

Waterford Citizens Association

Minutes of the 4th Quarter 2020 Regular Meeting

Date/Time: December 10, 2020, 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Video conference call hosted on Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Jill Kadish, WCA Vice President, who chaired the meeting. A quorum was present.

Agenda. The agenda was presented and reviewed.

Approval of previous meeting minutes. Jill Kadish, Vice President, presented the draft minutes for the 3rd quarter meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes as drafted was made. Betsy Gibson seconded the motion and confirmed by voice vote. No objections were made, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Updates.

- **Traffic.** Meredith Imwalle confirmed she has met with the transportation board and that preliminary feedback from the traffic consultants has been received. Outreach to the VDOT Commissioner is being prepared and a VDOT response is expected soon. There will be a public meeting to present the study recommendations to the community once the final version is drafted.

Meredith also informed the WCA that she is stepping down as Chair of the WCA Traffic Committee in January, however she will assist the incoming Chair as needed and continue to work as the government liaison for the Traffic Committee. Please contact Meredith if you are interested in working on and leading this committee.

- **Water.** Mark Sullivan confirmed there had been a series of Q&A calls hosted via Zoom with Mike, Mark and Sharyn. Now the committee is expecting to receive a response from Loudoun County on the feasibility study kick-off in the next month and will then begin the sign off process. All historical information is hosted on the WCA website and a door-to-door survey on water concerns is expected in Spring 2021.

Nick Ratcliffe inquired if the study was looking at ancillary ways to provide water that doesn't require installation for the entire village. Mike confirmed that various options will be explored in the feasibility study, even including an option to 'do nothing'. Mark Sullivan emphasized that the WCA water committee exists for informational purposes only and is committed to an open forum approach as the community moves through this process.

- **Governance.** Mary Sheehan provided an update from the WCA governance research group that confirmed they are looking at options to redefine the by-laws, enhance ties

between the WCA and Waterford Foundation preservation efforts and build stronger alignment with active organizations in the area with similar interests, e.g., Western Loudoun Coalition. Mike Stup shared that a general objective is to get more control over infrastructure and the group is also revisiting the 1987 Waterford Plan. Recommendations will be provided in January to the new WCA board.

- **Bury the Wires.** Ray Daffner, WCA President, explained that the board would like to explore options to bury wires in the village and solicited volunteers to chair/co-chair a committee in 2021.

Jeff Bean shared that he believes Dominion owns the poles throughout the village. Nick Ratcliffe cited historical conversations with Comcast and Verizon, and how they didn't show interest in working with Dominion. Ray confirmed we need a committee set up to show our commitment and bring in political pressure, similar to how the association approached the traffic issue.

- **Membership.** Ed Lehman confirmed he is getting ready for the 2021 membership new/renewal communications.
- **Events.** Ann Belland provided a recap of the successful (socially distanced) Santa visit hosted on December 13th. Jill Kadish thanked Ann, Julia, Elaina, Ed and Tracy for the festive decorations throughout the village!

Thank you to the Hughes. Ray shared that longtime Village residents Kathleen and Neil Hughes are moving, and that the WCA thanks them for their valued service to the village. Christy Hertel informed the call participants that a memorabilia box link has been sent to WCA membership, in which residents may share their experiences with the Hughes over the years. Any question, please ping Christy.

Waterford Foundation Update. Stephanie Thompson, Executive Director of the Waterford Foundation, thanked the WCA membership for their support of the November craft sale. She shared that the Schooley Mill Barn easements include a DHR update, which is almost finalized, and Land Trust of Virginia Protection that will keep open space and a public trail on the property. She is expecting these to be completed by January 2021. Nick Ratcliffe spoke on behalf of the Schooley Mill donor group and provided a heartfelt thank you to Stephanie for her support and hard work to make this a reality.

Other Business. Ruchi Parekh asked for details about the air quality initiative. Mike Stup verified the device was provided by a platform called purpleair.com and that anyone may sign up. Ed Lehman confirmed this is a data collection tool for the village, and that the device to be installed at the corner store was supported by a donation from Cate Megennis Wyatt.

