



WCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1ST QUARTER 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Christy Hertel at 6:45 pm on March 23, 2022, at the Waterford Old School. Members also participated on-line via Zoom. Christy opened the meeting by reflecting on the purpose and focus of the WCA. She read both the mission of the organization as stated in the Bylaws and the Vision Statement for the organization adopted by the Board.

MISSION:

The mission of the Waterford Citizens Association is to foster community action, to further the common good and general welfare of the community, to secure improvements, to preserve its unique history as a National Historic Landmark, and to maintain the Waterford Area as a desirable and attractive community in which to live.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision for the WCA is to create a sense of community and inclusion where all feel welcome to volunteer, contribute and participate.

Minutes: Secretary Nancy Doane presented the minutes for the 4th Quarter 2021 meeting as posted on the WCA website and referenced in the meeting announcement emailed to all members. A motion to dispense with the reading of the meetings was made and seconded; motion carried. Nancy emphasized that increased reliance will be made on electronic communications; agendas, minutes and Treasurer's reports will be available on-line (www.waterfordcitizens.org) and through email rather than hardcopies presented at meetings. Should this present a hardship to members, they are encouraged to contact Nancy to make other arrangements,

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Whitney Chamberlin reported that since the 2021 4th Quarter Membership Meeting, the WCA has not incurred any expenses and has brought in income of \$6,600, not including funding for fireworks which do not get paid out of general WCA funds.

2022 Budget: Whitney also presented for adoption the proposed 2022 WCA Operating Budget. She noted that no large budget projects have been proposed by the committees, so most budgeted expenses are for printing purposes and earmarked contributions to Beautification, Fourth of July, and the cemetery. The budget reflects income of \$21,064.47 with expenses of \$15,984 for a positive net

income of \$5,080,47. It was moved and seconded that the proposed budget be adopted as presented; motion carried.

When asked how many members have renewed, Membership Chair Ed Lehman answered there are a total of 72 households that have renewed for the year. Stephanie Thompson asked about the current status of the Fourth of July fireworks. Whitney indicated that we have received \$1935 in donations this year and have rolled over \$1912 from last year's fireworks. She said that the fireworks cost has increased \$800 since last year and that we have thirty days from the date of the fireworks to send in the deposit and commit to the full expense. Otherwise, the deposit will be carried over to 2023.

Waterford 2033: Chair Cate Magennis Wyatt reflected that the Waterford 2033 Ad Hoc Committee was established as a quasi-municipality, representing the leadership and members of both the Waterford Foundation and the WCA. Since the December meeting, funding has been approved by the County to update the 2003 Kimley-Horn Study, expanding the scope to incorporate Waterford's current conditions and issues. She reminded attendees of the upcoming Open House on Saturday, March 26, at the John Wesley Community Church from noon – 5:00pm to inform residents of the 2003 findings and to solicit input into the study update. Committee members are also working hard to secure FY2023 County funding to ensure continuity of Committee efforts and momentum. Currently \$500,000 is to be included, with \$1.2 million promised. The Committee is also working with Representative Wexton to secure additional Federal funding. A total of \$45-\$55 million is being sought.

Cate also reported that the Department of Interior has announced that the update to Waterford's National Historic Landmark registration will be made public shortly.

Waterford Foundation: Stephanie Thompson added that Catherine Smith of the National Park Service will be the guest speaker at the Foundation's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, and she will be discussing their draft study of Waterford's Landmark designation. The Meeting will begin with a social "hour" at 5:45pm, with the study's presentation at 6:15, to be followed by the business meeting and presentation of awards.

The 6th Annual Historic Waterford Trail Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, April 23, that will entail the closure of some roads from 8:45 – 11:30.

She was also happy to announce that the Foundation's budget for the current year will enable them to address some previously postponed maintenance projects, including exterior painting of the Old School and Chair Factory, siding replacement on some of their buildings, and lime washing of the stone walls of the John Wesley Community Church on the afternoon of April 30.

