

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS WATERSHED COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING  
August 12, 2020

Burgess Chad Weddle called the Watershed Outreach Meeting to order on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh, and John Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle, newly hired Town Manager Sean Williams, and 9 citizens.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the usage of the Town watershed property by the Boy Scouts and noted that the property was donated to the Town when the private water company became a municipal system in the mid-1900s. The purpose of the meeting was to hear resident concerns about the Scouts' usage of the site as a tent campground with an archery range.

Mr. Jesse Lee, 11220 Daysville Road, and neighboring property owner, said that he has no problem with the Boy Scouts. He noted that the neighbors are scared about the possibility of a shooting range on site. He understood that Frederick County puts all kinds of shooting ranges in one broad category that requires special exception approval. He wishes the County would break up the category to distinguish archery ranges from gun ranges. He said that the Scouts keep the property clean and it is nice to walk there.

Burgess Weddle emphasized that the request is for an archery range only. There is no plan to have a shooting range on the property.

Mr. Mark Jones, 11309 Liberty Road and neighboring property owner, said he is concerned about the archery range. His big issue is with trespassers on his land (not Scouts). The Scouts' presence is fine. He has found spent ammunition on the border of his property.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh clarified that Mr. Jones' issue is with people who come to the property illegally. Mr. Jones wants to know when hunters are there as he often works along the property boundary.

Mr. Ron Layman, representing the Scouts, and property manager, said that they've had some trouble with trespassing. They have set up trail cameras to identify trespassers. Three cameras have been stolen. He also finds shotgun shells on the property.

Mr. Gilbert asked if the permitted hunters could collect their shells.

Mr. Layman reviewed the hunting seasons: early turkey, bow hunting for turkey, bow hunting for deer, black powder season for deer.

Commissioner McNiesh would like to set up a system for neighbors to be notified when hunters are on the property. Commissioner Bailey suggested that the Walkersville Wire could be used to provide updates on the Boy Scouts, hunting, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Susan Hauver, Planning & Zoning Administrator