



## **WATERFORD CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION Board Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Minutes 2024**

The board of Directors met, via Zoom on 06/10/2024. President Mike Stup called the meeting to order at 7pm. Members in Attendance were:

Mike Stup – President  
Christy Hertel – Vice President  
Fiona Sullivan – Secretary and Entertainments Chair  
Linda Landreth – Cemetery Chair  
Nick Ratcliff – Beautification Chair  
Mark Sullivan – Water Committee Chair  
Cate Wyatt – 2033 Committee Chair

### **Chair Report: Mike reported the following**

- Mike was promoted in May which may mean that he will need to ask people to help due to being over committed.
- A community member wishes to read out the WPG Mission Statement at the next meeting. **Approved by all those present.**
- There have been 3 – 4 hit and runs in the village in the last 3 months. In the latest incident someone was hit on Second Street by something falling off a truck.

**Transmission Line:** Mike advised that Susan Manch will provide an update from the Foundation regarding the Transmission Lines. A large amount of time has been devoted to this topic over the last two meetings.

**Events Committee:** Fiona reported that 4<sup>th</sup> July prep continues. Still some volunteer places not filled. If no one steps forward to run the children's games and cake walk this year they will not take place.

**Traffic Committee:** Sharyn advised that a vote will be taken at the next WCA meeting to change the name of the Traffic Committee to Traffic and Safety Committee.

Cate asked if Sharyn was still being provided with the numbers of cars entering the village every day and their speeds. Sharyn confirmed that she is.

Cate reported that the Loyalty Road sign is currently not flashing the speed.

**Beautification Committee:** Nick reported the work on the eradication of invasive species continues.

**Cemetery Committee:** Linda advised that there is not much to report, they are still looking to do some additional tree work.

**Water Committee:** Mark will provide an update and thank the Waterford Preservation Group for their engagement in the process. He will point everyone to the online sites and comment boards.

Mike confirmed that there are one or two houses that are not connected to the sewer system.

There will be no water enabled development.

Lots of misinformation currently in circulation.

There is low transmissivity where there is number of wells together in a smaller area in the center of the village.

There is no legal requirement to connect to the new system.

Nick asked if there was any data that supported the low transmissivity. Mike confirmed that a report from 2006 provided the details and that he would be happy to talk Nick through the information.

**Preserving the Landmark Committee:** Cate advised that she will be providing an update and that there is some misinformation circulating.

The current survey work has raised some questions, people should not be concerned there will be no construction without approval from village residents.

Nothing has been heard on the other grants that have been submitted.

Nick advised that his was concerned when he heard that we were applying for a raise grant and that he was appalled by how the County had exaggerated the problems, he requested confirmation that it was approved by the village residents.

Cate confirmed that the work of the 2033 committee had been discussed at every WCA meeting and that there were weekly meetings that could be attended and comment. The work that the

2033 Committee is doing is to ensure that the village residents do not have to pay out of pocket for improvements.

Mike closed the meeting reminding everyone that the board needs to be open, respectful and transparent. Set up for the WCA meeting will begin at 6pm.



## WATERFORD CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Minutes 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Stup at 7.pm on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024, at the Waterford Old School.

**Minutes:** Secretary Fiona Sullivan presented the minutes for the 1st Quarter 2024 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 Maureen Arnold; the motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**Maureen Arnold – Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Maureen Arnold confirmed that the balance in the checking account currently stands at \$11,859 and that in addition there was also \$10,373 held in CDs.

The balance in the checking account is inclusive of the amount raised for the firework display and reflects the \$1,000 deposit which has already been paid.

Contributions received by the Waterford Foundation from WCA members in respect of the work fighting the transmission lines amounts to \$326.

**President Report:** Mike Stup reported that unfortunately there have been some additional traffic incidents since the last meeting. He introduced Captain TJ DeLitta the Western Loudoun Station Commander and Deputy First Class Nathan Gerben who is the new deputy covering the area including Waterford.

Capt DeLitta stated that he appreciated people submitting online complaints and that when it was reported that trucks had been using the village as a through route this was stopped quickly following a discussion with the contracting company.

Kay Chewing asked if there are any weight restrictions on the bridge at the Old Wheatland Road  
4<sup>th</sup> July Committee Report:

entrance to the village

Capt DeLitta reported that this is VDOT issue but that having posted weight restrictions could have unforeseen consequences as fire trucks would stop if they exceed the posted weight limit.

Jeff Bean asked for an update of the recent occurrence of vandalism.

Capt Delitta reported that there reports of similar instances in Ashburn and Lovettsville but that no arrests have been made.

Mark Sullivan asked if there would be any mitigation for the increased traffic that will inevitably come through the village as VDOT moves on with the improvements on the 15 and 9.

Capt Delitta stated that they would monitor the situation. They are aware of the potential for problems when roads are closed or traffic flow reduced. They will work with VDOT. There is a quarterly meeting at the station and everyone is welcome to attend.

**4<sup>th</sup> July Committee Report:** Fiona Sullivan reported that additional volunteers were required specifically for manning road closures for the parade, the pie competition and children's games. In particular the children's games would not be to take place this year if there were no volunteers to run these activities. Additional contributions are required for the firework display.