Stephanie also informed members that approximately 11 acres of the Phillips Farm has been found to be infested with Poison Hemlock, an extremely toxic invasive for humans as well as pets, both topically and if ingested. Nick Ratcliffe has mapped the farm, identifying the affected area which involves parts of the public trail. A treatment plan has been developed which is appropriate for aquatic areas. The treatment is very labor intensive, involves four applications and will cost in excess of \$30,000. Images of poison hemlock will be posted on the Foundation's website and included in their next newsletter. Whitney moved to contribute up to \$1,000 towards the treatment effort if the funding is needed. The motion was seconded and, after much discussion, carried.

Traffic: Sharon Franck, Chair, discussed the placement of the new speed signs at the village entrances. Data recorded revealed an average speed of 21 miles above the posted speed limit. Additional traffic data is being collected. Sharon asked that she be immediately contacted at sharonfranck@gmail.com should anyone notice the signs not working (not flashing your vehicle's speed). She also reported that cameras are in the process of being mounted throughout the village to capture video of traffic to provide the County and VDOT anecdotal images of traffic issues.

Water: Mark Sullivan, Chair, and Mike Stup jointly reported that the County and Loudoun Water's feasibility study of Waterford is still under review but is now anticipated to be released on March 25. They emphasized that this is a discovery study and is not a decision document. Following the report's release, the County will post a video presenting their findings and will provide an opportunity for all residents to respond to the study and pose questions. Any decisions to be made of where we go from here will be done in a very transparent and collective fashion. It is hoped that funding will be available through the American Rescue Act and the recently enacted Infrastructure Bill.

They also announced that VCE is a reputable firm that offers private and confidential water testing for a fair cost of \$60. A link will be available on the WCA website for those interested.

Preservation: The work of the Preservation Committee has been incorporated into the Waterford 2033 Sustainability Committee, both chaired by Mary Sheehan. Mary was unable to attend the meeting but Mike Stup submitted her written report, attached. Mike added that Mary is coordinating closely with the efforts of Loudoun Rural Roads, the Loudoun Preservation and Conservation Coalition, and the Loudoun Alliance of Villages. He also indicated that there were many opportunities available for volunteers to support the work being done.

Beautification: Nick Ratcliffe, Chair, provided the attached written report. He highlighted that the Committee met on February 23 to plan their activities for the year. Seventeen residents have expressed interest in volunteering with the Committee. As Nick sought additional volunteers for the upcoming Keep Loudoun Beautiful clean up, he reminded members that KLB was started 50 years ago

by a woman in Waterford; she organized volunteers to collect trash along local roadways and then presented the garbage bags to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

Cemetery: On behalf of Paul Rose, Chair, Linda Landreth who is President of the Union of Churches Cemetery Board of Trustees reported that through the work of an Eagle Scout project all burial sites have been identified and marked at the ground level. She also reported that a tree survey is being conducted and that general clean-up is being organized prior to the cemetery being mowed.

Events: Christy reported that a broad cadre of volunteers is being solicited to support the various events of the WCA and that both the events and the people involved in supporting the events is expanding. Plans are moving forward for the 4th of July. As for now, there is no chair, but the committee is moving forward as a group. It was suggested that a current list of events be posted to identify volunteer needs.

Membership: Ed Lehman, Chair, urged members to renew their memberships early in the membership year. Currently 71 households are current; at the end of 2021 there were 129 household memberships. He announced that a third membership email will be sent shortly, after which letters will be mailed to those who have not yet renewed. This is following a similar renewal pattern as in previous years.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Doane, Secretary

Members Present (in person): Stephanie Thompson, Sue Manch, Bill Manch, Skip Couser, Jamie Hutton, Linda Landreth, Ed Lehman, Kathie Ratcliffe, Nick Ratcliffe, Tom Hertel, Jeff Bean, George Ramo, Debbie Zungoli, Mark Sullivan, Cate Magennis Wyatt, Christy Hertel, Mike Stup, Nancy Doane, Whitney Chamberlin

Members Present (via Zoom): Chet Gibson, Kay Chewning, Lee Spangler, Jonathan Daniel, Mark Denicort, Roger Smith, Sharyn Franck

