

[Append to December Bulletin]

Special Town Meeting

10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 4, 2021

by **Zoom Videoconference**

- ▶ **Purpose:** This Special Town Meeting has been scheduled by the Town Council and Mayor in accord with the Council response to the Shared Use Bike Path Petition, and that also established the Shared Use Pathway Connection Task Force. The purpose of the meeting is for the Task Force to present its findings to the Town, as specified in the Town Council motion adopted June 30, 2021.
- ▶ **Residents urged to attend:** Those having an interest in a new shared-use pathway connection to the Town should to attend this Town Meeting. Participants should have read and considered the Task Force Report in advance.
- ▶ **Meeting Agenda:** The proposed Agenda for the meeting is attached.
- ▶ **Meeting Program - Task Force Report:** The Task Force will present a summary of their Report. **The Report is attached**, both in Word document format with all links intact, and as a PDF document (only lacking functioning internal footnote links). Both documents are also posted on the Town website.
- ▶ **Meeting Program - Questions for the Task Force:** The Task Force has already responded in writing to questions they received by November 19th. **Task Force responses are attached.** Residents will have the opportunity to ask the Task Force additional questions about the Report after their presentation. *In respect of time, participants will be expected to convey their question succinctly in one minute or less. After others have spoken and if time permits, a second question may be asked.*
- ▶ **Meeting Discussion:** For the remainder of the Town Meeting residents will have the opportunity to express opinions and preferences concerning the decision on the pathway connection. The Mayor and Town Council look forward to hearing statements from residents at the meeting. *In respect of the time, a limit of 3 minutes will be imposed on statements. Once all others have spoken, a second statement may be allotted if time permits.*
- ▶ **Voting:** Voting may be proposed on issues or preferences regarding the Shared Use Pathway Connection (that is, related to the purpose of the Special Town Meeting). *Such votes would represent a “sense of the Town Meeting”. Vote outcomes will be non-binding on the Mayor and Town Council.* Binding votes at a Town Meeting (enumerated by the Washington Grove Charter) are restricted to a) adoption at the Annual Town Meeting of the annual Town budget, tax rates and public services assessment (Sections 42 and 47) or b) at Special Town Meetings held for one of the following purposes: modifying total annual expenditures (Section 42), overturning passage of an Ordinance (Section 15b), or imposing an action on the Town Council (Section 15c).

➤ **Voting Procedure for this virtual meeting:** Town Meetings have historically been held in Washington Grove to enable residents to discuss town matters in person, and voting when mandated or taken by choice at a meeting has been conducted in the presence of their neighbors. The Board of Supervisors of Elections has considered how best to conduct such a vote count. The procedure adopted is deemed preferable to burdening residents and computer systems with the requirement that each voter have their own connection to the meeting.

Participants at the meeting will be qualified to vote if they are listed as registered to vote in Montgomery County. Prior to starting the meeting, the Board will verify the names of one or more qualified voters present for each connection. *Note that only visual connections will support voting by more than one qualified voter.*

If a vote count is called for, one voter at each connected device will vote using the “raise hand” function. Hands will be counted and lowered. Subsequent rounds of “hand raising” will be called for and will be counted, *but only when a different voter is visible* to the meeting.

➤ **Meeting access details:**

When: Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Where: By Zoom videoconference accessible at:

Join by internet <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82053026608?pwd=QjlxZHpuVEN0eVF0OWd2YnMxTIVXZz09>

Or by dial-in to 301 715 8592 using Meeting ID: 820 5302 6608, Passcode: 403268

Who may attend: Individuals who identify themselves and whose access device also identifies them by name. Attendees will be passed through a waiting room prior to being allowed into the meeting.

Only residents registered in Montgomery County will be allowed to vote.

Attachments:

Final TF Report 11-8-21.pdf

Final TF Report 11-8-21.docx

Responses to Shared Use Pathway Final Report Corrections, Comments & Questions 12-1-21p.pdf

Agenda Special Town Meeting 120421.pdf