**Minutes**

The Commissioners of Barnesville

April 20, 2020

Virtual Town Meeting through Zoom

Called to Order at 7:38PM

9 residents and all commissioners present

Approval of Minutes—February 2020 and Town Dinner minutes approved and will be on website

**Reports:**

Financial Report-

Speed Camera Revenue received. Covid-19 may impact future revenue.

Property and State Income tax may be delayed due to Covid-19 and tax filing deadline extension.

**Beautification-**

Several Beautification team members and volunteers have been cleaning up the roadsides and welcome signs. Thank you to all those who help out.

**Sustainable Barnesville-**

The Sustainable Barnesville website is linked from the town’s homepage. Volunteers in Barnesville have been planting Victory Gardens and sewing face masks for Covid-19 response. The Town of Barnesville received the 2019 Bronze Award from the Maryland PLANT Community Awards Program in recognition of enthusiasm and hard work in planting and caring for trees in the local Urban and Community Forests.

Board of Appeals

Nothing to Report

**Capital Improvements**

**Sidewalk** – Received our consultant’s mock-up of proposed alternative sidewalk design from park to post office. A raised walkway with a retaining wall may be too costly and this could be an alternative. Consultant suggested a walkway at street level, but inside the guard rail, with a gentle slope down to the pasture level located in the State Highway right of way. Community member suggested calling it the Tolbert Trail to recognize the property owners if we need an easement from them for the placement of the walkway.

**Crosswalks** – Installation is on hold until after the state resumes activity post Covid-19. Many local municipalities and state agencies seeing loss of revenue during this time.

**West Harris** Road -- Commissioner Larisch submitted a grant proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust to fund a preliminary design plan for improving drainage along West Harris and Barnesville roads.

**Streetlights**—Commissioners want to think about streetlights given limited LED options and need to assess placement. For example, there are four streetlights in front of Zuckerman property – more light at one side of street. The Town will want to pay attention both to downward projection but also direction of light. Currently, the pole arms are different lengths.

**Park Development**

Phase I has begun with collecting of bids for the landscaping and hardscaping plans for the park. Bids should be received by the end of April. Funding for projects through Program Open Space is available through the end of fiscal year.

**Traffic Calming**

Streethawk reported 54 violations; 15 were stop sign violations in Barnesville. With Covid-19 and less traffic, April contract with Streethawk was reduced to 4 days from the normal 8 days. However, some studies are showing speeding is increasing with less traffic.

**Planning and Zoning**

Nothing to report. No further public meetings until after state-mandated stay at home order is lifted. Committee is continuing work on the revisions to the master plan.

**Events**

Town Dinner was held on March 8th. Community may hold virtual events during stay at home order.

**Town Hall**

Events and rental of town hall suspended until the stay at home order is lifted.

**Communications**

The Tidbit will be out in April and distributed by mail

**New Business**

If anyone in town needs assistance, they may contact town through email or by phone.

Question was raised if there is a current town contact list to distribute the newsletter or other communications. It was noted not everyone within Barnesville uses the PO Boxes at the post office with several residences having mail boxes at their homes.

The town has a purchased Zoom account and residents can ask to use the service through the town commissioners or clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.