

**TOWN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND  
March 22, 2022 at 6:00 PM  
Town Hall, 241 Market Street, and Via Zoom**

**The meeting was called to order by President Karl Fockler at 6:01pm.**

**In attendance:** Karl Fockler, Lou Wood, Jeff Fields, Bryan Lightner, Mary Culver, Kathy SanDoe; **Not Present:** Renee Capano and Curtis Elmer

**Public attendees:** Ronald Cagle, Pauline Bryant, Dan Rupert, Dennis Taylor, Diane Letts, Tom Costanza, Rosalyn Bott

**Public via Zoom:** Barbara Tammaro, LJ Bowens, Debra Myers, Richard Mahan, Thelma McMullen, Sean Durgin.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Tom Costanza opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes: March 8, 2022 – Motion to approve by Treasurer Fields, seconded by Commissioner Wood. Carried 3-0.**

**Accounts Payable** in the amount of \$17,931.16 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Wood moved to approve, seconded by Treasurer Fields. Carried 3-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**73 Edgewater Avenue Water Service – Bryan Lightner**

Mr. Lightner applied for a utility permit with the County, since that portion of Edgewater Avenue a County road. The Town attorney is updating the agreement for the hookup, to be sure the Town is covered. If annexation is approved in the future, Mr. Urick has agreed to come into Town limits.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**River Sweep – Bryan Lightner**

The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway hosts this regional event and provided us with a flyer. It's scheduled for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 am until noon. Charlestown will participate by hosting a volunteer clean up event starting at Long Point Park first, and then moving onto Sandy Beach, and Foot Log Parks.

**Adopt a Road – President Fockler**

The Town can't formally adopt MD 7 because there are no shoulders, but we can put up signs to notify drivers and the SHA to provide a truck with flashing lights. Two tons of trash were picked up last year. Commissioner Wood suggested doing it on the same day as the Countywide event. President Fockler wants to get it done before the vegetation starts growing up. The group

discussed and decided a Saturday in April would be good. Mr. Lightner will schedule a date with SHA.

### **222 Conestoga Street – Commissioner Wood**

Commissioner Wood read Mr. Ronald Cagle’s letter directed to the Town. Commissioner Wood stated that she has been informed Mr. Cagle no longer operates a home business. President Fockler doesn’t believe the Commissioner’s meeting is the place to discuss the letter and feels it’s possible to come up with a solution within the confines of the zoning ordinance.

Commissioner Wood would like this section of the ordinance be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and suggests more leniency with boats in particular, since we’re a waterfront community, and Treasurer Fields agrees. President Fockler said a response will be crafted to Mr. Cagle’s letter.

### **THIS MARKS THE END OF OLD AND NEW BUSINESS.**

President Fockler suggested the Commissioners hold a special hearing for the FY 2023 budget on April 5<sup>th</sup> and the group agreed. Residents can come in with questions or requests for the Commissioner’s consideration.

Commissioner Wood has been informed that someone in Town has old clothing for sale that can be used for historical events and they are willing to sell it Town. Ms. Pauline Bryant has colonial uniforms and regiment rifles, which may be of interest to the Town.

Commissioner Wood inquired why Kimberly Lloyd at the end of Edgewater Avenue is being billed for Town water. Her campground doesn’t have water service at Edgewater Avenue, the line stops at Shoch Drive. President Fockler said we are required to charge Town properties for water, whether they have a hookup or not. In the case of this property, Commissioner Wood doesn’t feel that’s fair. President Fockler thinks it needs to be looked into. He also thinks we could run water down the whole street as part of an annexation proposal.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Dominic Tammaro** – He doesn’t think Mr. Cagle is doing anything wrong, the Town should allow him to make a living, since he doesn’t have boats for long, and feels the property always looks clean.

**LJ Bowens** – He thinks Mr. Cagle should be able to continue his hobby.

**Robert Hartsfield** – He has no problem with Mr. Cagle.

**Terry MacDonald** – He’s a member of National Federation of the Blind, and he supports Mr. Cagle’s choice to build boats.

**Thelma McMullen** – She asked what was learned at the MDE meeting and the status of the long-term breakwater project. Mr. Lightner responded that we will find out in the April/May timeframe whether or not our grant proposal for the design funds for the breakwater was awarded. At the meeting with MDE, it was determined that no State permit was needed for the interim solution, but a Town permit needed. Mr. Lightner will be submitting a consistency report

to the Critical Area Commission for review and approval, and then will take before the Planning and Zoning Commission, to approve the Town permit, most likely at their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Town has contracted with an engineer for the design, which will be installed by the Town's maintenance staff.

**Diane Letts** – She just wanted to thank the Town for the raises given to the Election Board.

**CJ Heitz** – He's upset that someone's hobby is being put onto the agenda for a Town meeting, where there are other issues to address. For example, he suggests the Town try to improve stormwater management and drainage near the intersection of Market and Calvert Streets, including installation of a larger drainage pipe.

**Tom Costanza** – He supports Mr. Cagle and thinks it's not a business, since he doesn't make money. He's been doing this for over 5 years and several neighbors don't feel it's a disturbance.

**Ron Cagle** – He asked President Fockler what the violation is. President Fockler said home occupations must follow certain conditions in the zoning ordinance, but some of the provisions are vague. Mr. Lightner reiterated this isn't the place to discuss an active zoning violation.

**Paul Cranny** – He supports Mr. Cagle and feels the Town should help address issues drainage near Conestoga and Calvert Streets.

**Pauline Bryant** – She stated her husband used to have boats in their yard, but had no complaints about it. She would like to see Sandy Beach cleaned and a picnic bench added. She also feels the drainage pipes were not done correctly at the park. Finally, she would like to see more parking at the Stone Wharf.

**Sam Speakman** – He supports Mr. Cagle and doesn't understand how this could be a zoning violation, since this is a boating community.

**Robyn Rowe** – She wonders if Sandy Beach can borrow a picnic table from Veteran's Park? Since we're also a walking community, and with the anticipated increase in boating traffic, would it be possible to install speed bumps along Water Street. There was also some discussion about the need for traffic calming along Conestoga and Market Streets.

**Rosalyn Bott** – She agrees with Mr. Cagle, and thinks there are other businesses around Town that don't have approval. She heard the Town might be considering selling the end of a street and cautioned about doing that. President Fockler stated the Town is considering selling the end of Calvert Street, where there is a shed, the Town no longer uses. She also wanted an update about cemetery signs and Commissioner Wood mentioned she found a source for the rocks, but hasn't heard about the plaques yet.

**President Fockler** – He mentioned there is a meeting with a street light company on April 6<sup>th</sup>, to discuss potential options to consider in the center of Town.

**Commissioner Wood** – She would like to see a bench dedicated to Joe Letts at any park because he was always fishing.

**THIS MARKS THE END OF PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**Commissioner Wood motioned to adjourn at 7:24 pm, seconded by Treasurer Fields. Carried 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy SanDoe, Town Clerk