

April 22, 2024

To the Mayor and Members of the Washington Grove Town Council:

Recently we became aware on the unofficial Washington Grove listserv of Tom Land's letter on "Town's voluntary committees". We support this letter and would like to make an addition (point 2 below). Without getting into all the details that Tom Land has brought to bear, we believe the following to be a minimal set of requirements for the proper management of Town committees and commissions.

(1) Since Town committees and commissions are involved in the expenditure of Town taxpayer dollars, membership with voting rights and eligibility for leadership roles should be restricted to Town residents and/or property owners. Others (non-residents) may serve as associate members in an advisory role to strengthen neighborly relations, but these non-residents do not vote or make decisions on the expenditure of Town tax dollars (nor do they lead the committees).

(2) These non-voting, associate members cannot be anonymous. The complete membership (members and associate members) of all committees and commissions must be available for public review.

John Brasunas and Kathleen McCann
405 6th Avenue