

Minutes
Waterford Citizen's Association
Regular Meeting, 4th Quarter 2021

The fourth quarter 2021 Regular Meeting of the Waterford Citizen's Association (WCA) was held Thursday December 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm as the year's first hybrid meeting, with 25 present in-person at the Old School and 41 present via the Zoom online platform for a total of 64 meeting participants. The meeting was chaired by Ray Daffner, WCA President. The list of meeting attendees is recorded at the end of these Minutes.

Agenda. The draft meeting Agenda (Attachment 1) was distributed to membership in the invitation email.

Agenda Items:

Previous meeting Minutes. Since the WCA Secretary, Mary Sheehan, was in attendance on Zoom but unable to speak due to bronchitis, Ray made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Q3 2021 regular WCA meeting, as circulated with the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Minutes were voted on and unanimously approved.

Voting for 2022-2023 WCA Officers. Ray thanked all of the Officer candidates for agreeing to be nominated and give their time to the WCA. He introduced them as Christy Hertel, Mike Stup, Nancy Doane and Whitney Chamberlain, nominated during the Q3 Regular meeting as the candidate slate for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively; and Ann Belland, self-nominated at the Q3 meeting as an additional candidate for Vice President.

Ray then introduced the Election Officers, Ron Benschoter and Peter Thomas, to explain and lead the voting process. Peter provided general guidance for voting, and specific guidance to those present in-person in the Old School, where he was located (Ron was on Zoom and coordinated the Zoom voting). All voting, whether in person or via Zoom, was to be confidential, with votes seen by the two Election Officers only. All those voting would be checked against the WCA duly paid-in membership list prior to their vote being counted. The in-person votes, via distributed ballot, would be tallied by Peter; the Zoom votes tallied by Ron; the two would combine their findings and Peter announce the result to the meeting. Since the VP role was the only position with two candidates, votes would be cast for the "Slate plus Mike" or the "Slate plus Ann." Ron then introduced the guidance for the Zoom voting noting that a "private chat" should be sent to him with the vote, and the name of the voter. Those connected to Zoom by phone would call in Ron's cell phone to vote.

Ray opened the voting, and it was subsequently closed several minutes later once all present in-person or by Zoom had voted.

After counting was done, Peter announced to the President and membership the results that **Christy Hertel was elected President, Mike Stup was elected Vice President, Nancy Doane was elected Secretary and Whitney Chamberlain was elected Treasurer.**

Ray congratulated the new WCA 2022-2023 Officers. He thanked everyone who ran for office, and noted the whole community appreciated their interest and volunteer effort. Ray introduced Christy and Mike who were present in person at the Old School, and Nancy and Whitney who were on Zoom. Ray commended these newly-elected Officers as a great group with terrific and complementary skill sets and backgrounds who would both have fun and be effective. He warmly thanked the Election Officers for working out such clear and effective guidelines for the WCA's first hybrid Officers' election. Ray also thanked the community, his fellow Officers for their service and for the effective and fun partnership to move our agenda forward, and the excellent Board of Directors.

Waterford 2033 Vision and Plan. Cate Magennis Wyatt, Chair of the Waterford Vision and Plan Ad Hoc Committee, summarized the group's substantial work to date. As described at the Q3 membership meeting, the ultimate goal was to develop a community plan within the Historic Villages framework of the County's Comprehensive Plan. To do so, the Committee was doing a number of groundwork initiatives, including pursuing a "dusting off" update to the community- and BOS-approved 2003 "Bury the Wires and Tame the Traffic" report by the consultants Kimley-Horn (K-H). Also part of the groundwork, Waterford 2033 (W2033) sub-committees (traffic, water, sustainability, communications) were carrying out research, outreach and identifying from previous reports and new programs possibilities for the consultants. A further element of groundwork, Cate had organized substantial high-level political outreach to inform our partners about W2033, including Congresswoman Wexton (visit to Waterford planned for December 13), Chair Randall, Supervisors Kershner and Turner (visits during the Waterford Fair and subsequently), VDOT and DTIC management and teams (several meetings during the Fall), Commonwealth Transportation Board members, the National Park Service NHL Coordinator, the Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and others. The W2033 Committee would be making further outreach to the community very shortly, including with a proposed timetable for charette-style consultations.

