Public Safety Commission is recommending Do Not Enter Signage from 3:00pm to 7:00pm Monday thru Friday be placed at the South Main Street entrance to High Street. Chairman LaBrush stated she had spoke to Chief Morgan about this solution. The commission passed this recommendation.

Fire Department Concern: Fire Department representative Kyle O'Connor brought up continued concern of delivery trucks stopping on St. Paul Street while making local deliveries. The box trucks parked on St. Paul Street has improved but now there is a car that parks on St. Paul Street near entrance to Fire House Alley that cars must enter opposing lane at curve to go around. BPD will need to look at this location and see if we need red curbs and no parking. The Public Safety Commission is recommending red curbs and No Parking Signage on both sides of St. Paul Street from Square to the ally cross over. This recommendation will be given to BPD and Public Works for their review.

Knox Boxes: It was stated that the Public Safety Commission should work with the EDC on a Knox Box program. These boxes can be installed at businesses and residences for Emergency Personnel to access in the event of an emergency – boxes can provide key access, codes, medical issues and emergency point of contact. The boxes are only accessible by local emergency services and can prevent personal property damage in the event of an emergency. It was suggested this be put in the quarterly Town newsletter and brought up at EDC meeting. www.knoxbox.com - Maryland – Washington County Division of Emergency Services

An Ap called Smart 911 was also discussed that is being used in Fletchers Grove that residents enter doctor, healthcare information, etc. that links to 911. The commission emergency services representatives were not familiar with this program, but will look into this Smart 911 Ap.

Town Public Meeting for Chase Six – Campus Drive Intersection: No update

Crosswalk Issues @ Shafer Park Drive & Main Street & Orchard:

Nothing new to report – still on schedule for Spring 2023

New Business:

2023 EDC Food Truck Festival: The commission discussed the handicap parking and street closure topics. The commission is of the opinion that the park can be better utilized to keep the event on the park grounds to avoid the need to close streets.

2023 EDC BoonFest: There was some discussion regarding expanding the event and closing Main Street from the Square to Ford Avenue – similar to the Middletown Event. A permit would

be required and Maryland State Highway approval to close Main Street. Council member Kerns stated that the EDC has discussed closing a portion of a side street (Lakin or Ford) for expansion of the event to include music and other activities. The public safety commission liked this idea.

Boonsboro Police Department – Officer T. Ballesteros

Nothing new to report.

Boonsboro Fire Department Report – Kyle O’Connor

Nothing additional to report.

Pancakes with Santa – Saturday, December 3

Santa on the Fire Truck will be riding thru neighborhoods - December 12 thru 16

Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Company Report – Jay Metz

Jay Metz reported new line officers take effect January 1, 2023 - this will increase officers from 1 to 4 and will improve communication. A “Stop the Bleed” class was held and another will be scheduled in the new year (2023). (www.stopthebleed.org)

Chair LaBrush state she has a call in regarding the Washington Goes Purple campaign and Narcan Training class. There was some discussion regarding a Narcan Vending Machine. The Town could purchase a vending machine and it could be filled with Narcan and dispensed at no charge.

Jay Metz reported that the Rescue Company is requesting signage and flashing lights to warn traffic of emergency vehicles entering the roadway at the top of the hill between Chase Six Blvd and the Rescue Company. The Rescue Company would like town support for this project. They are requesting Opticom system would be connected to all traffic signals that are within the town limits to allow emergency vehicle traffic to flow smoothly during an emergency response. This would assist Fire, Ambulance and Police Departments. They are requesting the town initiate conversation with State Highway. Past meeting discussion also included warning signage for Fire Station, Ambulance Station, Police Station. It was suggested one could be placed on Lakin Avenue for Fire Company to remind residents the ladder truck exists that way.

Council Liaison Report – Marilee Kerns

Marilee Kerns reported the town was awarded a grant for Safe Paths to School to install sidewalks on Center Street, Ford Avenue and Orchard Drive. The commission will want to work with the town and residents for the design and installation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. by motion from Kyle O’Connor, second by Bo Quinn and commission consensus.

Next Meeting Thursday, December 15, 2022 – 7:00pm Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,

Marilee Kerns