**Waterford Citizens' Association (WCA) Preservation Committee
Mission Statement and Strategic Goals**

Mission Statement. *Our mission is to contribute to preserving the privately-owned historic buildings and open spaces of the Waterford National Historic Landmark (NHL), and to ensuring that Waterford's public infrastructure (streets, parking, electric power, water and sewerage, telecoms) evolves in a way that respects preservation goals, in collaboration with the Waterford Foundation (WF) and other preservation partners. The specific Committee goals are:*

1. Define, revise, monitor initial strategic goals and planning framework
2. Promote continued preservation of Waterford's private residences and artifacts
3. Steward preservation aims regarding the village's common public infrastructure
4. Support WF on their preservation aims, including the open spaces of Phillips Farm
5. Strengthen links with County preservation partners
6. Communicate regularly with the Waterford community on preservation

WCA Preservation Committee Medium-Term Areas of Action*

1. Strategic goals and planning:
 - a. Assemble advisory group (knowledge of public infrastructure preservation)
 - b. Carry out WCA membership survey on preservation topics
 - c. Prepare annual report to membership
2. Promote continued preservation of private residences:
 - a. Encourage historic easements on uneased private residences
 - b. Encourage awareness of Loudoun HDRC guidelines among private homeowners
 - c. Work with homeowners to document any artifacts or historic items
3. Steward preservation of common public infrastructure:
 - a. Ensure coherence of developments under the County-approved Waterford Traffic Management Plan with preservation goals
 - i. Liaise with the WCA Traffic Committee on preservation-appropriate design of chicanes, new village signs; proposed Byway study
 - ii. Monitor preservation-related developments regarding village parking
 - iii. Coordinate with historic roads overlay (Loudoun Rural Roads Committee)
 - b. Ensure coherence of Dominion electric plans with preservation goals
 - i. Liaise with the WCA Beautification Committee on ongoing and new projects
 - c. Similarly with water, sewerage, telecoms (tbd, as needed)
4. Support WF on their preservation aims, as appropriate:
 - a. Liaise with WF Preservation Committee and its Sub-Committees
 - i. Assist in educating residents on Phillips Farm preservation goals and monitoring
 - ii. Support WF historical collections by encouraging residents to donate objects, letters, images and other ephemera

b. Support conservation easement and open space in Waterford area where possible

c. NHL 50 th anniversary event

i. Contribute to WF virtual event or mini-events – possible fundraising

ii. Assist if needed with placement of NHL historic marker

5. Strengthen links with County preservation partners:

a. E.g., Loudoun County Preservation Coalition (LCPC); Loudoun Historic Village Alliance (LHVA); Lovettsville and other Loudoun incorporated towns

b. Monitor actions of Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee

*Depending on community and partner interest, and realistic possibilities given Covid-19 pandemic

WCA Preservation Committee, September 10, 2020

Beautification committee report March23,2022

The committee met Feb 23, 2022 outside at the Old School. The 17 present and prospective members were sent notices. George Rambo, Debbie Zungoli, Sue Manch, Ann Beland, myself and Christy Hertel. Absent (all with good reasons) were Brian Demar, Judy Demar, Mary and Jamie Hutton, Peter Thomas, Mark Sutton, Grey Franzen, Jonathan Daniel, Lee Spangler, Matt Donnelly, Briton Baine and Nick James. This number of members is large and needed to see that village projects can have enough volunteers to perform our yearly tasks. With the notice went a plea for individuals willing to tackle any of the following tasks.

Organize and participate in KLB by manning crews

Plan and conduct tree planting along streets for traffic calming and preservation of the street scape

Work with VDOT to get drains cleared- get roads cleared of gravel, brush after flooding events

Clean up the village Green- weeding, vine pulling, collect tree debris trim and/or care for trees and plantings see to getting County and or VDOT help with areas they are responsible for

Help maintain the two American Chestnut groves at the pull off and on the Water Street Meadow

Complete projects started in 2021---

-----Invasive species removal and care of the Pull off on the Phillips Farm(in cooperation with the WF

-----Finish care and beautification of the east side of High Street- Remove limbs and junk trees, and prepare area for future plantings

--If any of you would like to speak up and own any of these projects please speak up.

Nick Ratcliffe