Cate also announced the good news that Chair Randall and Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet had identified budgetary funding to cover the needed \$95,000 for early preparatory work for W2033. Approximately half of this would be for the Kimley-Horn (K-H) 2003 study update; and half for the initial process of facilitated open house/charette and project management services by the consulting firm On Point, responsible for the successful coordination of the Hillsboro program. With this development, a separate Board Member

Initiative (BMI) was no longer needed. These funds are expected to be available at the beginning of 2022. K-H's work would commence, per terms of reference submitted to the County and the W2033 Committee, early in the year; the primary areas on which the update will focus will be incorporating the ongoing work on traffic calming and water spearheaded by the respective WCA committees (see Water and Traffic reports below) and updating other aspects of the drainage, wire-burying and other elements of the 2003 study, including costing to 2022 dollars. The K-H update is expected to take four months, and be ready by late Spring. The work by On Point is currently under discussion, and the W2033 Committee will report back to membership shortly on timing of planned meetings, likely once preliminary results from the K-H update are available.

In addition to potential County and State funding for W2033, Cate described coordination with Congresswoman Wexton's office to seek available federal funding through possible stimulus, Build Back Better and transport funding among other sources. From our infrastructure proposals to our sustainability projects, we will be orienting all toward specific federal, state and county programs and goals, aiming to be a model helping to achieve these broader objectives. Cate also mention Beth Erikson as a fount of information on adaptive reuse of historic buildings and welcomed her ideas for support. Cate thanked all the W2033 Committee members for their fantastic support and efforts, noting it had been a very productive year, and emphasizing the importance of community consultation, and the great value of the joint work of the WCA and the WF (which are meeting together every month). She added that the W2033 Committee always welcomes new members whether to contribute actively or just to listen. Currently the Committee includes 26 community members, and meets every Tuesday at noon by Zoom.

Ray warmly thanked Cate for her superb leadership, as well as the whole W2033 team, and the Waterford Foundation for the productive and growing partnership. He emphasized that more than just planning, we now have the opportunity to raise financing; as a result, this time we could "cross the finish line," and achieve our vision, not just add to the drawer full of studies.

Water Update. Due to a connectivity issue, Mark Sullivan, WCA Water Committee Chair, was unable to speak to the hybrid meeting. Mike, one of the Waterford Water Coordinators, provided an update on the water feasibility study, which is on schedule is expected very shortly. A briefing to the community is anticipated for January or February. He reminded everyone that all information is available on the water page of the WCA website. Based on a similar community meeting on a feasibility study in Paeonian Springs which he had attended, it is expected that the community meeting would include Loudoun Water, County General Services, the consultants Dewberry & Davis (and subcontractor Tetrattech), County Family Services, Finance, Public Health and others.

Traffic Update. Due to a connectivity issue, Sharyn Franck, WCA Traffic Committee Chair, was unable to engage with the meeting, and Mike provided the traffic update. He reported in

particular on an early December meeting held at his house with the County Department of Transport and Capital Investment (DTCI). This meeting was part of a specific follow up to the July 2021 Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting where Supervisors voted to instruct DTCI to coordinate with Waterford toward implementing and funding a traffic calming program. That vote had been notable support to Waterford, because it was contrary to DTCI staff recommendation to the BOS to wait five years until after the 287-9 roundabout to tackle traffic calming in Waterford. Mike explained that a major goal of the early December meeting was to improve the relationship with DTCI, and brief them on our issues. He and Sharyn explained to DTCI that for the purposes of our joint work on W2033, under Cate's leadership the WCA and WF agree that all traffic work should go through Sharyn, Chair of the WCA Traffic Committee. Mike explained that this was continuing our "governance hygiene" effort, clarifying that in this way we are working through a "quasi-municipal" lens, designating specific responsibilities for outreach and coordination for different utilities and other partners. He complimented the former Traffic Chair, Meredith Imwalle and other members of previous Traffic Committees. DTCI generally was pleased with this clarification, which they explained makes their work arrangements with Waterford easier.

