

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

"Where Northern Thrift and Personality Blend with Southern Charm and Hospitality"

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Ken Lord, Mayor
Barry Levey, Assistant Mayor
Gina Ellis, Council Member
Judy Kerns, Council Member
Matthew Hull, Council Member

August 5, 2020

Not Approved

NOTE: This meeting was held in Town Hall closed to the public due to the COVID-19 virus. It was aired for the public on Facebook Live.

The monthly meeting of the Keedysville Town Council was called to order at 7:00pm with the following members present: Mayor Ken Lord, Assistant Mayor Barry Levey, Council Members Judy Kerns, Matt Hull and Brandon Sweeney and Town Administrator Rick Bishop.

Kevin Tucker, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County, swore in re-elected Mayor Ken Lord and newly elected Council Member Brandon Sweeney.

Mayor Lord thanked all the candidates and voters. He congratulated Brandon Sweeney and thanked Gina Ellis for her service as Council Member.

The minutes for July, 2020 were approved.

General Fund report was \$164,920.35.

Mayor Lord noted the announcements listed on the agenda.

Deputy Peyton gave the Community Deputy update.

Ms. Kerns discussed the banners for the pedestrian lights. She asked who could hang the banners. Mr. Hull suggested that the lights be adjusted at the same time the banners are hung. Ms. Kerns noted that banners might be rotated to save on wear and tear. She said she said that she has been asked about doing Home Town Heroes banners. She said she would be happy to coordinate purchasing those banners with the residents.

Ms. Kerns gave an update from Sue Gemeny regarding the Keedysville Quilt. She asked the Council if they were still on board with providing the additional matching funds Ms. Gemeny requested for the quilt restoration as were approved by the Council at the October 2019 meeting. The Council agreed. She noted the additional funding needed for the display of the quilt. She said Ms. Gemeny would like to know if the Town would be willing to provide additional funds to match other grants.

Mr. Hull discussed streambank restoration. He noted a meeting he and Mr. Bishop had with Elmer Weibley and his staff from the Washington County Department of Soil Conservation. He noted that Mr. Weibley said what is needed is streambank stabilization, not streambank restoration. Mr. Bishop noted that Mr. Weibley is reaching out to Ecotone, a company that specializes in, among other things, bank stabilizations. Mr. Bishop noted that the process will take 4 or 5 years. Mr. Bishop also noted that plans for the next few years for the property at 15 S. Main Street should be made.

Mr. Bishop noted that the Zoning Ordinance text amendments ordinance was not ready.

Ms. Kerns discussed Town beautification. She noted that a young resident had reached out to the Town looking to do community service. She noted that some of the new green areas along Main Street are becoming weedy. She noted that the flower beds at the library need weeding. She suggested that these are things that could be done by volunteers. She and Mr. Lord said they would get together a list of areas that a volunteer could weed. She also noted that there are weeds growing at the new stormwater management area at the end of S. Main Street. Mr. Bishop said that area is in SHA's purview. It was also noted that the stormwater management areas in the subdivisions need attention. Mr. Bishop said he has spoken with the contractor about this and he and the contractor would be doing a survey of the ponds to find areas to clear.

Ms. Kerns noted a junk vehicle at the rear of 24 S. Main Street.

Ms. Kerns noted that the sign at the Keedysville School is in need of repair, replacement or removal.

Ms. Kerns said that she believed flowers should be placed in front of Town Hall.

Ms. Kerns noted the request by a resident to do some work on the basketball court. He requested that the court be repaved, the hoops and nets be replaced and a net be placed all the way around the court. The Council discussed making some of the repairs. Mayor Lord suggested that doing work on the court could be an Eagle Scout project. The Council agreed.

Ms. Kerns asked about mulching around the playground equipment. Mr. Hull said he has spoken to the contractor about it.

Ms. Kerns suggested a plaque be obtained commemorating the SHA Main Street project.

