

**Village of Martin's Additions
7013 Brookville Road, Suite B
Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

Council Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2022

IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Council Members Present: Andrew Kauders; Susan Fattig; Arthur Alexander; Katie Filipczyk Howard; Jeff Blander; Village Manager: Niles Anderegg; Building Administrator: Doug Lohmeyer; Village Attorney: Ron Bolt

Residents and other Attendees: Keith Allen (Turner Ln.); Lorie Mitchell (Cummings Ln.); Paul McGowan (Brookville Rd.); Tiffany Cissna (Bradley Ln.); Lynn Welle (Oxford St.); Marty Langelan (Chestnut St.); Doug Grob (Cummings Ln.); Susan Post (Turner Ln.); David Saulter (Brookville Rd.)

7:31 PM Call to Order: Kauders

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kauders.

7:34 PM Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer

The Village Council received the Building Administrator's report about ongoing building projects in the Village (see attached).

7:36 PM Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: Kauders

On behalf of the Village, Andrew Kauders expressed appreciation for Niles Anderegg's work as Village Manager. A farewell gathering will be held for residents in the coming week. Susan Fattig commented that the community has benefited from Niles' expertise. Katie Filipczyk Howard noted that Niles started amid the pandemic and rose to the challenges created by those unusual circumstances. Jeff Blander added his words of thanks.

Keith Allen (Turner Ln.) gave the weather report: the Village can say goodbye to temperatures in the 90s.

On behalf of the Community Engagement Committee, Paul McGowan (Brookville Rd.) expressed his appreciation for Niles' work with the Committee.

Lynn Welle (Oxford St.) noted that Niles leaves large shoes to fill and thanked him for his service.

Marty Langelan (Chestnut St.) echoed the positive comments about Niles' contributions to the Village. She asked about the status of the traffic improvements, especially installing a new sign on Turner. Andrew Kauders responded that a second phase of street improvements will be coming. Niles added that the first step in phase two would be gathering data through speed studies to identify where signs should be added. Right now, the Village is finishing its implementation of what has already been improved in phase one and planning for the next

phase. Marty also asked that the meeting packet be available to residents as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

Doug Grob (Cummings Ln.) thanked Niles for his service and responsiveness.

Tiffany Cissna (Bradley Ln.) also expressed her appreciation for Niles' work, which will provide guidance for future Village staff.

7:49 PM Discussion of the Village's 2022 Annual Survey Questions

Arthur Alexander reported on his revisions to the annual survey questions. He went back to the recommendations of an outside consultant from a few years ago and provided space for open comments after every question. He also suggested that every resident rather than every household complete the survey; the survey has been limited to one response per household. Tiffany Cissna commented that in the past it was limited to every household so that multiple responses on questions such as preferred services do not cancel each other out. Marty Langelan spoke in agreement with the addition of extra space for comments. She also suggested that the survey ask if residents feel that sufficient information on finances is available and provide more context to the question on providing snow shoveling services. Jeff Blander thanked Arthur for taking the lead on the survey and asked if a question might be asked that would help inform the Council's future decision-making on in-person or mail-in voting in Village Elections. Tiffany Cissna noted that the Council should consider the purpose of the survey as it decides whether to ask for one per household or per resident. She suggested that more context about the number of households already participating in composting be added to the question about composting; that cost information be added to the question on snow shoveling and the link between snow shoveling and public safety be made clear; that additional context be provided for questions on Chevy Chase at Home and on the cost and desirability of events; and that further questions be asked about election preferences, including reinstating the Celebration on the Sidewalk event. Andrew commented that Section Three held a very successful end of summer event recently and that such an event might be a welcomed addition to the Village's activities. The Council will review the questions and decide if the survey will be limited to one per resident or household.

8:05 PM Committee Reports

Community Engagement

Chair Keith Allen reported on the success of the Movie in the Park event. The Halloween Parade will be coming up. Keith also noted that the park is a great asset for events. Committee member Paul McGowan welcomed the addition of Phil Hurst to the Committee and also commented on the quality of the events offered by Section Three. Arthur asked if American Rescue Fund can be used to improve the park. Niles noted that park improvements would fall under the criteria for approved use of the funds but improving the park would require coordination with the County. Andrew commented that residents might question using Village money on a County facility. Katie thanked the Committee for an awesome Movie in the Park event and noted that due to the success of the event, another neighboring municipality indicated interest in emulating the Village's movie night event.

Ethics Committee

Chair Lorie Mitchell reported that the Committee had its first meeting on Monday, Sept. 20, and initiated staggered terms for its three members. The Committee is planning to offer ethics training to new committee members in October as well as to Village Council members. The

Committee also seeks guidance from the Council on whether to consider amending the ethics ordinance to apply to all Village committee members. The Council directed Village Attorney Ron Bolt to draft a proposed change to the ordinance and send it back to the Ethics Committee for consideration. The Committee will meet again on December 5, 2022.

Election Committee

No report but Niles noted that the Election Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

8:14 PM Treasurer's Report: Alexander

The Village Council received the Treasurer's report (see attached). Arthur Alexander noted that income and expenses are as expected.

8:16 PM Manager's Report Anderegg

The Village Council received the Manager's report (see attached). Niles thanked residents for their kind wishes. Andrew commended the Tree Supervisor, Village Arborist and Pepco for taking down a tree on Turner that was a risk factor.

8:20 PM Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments: Kauders

Lynn Welle (Oxford St.) asked if street captains were considered volunteers in terms of the ethics ordinance and training. Niles noted that they do not take an Oath of Office. Andrew referred the question to Ron Bolt and Lorie Mitchell. Ron responded that since they do not serve in an advisory role, he does not see the need to add formalities. Niles will check to see if the Community Engagement Committee's charter lays out responsibilities for the street captains.

Marty Langelan (Chestnut St.) asked if the new signs by the speed humps will post a lower speed limit. Niles responded that the signs inform drivers that they should travel over the humps at a speed of 10 mph to avoid car damage. Marty asked if the Council would lower the speed limit to 15 mph on streets that have speed humps. Ron clarified that the state sets speed limits that can be lowered by a municipality but only upon the recommendations of a traffic engineer's study and only to a certain extent (15 mph). Marty also asked the Council to consider additional pragmatic events that address needs for shredding, battery and light bulb disposal, etc.

Lynne Welle asked about potential widening of Quincy St. Niles responded that Joe Cutro has submitted a plan for widening the street but the plan would take out grass and trees, a trade-off that the Council will need to explore.

Tiffany Cissna (Bradley Ln.) asked the Council to consider handling surplus funds by giving back a certain amount of tax dollars to residents as Section Five does. Arthur responded that legal counsel suggested that that might not be legal. Andrew spoke in support of the idea. The Council will further investigate the legal implications. Tiffany also asked if a water fountain could be added to the park.

8:26 PM Adjournment: Kauders

Motion: Susan Fattig moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Arthur Alexander. Motion passed (4 in favor; Jeff Blander absent).