Returning to the topic of the July BOS meeting, Mike clarified that the result of the instruction to DTCI was that \$2.3 million had been allocated for next year in the Loudoun Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for traffic calming for the three entryways outside the village (rather than waiting for five years). The open house/charette process would be important to defining the specific designs of this work, based on the "dusted-off" K-H revision. Discussion with DTCI at the December meeting included the context that pre-pandemic daily traffic was about 9,000 vehicles, nearly two-thirds of which enter from the south and exit Waterford to the north in the afternoon, meaning that the village serves as a cut-through replacing 287-9 and 15 arterials; it is those vehicle users we wish to discourage with the calming efforts (as well as future volume reductions). Noting that the planned 287-9 roundabout will worsen traffic cut-through in the short term, he noted the goal was to use the \$2.3 million to slow traffic now. A regular series of monthly meetings was being set up for the Traffic Committee, the W2033 Committee and DTCI. He concluded by thanking everyone that has been involved.

Gene Scheel raised a question related to walkability, specifically a cross walk for Post Office. Nick Ratcliffe added a comment that when the old village paving was taken up to re-pave in 2017, 1900-era stepping stones that had been used to cross in the mud of Main St. from the old Insurance Building to the Corner Store were found at the cross-walk (see photo). In response Mike confirmed that walkability is a critical near term priority, on which Chair Randall – for whom safety is a top priority – has commented. Stage one investments could perhaps include

that urgent element of a cross walk at the PO. Several people expressed interest in the old stepping stones (note such photos are being curated in the W2033 Archive).

Cate wished to thank previous Traffic Committee Chairs and participants, including Meredith and Mary, for years of hard work, in achieving the goal of funding for the traffic calming funding. She also thanked Ray for the vision of asking her, Mike and Mary to undertake the review of the WCA Bylaws and governance hygiene 18 months ago to more clearly enable us to define our future, instead of having it defined for us. W2033 has been a product of that foresight. She also thanked everyone for the hard work done over these 18 months. She added that with W2033, we can continue to change the bylaws to suit our goals, so that we can create long-term governance sustainability.



1900-era pavers in front of Corner Store

Ray and Cate both thanked the whole Traffic Committee, past and current, for the calming efforts and funding. Now that DTIC and Waterford are working together, there has been substantial activity in last couple of months.

Waterford Foundation Update. Stephanie Thompson, Executive Director of the Waterford Foundation, provided an update on the 2021 Waterford Fair, starting with a warm thanks to the community for the support. She noted it was a different, smaller footprint Fair this year, following a year off due to Covid. The weather was great all three days and there was good turnout, so financially it was a success for the WF, artists and vendors. She thought that the smaller footprint focused on the Old School and Bond Street areas was also more manageable and felt more lively, and so this would likely be repeated next year.

Stephanie also announced that the Waterford Foundation has finalized a partnership agreement with Loudoun Parks and Recreation (Parks & Rec) to have their programming available at the Old School, and WF programming will be announced via Parks & Rec online registration. This is an opportunity to make greater use of the terrific Old School facility, and reach wider audiences with Waterford's Craft School offerings, as well as bring County programming to the community. Pre-school and elementary oriented for now. But there will be adult programming. Those with suggestions for programming are invited to contact Stephanie.

Gene asked Stephanie about the winery sign near the Old School noting the issue that one sign could lead others. A second question was raised by Nick regarding whether the partnership with Parks & Rec would be profitable financially for the WF. Stephanie responded that the winery sign was part of a VDOT-implemented signage program in their road right of way; the WF has not approached VDOT or the winery on this topic. Ann explained that she and a neighbor had visited the winery to ask if the sign could be taken down or moved and did not receive a forthcoming response. Ray recommended that the Traffic Committee, who is the interface in our relationship with VDOT and DTCL, pick up this matter in their ongoing regular dialogue. In terms of the partnership with Parks & Rec, Stephanie clarified that for Waterford programming via Parks & Rec registration the WF would receive 70% of the programming fees; for County programming at the Old School the WF would receive 30% of fees. They had not done any financial modeling to estimate revenues.

