



Minutes of the Town Council  
September 12, 2022

Approved: October 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Town Council was held remotely via ZOOM Video Conferencing. The meeting was recorded.

Mayor Compton called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:36 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Darrell Anderson, David Cosson, Christine Dibble, Eva Patrone, Barbara Raimondo, and Gray Yachup. Also in attendance was Treasurer Jean Moyer. There were approximately 9 or 10 residents in attendance as well.

**Approval of the [Agenda \(PDF\)](#):** It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. Changes were made to item 7 (c) and item 9.  
*Action: Voted 6-0, approved as amended.*

**Public Appearances:** There were none.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was moved and seconded to accept the [August Treasurer's report \(PDF\)](#). There was discussion about ARPA Funds, money given in memory of former resident Sarah Steel, tree removal, and pruning.  
*Action: Voted 6-0 to accept the Report.*

**Mayor's Report:**

- a. *Kudos:* To the Recreation Committee volunteers for sponsoring and organizing the fun-filled Labor Day weekend of activities.
- b. Mayor Compton reviewed the [three upcoming RASEC events about Accessory Dwelling Units](#). The first one starts on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.
- c. Mayor Compton reported the Sustainability Committee will sponsor two information sessions about the conversion of oil to electric heating. The sessions will take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Mayor Compton gave an update on the Town's efforts to file for the removal of restrictive covenants from property deeds. Upon the advice of Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, the Town will not attempt blanket removal of the illegal racially targeted restrictive covenants placed on many property deeds in Town. Instead, the Town may assist interested property owners and complete the necessary paperwork and file the request with the County. The possibility of seeking a legislative solution through cooperation with the Maryland Municipal League was also discussed.
- e. Mayor Compton and Darrell Anderson continue to work on a guidance document for approval and budgeting for non-emergency maintenance projects. They hope to present this at the October meeting of the Town Council.

- f. The Public Service Commission ordered PEPCO to engage in discussion with municipalities interested in purchasing their streetlights from Pepco in an effort to reach agreement, and to refile a tariff proposal with revised parameters for the sale and municipal ownership of the fixtures. The Lighting Committee will participate on behalf of the Town in the discussions with Pepco and other municipalities.
- g. Mayor Compton reported damage to the Edible Garden on Town land by an overzealous resident who thought they were helping out. He proposed a policy that volunteers thinking of improving Town property should first communicate their intentions to an appropriate responsible Town body or individual. There was a lengthy discussion about whether such a policy would discourage volunteerism. For now, things will stay as they are, but he and the Town Council emphasized the need for clear communication by everyone.

**Administrative Matters:**

Paid Leave for Town Personnel – Discussion: Darrell, Christine, and Barbara volunteered to update our leave policy.

***Unfinished Business***

**Closure of Cherry Avenue to Vehicular Use and Conversion to Walkway:** Mayor Compton reviewed the current plan in place for closing Cherry Avenue to vehicular use adopted by the Town Council in 1976. Only the Chapman property at 108 Ridge Road retains the use of Cherry Avenue for vehicle access. Tammy Morgan (108 Ridge Road) gave the Town Council her understanding of the history of their property and use of Cherry Avenue and the challenges of accessing the rear of their property from Ridge Road. She requested the Council reverse the decision to deny a future owner of the property vehicular access from Cherry Avenue. Questioning and discussion included:

- Intentions of the 1976 resolution.
- How long the area has been used for access and parking (~64 years).
- Fairness, since other properties in Town that utilize walkways for vehicular access. Specifically, 313 Brown Street (Dibble/Land) and the use of Pine Avenue.
- The present shared driveway between 108 and 110.
- Constructing a new driveway on the left side of the home.
- That the current Council should rescind or reaffirm the 1976 Council resolution.

HPC Chairman Bob Booher suggested the HPC examine the historical context of the matter and report back to the Council.

Barbara Raimondo proposed ending further discussion in the absence of a motion before the Council. With Council agreement, Mayor Compton will draft a resolution to be introduced in October and discussion will be continued then.

*Action: By consensus, the Council agreed that further discussion of the matter would take place when a Resolution is introduced. This is expected for the October Town Council meeting.*

**Flood Control in the West Woods and in Residential Washington Grove** – Gray Yachup reviewed discussions held since last month of the draft RFP for stormwater/ floodwater management and consultants. He noted productive conversations with Woods Committee Co-Chairs Patty Klein and Joan Mahaffey and with Councilor Dave Cosson, and their agreement on the importance of working together to contract for studies in the West Woods and in residential Washington Grove. The RFP will cover both water flow and mitigation.

The Woods Committee Chairs reported they have approached the engineering firm Soltesz LLC for assistance in defining appropriate parameters for an RFP for the West Woods. They expect to receive a proposal from Soltesz to conduct a pre-RFP analysis. A similar approach may be useful for the residential floodwater study.

Bob Booher advised that long term designs and solutions should be addressed to ensure the effectiveness of any proposed work.

**Deer Hunt Signage – Discussion.** Barbara Raimondo asked for the status of the signs to be installed to provide notice of the managed deer hunt in the Town Woods, as required by this year’s Town Council resolution approving the hunt. Woods Committee Co-chair Pat Klein reported that signs in English and Spanish similar to signs posted by Montgomery Parks in the Conservation Meadow have been ordered. The bow hunters have agreed to wait until the signs are in place before hunting takes place. She also reported that bow hunting in the lower meadow has been delayed by Montgomery Parks until surveyors working in the lower meadow finish their work.

### ***New Business***

None

### ***Other Regular Business***

#### **Town Council Reports (PDF):**

- a. Lower Ridge Road Water Main Project – Darrell Anderson reported difficulty getting information from WSSC and information he gleaned from discussion with several engineering firms was conflicting. Examples of outstanding questions are whether residents who hook up to the new line would be required to cap their existing wells; whether WSSC requires new customers for any new water line to be added to their system; whether fire hydrants on Picea View Court in Shady Grove Crossing are sufficient for firefighters needs on lower Ridge Road.
- b. Gateway Committee – Eva Patrone reported that improvements to the two walkway entries into Town from Washington Grove Lane to Center Street and to Oak Street

are being discussed. In the interim, the present bollards may be relocated closer to Washington Grove Lane.

- c. Woodward Park Gate Closing – Eva reported new signs in English and Spanish have been placed in the kiosk and are planned for the gate at Grove Road and Oak Street. Notes reminding people of closing time at Woodward Park are being placed on cars that are in the park after hours. A small group of volunteers are taking care of closing the gate at dusk and opening it in the morning.
- d. Treatment of Ailing Trees in Woodward Park – Barbara Raimondo reported that the Forestry and Beautification has turned its attention to trees suffering from lace buds, webworms, and compacted soil. A treatment proposal has been received from Davey Trees and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

**Approval of Minutes:** Barbara Raimondo moved to approve the [minutes of the August 29, 2022 meeting of the Special Town Council \(PDF\)](#). Dave Cosson seconded the motion.

*Action: Voted 6-0, approved.*

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman  
Town Clerk