

Town Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2011, 6:30 pm

The Town Commissioner's Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by President Robert Gell. Also in attendance were Commissioners Mary Carol Durange, Joseph Letts and Donna Sheets. Commissioner Michael Doss was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ryleigh Johnson.

Accounts Payable report was reviewed and Commissioner Sheets made the motion to accept. The motion was approved 4-0.

The minutes for the March 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed and Commissioner Sheets moved to accept them as written. This passed 4-0.

Mike Burns reported on the third meeting of the Charlestown Parks Review Committee. The committee made specific recommendations for locations and wording for the "rules" signs for the Town Footlog Park. Also suggested was a dog station, park benches and waste receptacle. It was recommended that three park benches be placed along the border of the private residential property with signs noting "Private Property Beyond This Point." Discussion ensued regarding the prohibition of portable grills.

It was felt Charlestown should use 2011 to educate the public that a policy will go into effect in 2012 which will require stickers in order to use the boat ramp. It was unclear whether fees would be for parking or for using the boat ramp. The majority of boat ramp users prefer to pay the Wellwood for parking since the free parking at Lot B is inconvenient as would be the suggestion of using the "Firemen's Lot." It was concluded that parking could be still be free but there would be a charge for boat ramp use. Previous annual fees recommended were \$30 Maryland; \$50 out-of-state; daily fees would be \$5 Maryland, \$10 out-of-state.

Commissioner Sheets asked if residents would be free but the committee had decided against free use for residents. Discussion about a boat ramp "per-use" fee revealed a idea for the Town employ someone specifically to sell stickers or ask the Wellwood to sell them. It was noted that it would be impossible to police everyone at the boat ramp, but if the word got out soon, hopefully, in time, Charlestown would have some way to monitor the boat ramp users.

At Long Point, the committee wants to continue the existing policy; however, an escalating fee based upon the number of attendees was suggested. They also recommended relocating the granite monument closer to the flagpole with the Wellwood Club offering to pay for this move. Blocking off that section of Conestoga Street during large weddings for safety reasons was suggested. Parking for events at Long Point was discussed as it is an ongoing issue. It was suggested that drivers be told to drop off passengers and park so as not to crowd Town Streets.

If the Town hires someone to monitor the boat ramp it will be for the weekend days. The probability for the County police issuing citations would entail the Town's having to pay for any time the officer must be in court.

Insurance coverage for individual events in Town was briefly discussed in passing. Also, organizing an Annual Park clean-up day was suggested. The committee reviewed the Charlestown Vision Committee's report and would like to look into pursuing some of the projects. Further the Committee suggested additional parking be created in the area at the corner of Bladen and Conestoga Streets. Lighting for the Stone Wharf and along Water Street was recommended; especially for the parking lot area.

The Committee discussed their concern about the year-round/live aboard boat residents because concern has been raised about disposal of waste into the river and use of public facilities by live aboard residents. Dennis Taylor spoke about living aboard his boat and noted that waste disposal from boats is

regulated by the Coast Guard and the Federal government; also he pays a slip fee just as any tenant pays rent without property tax and, he concluded, he and his wife prefer living year-round aboard their boat. After a short discussion, President Gell asked that research be done about year-round living on boats.

Finally the Committee suggested moving the boat ramp to Lot B so as to provide launching and parking at the same site and to alleviate the congestion at Market and Water Streets.

Out-of-Town water service request from Gerda M. Miller of 1149 West Old Philadelphia Road was brought forward for discussion. Ms. Miller explained that her 248 foot well delivers water with very high iron content and her in-house filtration system cannot cope so she would really like to have Town water. President Gell suggested annexing this lot now instead of holding this option open. Commissioner Letts suggested the Town combine this annexation request with others from the area and bring them all in. Commissioner Sheets moved to move forward with Ms. Millers request for Town water and annexation. In further discussion President Gell questioned Ms. Miller to assure she understands the annexation and water connection process. Mr. Pumpaly discussed the need to research the issue of annexations for the out-of-town water connections. The motion was reiterated to allow Ms. Miller to annex and to provide her with water. Further discussion concerned other properties available for annexation, and, it was noted, Ms. Miller's request should be addressed first. This was approved 4-0.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business

- Outdoor exercise equipment for the Athletic Complex has been received and assembled. A GIS map was provided so the Commissioners can decide locations for this equipment which will require a substantial concrete base. Commissioner Durange suggested placement where there are spaces along the walking path or by the parking lot. Commissioner Durange agreed to take responsibility for placement. It was noted that consideration must be given in order for a cement truck to be able to get in place to pour concrete.

New Business

- The Quarterly MML Meeting to be held on April 21st in Chesapeake City was discussed in order to ascertain the attendees.
- The MML Summer Convention was discussed and the Board was informed of the need to have the completed forms returned by April 8th in order to submit the reservations by April 15th.
- An e-mail from the Town attorney where he summarized the actions he has taken so far concerning the requests for action from the previous March meeting was briefly discussed.
- Mr. Pumpaly explained the results of the Water Tower bid and the meaning of each price category. He noted that a letter with a copy of the bid details is being sent to the low bidder (Utility Service Company) to assure they are able to provide their service as stated in their low bid along with an option to back out at this point. Once this letter is sent, the Commissioners will be asked to decide which bid to accept. It was noted that we have references on all but one bidder and that one is pending.
- The Commissioners were asked to suggest dates in April suitable for a 5:30 pm meeting in order to review the 4th draft of the budget line-by-line.

Period of Public Comment There were no speakers.

Any resident who wishes to comment on this proceeding, or who may have comments for the good of the Town of Charlestown, may offer their comments to the Commissioners for a period of not to exceed (5) five minutes. All residents offering comments must first sign the "Public Comment Speaker" roster.

Commissioner Sheets motioned to adjourn which ended the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by Linda Jackson