**Preserving the Landmark Committee Report:** Cate Wyatt reiterated that the Business Plan is only a concept plan and is not set in stone. There is some miscommunication in the village that the plan represents what will actually happen and nothing could be further from the truth.

One or two households declined to have the initial Nepa Survey team carry out a survey of their land and their wishes were respected.

The County has received a grant of \$220,000 from VA Parks and Rec in respect of VA Flood preparedness and storm water management.

\$2.5m has been allocated by the County which becomes available on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. They will then send out a request for engineering design companies to bid for the initial design work. We will be given the opportunity to be part of the process every step of the way. We have asked the County to let us be involved with the process to select the engineering company as this will be vital to get the outcome that the village will be happy with.

Mike Stup reported that we will need to figure out a forum to better communicate this work to residents. It will take at least 6 months to appoint a company and another 6 months to get a contract agreed and up and running, we have a year to figure out collectively how we are going to disseminate this information to residents.

Nick Radcliffe thanked Mike for this approach as the one thing that has been lacking is input from the WCA members, we need to discuss substantive issues before they go to the County rather than the decisions coming to us for approval.

Cate Wyatt confirmed that everything has been presented to the membership at quarterly meetings, all actions taken by the Preserving the Landmark Committee have been approved by the WCA.

Ann Belland requested information on the Waterford Leadership Council.

Cate Wyatt advised that in June 2020 she was asked by the then President of the WCA, Ray Dafner, to look at governance and how the Mission Statement aligned with the Bylaws. The Waterford Leadership Council was set up as part of this process to get the input of the Waterford Foundation.

Richard Rogers asked to know who was part of the Waterford Leadership Council, how they are appointed and what authority they have to represent the WCA.

Mike Stup confirmed that the Waterford Leadership Council included representation from the Waterford Foundation, the executive council of the WCA and officers from the Preserving the Landmark Committee. The Waterford Foundation and the WCA have overlapping areas of concern and action the council discusses how we can work together and who should take the lead to ensure the best outcomes. For example the Waterford Foundation have taken the lead on the transmission lines issue because the WCA does not have the bandwidth or the expertise.

Nick Radcliff advised that he was concerned that the submission of the application for the raise grant was not approved by the WCA membership.

Cate Wyatt confirmed that everything has gone through the membership for approval, the grants have been applied for so that the burden of funding the improvements does not fall to the homeowners.

Ann Belland asked if all the minutes are available.

Debbie Robison stated that it was great that the plan was only a concept at this stage and asked if the WCA can go through the proposed plan.

Mike Stup advised that we have 9 months to sort out our communication on this issue to give everyone the ability to be part of the process.

**Water Committee Report:** Mark Sullivan advised that the role of the Water Committee Chair was to attend meeting and provide feedback to the WCA members to ensure openness and accountability.

The potable water system is still in the technical feasibility stage. A feasibility study is being finalized between Paeonian Springs and Waterford.

The waste water feasibility report will be published in Aug or Sept. This will then enable the project to move forward to the design stage. The design has to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and we will be able to present our views on the design which will be sympathetic to the architecture of the village. If approved construction would begin in the third quarter of 2026.

Residents who are interested in commenting on the studies/planning/design were encouraged to visit the Loudoun County Website

<https://www.loudoun.gov/6016/Village-of-Waterford-Infrastructure-and->

All scrutiny is good and holds the Board of Supervisors to account.

Nick Radcliffe asked for comments regarding the progress relative to our timescale, he expressed his concern that decisions will be imposed on us because the Paeonian Springs element of the project could be moving along faster.

Mark Sullivan confirmed that the decision to upgrade the waste water system Has already been made.

**Beautification Committee Report:** Nick Radcliff reported that the first treatment of poison hemlock on Phillips farm was effective and it appears to be under control. Additional plants will still need to be marked and treated again.

Regretfully the same cannot be said for the mile a minute vine which is still not under control.

Residents were reminded that Dominion Power do not trim trees hanging over the lower voltage lines, they only trim trees affecting the higher voltage lines. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of trimming trees, including those that have been planted by the Waterford Beautification Committee.

**Waterford Foundation/Transmission Lines Report:** Sue Manch reminded residents of the Open House invitation on 6/12/24 to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of Loudoun Mutual. A champagne toast will be made to the out going CEO.

\$225,000 has been earmarked for restoration efforts at the John Wesley Church, the architectural advice is being provided pro bono.

Loudoun County's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) is going to earmark money for the restoration of the water wheel and mill race.

Painting preparation has started at the Second Street School and classroom visits are nearing pre-COVID levels.

The following update was provided on the LTLA:

- 200 signs are still available.
- 6/24/24 is the deadline for public comments to the US Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE is able to overrule the State Corporation Commission (SCC) in the interest of national security. Residents were encouraged to comment directly to the DOE.
- Additional donations were sought and volunteers requested to staff information stands at events across the county.
- Expected timeline:
  - August – September proposed pathways determined.



- December – application to SCC followed by 30 day comment period.

**Any Other Business:**

Jeff Bean provided an overview of the Waterford Preservation Group. This group is made up of residents who advocate for smaller, simpler, and less expensive alternatives to the County plans for water systems/wells such as shared wells. He encouraged attendees to visit their Facebook page and provide feedback.