Election of 2021 Officers. Peter Thomas presented the officer slate as nominated in the previous WCA membership meeting and put forward a motion to approve. Nick Ratcliffe

seconded the motion and confirmed by voice vote. No objections were made, and the officers were approved unanimously. Elected Officers for 2021 are: Ray Daffner, President; Jill Kadish, Vice President; Mary Sheehan, Secretary; Julia Thompson, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Update. Betsy Gibson confirmed that everyone had received budget. She asked if anyone had objections. None were identified. Christy Hertel shared that she believed her name was still on the WCA CDs. Betsy agreed to follow-up and resolve.

New neighbors and babies in the village were introduced and celebrated.
Ray adjourned the meeting.

Ray Daffner
President

Jill Kadish
Vice President

Betsy Gibson
Treasurer

WATERFORD CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Meredith Imwalle, Chair

December 4, 2020

Response to Traffic Calming and Byway Assessment Study Draft

The WCA Traffic Committee's Chair received a copy of Michael Baker International's (MBI) "Village of Waterford Traffic Calming and Byway Assessment" draft study on October 30. The County's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) has asked the Chair to wait until the report is finalized before releasing it to the community. The Traffic Committee will respect their wishes, but felt it was best to weigh in now, before the report is finished, so a preliminary response was submitted. We based our recommendations on our WCA-approved strategic plan and the feedback we've collected from the community over the last several years. The Committee believes MBI's draft study makes some promising recommendations, but that a more comprehensive approach is needed to address Waterford's excessive vehicular speeding and volume issues.

MBI's study will be shared with the community as soon as it is finalized. Once they consider our response, DTCI will let the WCA know which of our proposed measures VDOT has endorsed and what the County and VDOT are willing to implement. They will present options at a public meeting and review designs with community members. No traffic calming or reduction measures will be implemented without the support of a majority of the community.

Overall Traffic Vision

In early 2019, the Committee composed its "Waterford Traffic Counterproposal" in response to a 2018 County-funded traffic study. The document has served as our strategic plan since early 2019. It was endorsed by the then-Board of the WCA, presented to the membership and has informed our conversations with VDOT and the County for close to two years. In the document, the Committee outlines a multi-phased approach, starting with village entries, focused on traffic volume reduction and calming.

That document, along with additional input from the community, County and VDOT, is the basis for our updated vision for phase one: traffic calming measures designed to reduce volume at village entries. We are asking DTCI and VDOT for chokers — built-out peninsulas designed to narrow the roadway — at village entry points, combined with a speed hump or table somewhere in the vicinity of each choker. According to VDOT's "Traffic Calming Guide for Neighborhood Streets," these calming projects can be expected to reduce traffic volume by an average of 20 percent. Designs for these measures should be commensurate with the 18th-century appearance of the village and approved by village residents. Once installed, choker peninsulas would be landscaped by WCA's Beautification Committee.

The Traffic Committee would also like to place welcome signs that highlight Waterford's status as a National Historic Landmark in one of the choker peninsulas at each entry point. The design of these signs should be approved by WCA members.

Traffic calming within the village is phase two of the plan and could be implemented if phase one is ineffective. Design of traffic calming measures would need to be carefully managed to ensure they don't take away from the historic ambiance of the village.

A Waterford byway is a long-term goal and may be pursued concurrently with the first two phases. Byway feasibility has been only superficially examined in MBI's October study draft. A follow-up study will be needed to determine possible byway locations. We are encouraging the

County to fund that study. The community supports the byway study, but community members have not voted on whether or not they support an actual byway. They will be consulted after a more comprehensive study is completed.

National Landmark Entry Signs

The Traffic Committee considered designs for entryway signs, also part of our strategic plan, to be placed in landscaped choker peninsulas. The signs were recommended by the County as one way to establish clear village entry points. Ann Belland has been kind enough to manage the project and presented several options. It was agreed the designs should be amended to include mention of the National Historic Landmark on the signs, and to feature a noticeable background color that is not stark white, but lighter than the existing burgundy signs. We hope to have updated designs for the membership to consider in the first quarter of next year.

Position on Route 15 Improvements

At our December 1 meeting, the Traffic Committee voted in favor of asking the WCA Board to adopt a position on the Route 15 improvements currently being considered by the County. The Committee encourages the Board to adopt the position shared by such organizations as the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground and the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, which encourages the use of roundabouts instead of traffic lights; is against widening the roadway to four lanes; recommends exploring the use of tolls to manage traffic demand; and, asks for a citizen task force to be formed to provide community input. More information can be found online at: <https://www.pecva.org/region/loudoun/rt-15-decision-expected/>.