

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
April 13, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Donny Sutton, Councilman Bill Fracassi, Councilman Harry Marcy, Councilman Bob Pyfer, Town Manager, Tom Mogle, Town Attorney, Tom Yeager. **ABSENT:** Councilman Wayne Gilchrest and Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk.

RESIDENTS: (virtually via GoTo link)— Joe Sanders, Ginny Story, Dick Story, Candi Sorge, Carol Casey, Russ Bell, Kristy Boonem, and Dave Paltrineri.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting. There was no Workshop meeting March 23, 2021. Seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the March 2021 financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: No report available at the time of the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Jamie Williams, Kent County Economic Development and Nancy LaJoice, Maryland Department of Commerce. Bill Mackey from Kent County Planning, Housing, and Zoning was not in attendance. Ms. Williams shared the Economic Development Tools and Resources and their support to the community. Ms. LaJoice explained the roles the Department of Commerce and what they have to offer to the community. Brief discussion on Planning, Housing and Zoning by Ms. Williams.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: Building still closed to the public due to Covid-19.

BCDC: Canid Sorge reported that the museum will open once the building is open to the public. Working on a brochure featuring a hotel tour with history on each hotel for the town of Berterton.

PLANNING: Met April 12th. Discussed posting procedures for any property that requests to make changes, additions, etc. to a structure. The posting procedure will make it visible for neighbors to view and comment to the board if they are opposed. At this time, it is up to the property owner to contact neighbors.

APPEALS BOARD: No Report.

ROADS: No Report.

PARK: Park is being used. The mister system will not be turned on until the weather stays warmer.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE CO.: Latest report from the fire company is that Berterton Day may be canceled again for this year. Waiting on the final decision from the fire company.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read report from Jeff Miller, Plant Operator.

Page 2 04/13/21 Mayor and Council Meeting

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Met a couple weeks ago. Worked on the mission and vision statement. Will be presenting statement in the near future to the council. Joe Stock has spoke with USDA about a grant for the water infrastructure.

Trash: March 2021 – 14.35 Tons
Recycling: March 2021 - 2.20 Tons

Town Manager Report – Mr. Mogle reported that April 24th is the annual Betterton Beach cleanup sponsored by Kent County Parks and Recreation. They will be unveiling the trash containers and announce the winners of the art contest in which the containers are painted from their winning submission. There will also be a ribbon cutting, rededication of the bath house.

Ericsson Avenue – approved for \$50,000 for the preliminary evaluation project.

Bayside Erosion Mitigation – FEMA will be running the required ad in the Kent County News on April 15th. This is a required notice to allow the public thirty days for comments, questions, etc.

County dock and pier – Met with Marty Holden and Mike Moulds from Kent County Environment, Head of Public Landings. Discussed the possibility of having ADA accessibility for the dock and pier installed.

Town Website – looking into funding to update/upgrade town website.

Ginny Story commented that the beach is not ADA accessible to the water. Just another thought to provide access to the water. This will be passed along to the County officials.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion about co-op electric. Ken Copper works for an electrical cooperative company and asked if the town would review their rates. Council requested for Mr. Copper to review our usage and provide us with what they have to offer to save the town money on electric.

Rental Property Inspection Fees – Inspections are completed in compliance with town Ordinance 2006-8 every other year by our code enforcement officer. Currently the fee is \$50.00 per unit and hasn't been changed in several years. Proposed to raise rate to \$65.00 per unit/inspection. Town Attorney Yeager stated that the rate increase is done by resolution.

OPEN FORUM: Candi Sorge commented that she has watched the town maintenance/utility workers, Jeff, Scott, and Wayne marking water/sewer lines for the ThinkBig install of fiber optics within the town. The crew have done a wonderful job. Really proud of their work. Mayor Sutton and Mrs. Sorge both thanked all the town workers for their great work.

Councilman Marcy reported that ShoreRivers will be doing a water testing program to test waters off of Betterton beach and other areas nearby. Samples will be collected on Thursdays and results back on Friday. Looking for volunteers for water sample collections. This is a weekly event. Cost will be approximately \$300 per year. ShoreRivers is researching grants and looking for contributions for this program.

Page 3 4/13/21 Mayor and Council Meeting

Councilman Marcy asked about the status of the invasive species and other vegetation growing on the county portion below Rigbie Steps. Town Manager Mogel will check into the status.

Letter of Support – Mayor Sutton signed off on a letter of support to Jake Reilly, Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Association for ShoreRivers proposal for urban tree plantings in the Sassafras River watershed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the April 13, 2021 meeting; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: May 11, 2021