



WATERFORD CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 1st Quarter Minutes 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Stup at 7.05pm on 21st March 2024, at the Waterford Old School.

Minutes: Secretary Fiona Sullivan presented the minutes for the 4th Quarter 2023 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 minutes was made by Jeff Bean and seconded by Sharyn Frank; motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Mike Stup opened the meeting by tanking everyone for coming and introducing the new Waterford Citizens' Association Board (WCA) following the election last year. Additionally Mike introduced Deputy Southwood to provide an update on the recent vandalism, and hit and run in the village together with the ongoing occurrences of speeding. Deputy Southwood provided the following updates:

1. Vandalism: The case is ongoing and the sheriffs department are still looking for the culprits. As a village the best thing that we can do to help investigations is to install cameras. The more cameras we have the higher the chance of identifying suspects. Deputy Southwood recommended that homes have one covering the front, rear and driveways.
2. Hit and Run: The area has been checked for cameras and unfortunately there were not any that covered the incident. If you see any incidents try and get the license plate number, even if is only a partial plate this can help

to identify the vehicle. Areas are installing Flock camera systems at entry and exit points.

3. **Traffic and Speeding:** Please continue completing the online forms. Hopefully another Traffic Deputy will be hired in April following Deputy Sialis promotion and move to another department. Currently have 3-5 deputies covering 313 sq miles so it is obviously difficult to cover such a large area.

Mike Stup advised that it is possible to upload an App to your smart phone and that you can also reach online form via a button on the WCA website.

Following a question from the floor Deputy Southwood advised that you should get an email to confirm that a form had been sent and that if a confirmation email is not received then it is better to file the report again. It is also possible to report damaged or missing road signs via the VDOT website.

Following a question asking if Second Street could be patrolled due to the continuous incidents of speeding Deputy Southwood asked that residents use the online form to also provide permission for patrol cars to use private driveways to monitor traffic to increase the number of observation points.

As a reminder to everyone Mike read the WCA Mission Statement:

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 Historic Landmark, and to maintain the Waterford Area as a desirable and attractive community in which to live.

Treasurer Report: Maureen reported that there is currently \$10,999 in the WCA checking account and \$10,373 in two CDs. We received \$273 in interest last year. There is \$988 in the firework account following the payment of the \$1,000 deposit. Per last quarters meeting, we donated \$500 to Loudoun Hunger Relief and \$500 to Hamilton Fire Station.

The available balance has increased significantly over the last four years.

Mike asked the meeting to approve the budget for the committees as presented (details attached).

Linda asked if there was a line in the budget for the cemetery and Maureen confirmed that there is to the sum of \$500.

Nick asked for the amount dedicated to tree planting. Maureen advised that there is a line item for donations and a carryover amount for that purpose.

Fiona advised that the cost of the firework display had increased to \$7200 this year.

A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Jeff Bean and seconded by Mark Sullivan. The motion was approved by all present.

Loudoun Mutual: Chris Shipe the outgoing President of Loudoun Mutual gave a short presentation to introduce the new President. Todd Robertson. Chris is the first non-Waterford resident to be president of the company. The company celebrates its 175th birthday on the 1st June, there will be an Open House to celebrate. They are the oldest employer in the county.

Todd Robertson assured those present that he understands that community matters and they want to continue to be good neighbors.

Committee Reports

Entertainment: Fiona reported that preparations for the 4th July celebrations are underway and that this will be her last year as chair of this committee. A Sign Up Genius will be coming out shortly for volunteers to sign up to volunteer at the various events. The contract for the firework display has already been signed.

Membership: Ed was not present to provide an update.

Traffic: Sharyn reported that it was her window that was broken during the recent vandalism incident. DTCl were asked at recently monthly meeting to get ahead of the expected increase in village traffic once work gets underway on the 287 and Route 9 roundabout. Traffic calming measures have been requested as a safety issue.

Mike reported that raising issues as a “safety concern” rather than a “traffic concern” gets more attention and therefore proposed that the committee’s name be changed to **Traffic and Safety Committee**.

Nick suggested that the change should highlight that that this applies to the village only.

Mike confirmed that the main focus of the committee will continue to be traffic and safety inside the village itself.

Linda stated that the change can be proposed at this meeting but that voting would have to take place at the next meeting.

Jeff Bean proposed a motion that the name of the Traffic Committee be changed to the Traffic and Safety Committee and that a vote be taken at the next quarterly meeting.

Proposal was seconded by Thom Hertel and agreed by all present.