Ray asked Julia Thompson, due to Jill Kadish's absence for this part of the meeting, about the results for the WCA BBQ booth at the Fair. Julia confirmed that it had been a rousing success. The WCA BBQ booth was well attended, well appreciated in terms of the quality of the food, and made a substantial contribution both to the WF (on the order of \$1,500) and toward revenues for the WCA itself (on the order of \$2,200). Julia warmly thanked volunteers, thanked Jill for organizing a wonderful community party on the Friday night, and for the success of the BBQ booth. There was a round of appreciative applause for Jill's leadership on this.

Committee Reports. For the Events Committee, Ann reported on the December 4 Christmas even for kids, which was appreciated by all. Ray asked Julia to report on the Halloween Masquerade, coordinated by the PTO, and Julia confirmed it had been safe, happy and successful event for all, and felt that there were likely more potential areas for collaboration with the PTO. For the Beautification Committee, Nick reported on a Fall clean-up effort on the High St. entrance to the village, involving clearing brush to facilitate growth of trees planted there. He added that the Loudoun Mutual Insurance Company is likely to help partner on this effort. Ray added the information that future village, NHL and region-wide clean-ups would be more widely broadcast to attract more volunteers. Ed Lehmann, Chair of the Membership Committee, was not present at this time so no report was provided.

New Business. There was no new business.

Treasurer's Report. Julia Thompson, WCA Treasurer, reported that the WCA finances were in sound shape, with higher-than-expected revenues from both membership and donations, as well as Fair BBQ proceeds. A number of larger-ticket items had been budgeted last year for payment this year, including the new entry signs for the village, and these expenses would be coming up. But overall, the WCA has run a budget surplus this year, and is wrapping up the year in a very strong position, handing a financially-sound association over to the new Officers. Ray and others warmly thanked Julia for her modernizations to the accounting system, and for doing a wonderful job as Treasurer.

Adjournment. Ray adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm, thanking Jeff Bean and Dave Hunt for their heroic work connecting the two parts of the hybrid meeting to make it a success, with a banner attendance of nearly 65 people. Numerous members noted their thanks, appreciation and congratulations to Ray for being such an effective President for two years. Ray in turn thanked membership for letting him play the role of WCA President for this period. Jeff Bean initiated a warm applause and show of thanks to Ray.

Submitted by Mary Sheehan,
Secretary
December 20, 2021

WCA members present in person at the Old School: Jeff Bean, David Bednarik, Peggy Bednarik, Ann Belland, Ron Benschoter, Skip Couser, Betty Cox, Ray Daffner, Annie Goode, Joe Goode, Bill Hart, Christy Hertel, Tom Hertel, Dave Hunt, Jamie Hutton, Judy Jackson, Phil Paschall, Kathie Ratcliffe, Nick Ratcliffe, Eugene Scheel, Carl Schneider, Mike Stup, Peter Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Jane Williams

WCA members present on the Zoom link: Erik Arnold, Maureen Arnold, Whitney Chamberlain, Kay Chewing, Paige Cox, Edith Crockett, Jonathan Daniel, Jeff Sarah, Amy Denicore, Mark Denicore, Harriett Dickerson, Mike Dickerson, Nancy Doane, John Doane, Connie Eaton, Beth Erickson, Sharyn Franck, Chet Gibson, Betsy Gibson, Stephanie Kenyon, Sarah Holway, Susan Honig-Rogers, Isaac Johnson, Jill Kadish, Ed Lehman, Bill Mayer, Matt Rasnake, Jo Rastas, Paul Rastas, Richard Rogers, Mary Sheehan, Paul Siker, Roger Smith, Lee Spangler, Mark Sutton, Melissa Sutton, Cierra Swift, Simon Thomas, Julia Thompson, Chris White, Cate Wyatt

Attachment 1
Agenda – WCA 4th Quarter Regular Meeting

- Approval of Q3 Minutes
- Election of Officers
- Waterford 2033 Update
- Water Study Update – study to be released shortly
- Traffic Update – meeting with County DTCl
- Waterford Fair Update
- Waterford Foundation update
- Other Committee reports
- New business
- Treasurer’s Report