Mr. Bishop noted the large stones that had been steps along Main Street that had been saved to possibly make a bench. He said that they were at the construction office.

Mayor Lord discussed the possibility of installing two charging stations at the library for electric vehicles. The Council agreed it would be a good idea. He said it would be installed, operated and maintained by Potomac Edison.

Mr. Hull read the public comments which are attached here.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted,
Richard Bishop
Town Administrator

From: Justin Holder <jholder2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Town Hall
Subject: Please read at august meeting

To the town residents, mayor and council:

I want to thank the town and all residents for doing a good job through a very difficult time with a virus. As always I appreciate all the hard work you guys do.

I also want to thank Matt Hull for a very fast response to cleaning up a very dangerous mess I asked him to look at. Matt this fall I am volunteering to help you with the rest of the cleanup. I am a bit discouraged we did not get the developer to do this and just let Matt Powell walk away from his bond. Mr. Hull has always been there in a jam, and we appreciate it.

Congratulations to Mr. Sweeney on his new electoral win! Thank you for your help.

I would again like to address a few rumors I heard around the town and provide some facts. It was brought to my attention I have been called a troublemaker and it has been said I am costing the town a lot of money.

Facts as I have checked.

1. I wrote an email march 2nd that is public, in that email I stated working together in good faith to install utilities would be far less costly than paying attorneys to figure it out.
2. In response and at the request of Barry Levy, the town replied in their infamous and public email "if you don't have water, you don't get sewer".
3. Now after about \$3500 in PIA fees, \$5000 in attorney fees, and lots of turmoil and despairing there is a water line coming. Thank you very much, however please remember at this time I want to know why it was never done. Not to mention Ms Holder may have lost out on at least \$40000 in grant money and possible 50k more for a total of 90k in funds to assist with the project.
4. I have requested body cam, police reports, 911 logs, and all email correspondance from the town and county in which myself, property I manage, or my family have been mentioned. Despite what Mayor Lord says I have found just Christine Morral of 138 stonecrest circle to be complaining about myself and wife. No complaints of threats or narcotics distribution as Mayor Lord accused me of in his email to Sheriff Mullendore.
There is 1 exception of 26 Bell Lane at 3pm on June 20th. They complained of noise. On that day I had a party and the police report stated the residents were sitting on there back porch directly behind my stage. Mr. Lord, please explain your email to Sheriff Mullendore if you so dare!
5. Deena Holder does hold record title to an easement that does pass through the lands of stonecrest residents. Please state the results of the title abstract of the easements performed at the request of Ed Kucynski town attorney to Jack Steich and the results of Fred Fredericks May 21st site visit to the dnr corridor and Stonecrest.
Had Mr. Lord been forthcoming with residents prior to May 29th about the easement and record title perhaps I would not be in litigation with the Morrals for a peace order, or Christine Morral would not be charged with felony wiretapping.

Perhaps Mr. Lord the best advice you could have given Stonecrest residents was as follows:

So Mr. Holder knocked on your door and said he has an easement, he gave you his email such you could request all documentation. Ask Mr. Holder what documentation he has and review that with your Attorney if you need advice.

Instead Mayor Lord, I opine that you led the charge of malicious prosecution against the town troublemaker. Mr. Lord if my oversight is offensive, run a tighter ship. Remember I sent messages to the town and P and Z at least 30 days prior than knocking on any doors May 20th in Stonecrest.

To town residents:

It is unfortunate that this situation has escalated as far as it did. I have proportionally increased adverse behavior as I have been systematically denied public information at every turn. However I have accumulated quite a wealth of knowledge. Anyone who cares can simply make a public information request, under the public information act for the following: all email correspondance from the following email jholder2004@gmail.com and sharpsburgmanagement@gmail.com.

I wish everyone well. With me business is business and nothing is personal. I love the town and everyone in it, and I hope to be a positive influence.

Thanks,
Justin Holder