Beautification: Nick reported that the Keep Loudoun Beautiful campaign will run from 5-23 April. Supplies will be available on his porch. Group leaders are responsible for getting volunteers for their work groups. Volunteers are badly need.

Clean up of Village Green will take place 3-5 May.

March and April activities include removal of logs. Mowing will start in April. Flower planning in May.

Individual notices for each activity will be posted on the bulletin board and PO

Cemetery: Linda reported that the daffodils are now in bloom.

Water: Mark Sullivan reported that the Water Committee meets with DGS and Loudoun Water twice a month. Notices to landowners along Clarks Gap Road

have been sent out. 67 parcels – 58 owners. 13 have so far responded yes and testing will start on these parcels.

Transmission Line Update – Sue Manch

Sue reported on behalf of the Waterford Foundation that lots has been happening with regards to the coordination of efforts to oppose the sighting of the proposed transmission line in west Loudoun.

Efforts started in Hillsborough last Nov when we became aware of the proposal to put the electrical line through Phillips Farm.

There was a 20th Anniversary Celebration of Phillips Farm

A Strategy Council Meeting was held to form a alliance of all the affected groups.

So far 50 organizations have joined the alliance now called **Loudoun Transmission Lines Alliance**

There is plenty of research that indicates that the current approach is the one most likely to have a successful outcome.

Foundation is working on the power lines and Piedmont Environmental Council is working on the better oversight of data centers.

Washington Post will be running an article before the end of April.

Possible Wall Street Journal article. Lots of local coverage.

Will be creating a separate website, currently information is available on the Waterford Foundation Website.

Nextra are very aware of what we are doing. They will be contacting affected residents. The best advice is that if contacted direct them to Leo Rodgers who is the Loudoun County Attorney.

Yard Signs have been ordered and will be available soon, routing work is already underway so having the year signs out raises awareness of opposition.

Petition available for signature on Foundation website.

All members of the alliance have been asked to submit impact statements by end of April.

Separate group working on legal stagey. We will need to raise significant funds if legal assistance required.

4200 preservation and historic easements in Loudoun County.

How to Help

- Stay Informed
- Talk to Neighbors and friends to raise awareness.
- Write to representatives, Nextera, DOE, PJM DHR and SCC.
- Sign Declaration
- Put out a yard sign
- Attend Open Houses
- Support Foundation's efforts financially
- Volunteer

Mark asked if burial of the line is being considered.

Sue advised that the approach is that the line is not needed, if we get to the point where it is confirmed that the line is going to go ahead then we will push for underground section.

Mike pointed out that leading with the burying the lines is accepting that it will go ahead. They should be using existing rights of way.

Sue reported that the route uses the highest ridgeline, a line of trees will be removed.

Nick pointed out that every house in the village is within ½ mile of the eastern perimeter of the corridor. We should not be embarrassed to advocate for ourselves even if that means that the lines gets moved further west.

Sue confirmed that we are well represented and do a good job of advocating. We have been advised to do our own research and not believe Nextera's information. So far \$6,000 was raised in Dec and \$15,000 has been donated for a communications specialist and \$4,800 was donated for the road signs.

Mike confirmed that we need to support the Foundations efforts and that the WCA is in a much better position financially than it was 5 years ago. He requested that we give consideration to matching donations from WCA members up to a total of \$2000 between now and the next quarterly meeting.

Peggy pointed out that if every household gave \$20 we would soon reach that amount.

Nick suggested that the ratio was wrong and that we should be offering to donate \$2000 if the community raises 100 times that amount.

Mike said that it would be great if we could raise that much but that this is only the start and that we may need to do additional fund raising later.

Following a question from the floor Sue confirmed that at present organizations are fund raising individually but that if we need a legal defense fund then resources will be pooled.

Mike thanked Sue for her presentation and the efforts of the Foundation.

Cate proposed that the WCA donate a total of \$2000 by matching donations from WCA members between now and the next quarterly meeting.

Proposal was seconded by Nick and agreed by all those present.

Preserving the Landmark:

Cate reported that work continues and that letters have gone out to all residents in the village for access to properties to carry out surveys. Learned this week that \$120,000 has been awarded for storm water management plan. In addition Loudoun County have agreed funding of \$2.5m in FY 25 and \$5m the following year.

Mike thanked Cate for all her work and the incredible achievements so far.

New Business: There was no new business presented.

Adjournment: With no further business, Mike adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Fiona Sullivan, Secretary

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.