

Minutes
Walkersville Planning Commission Meeting
January 24, 2023

Commission Vice Chairman Mike Kuster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Dick Brady, Nathan Shatto, and Gary Baker present. Also present were Town Planner Susan Hauver and Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey. Member Ray Santullo arrived at 7:05 p.m. Members David Ennis and Russ Winch were absent. The meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's website.

1. Minutes

Member Baker made a motion, seconded by Member Brady, to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting and the January 18, 2023 joint workshop as submitted. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

2. Proposed amendments to the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure

Planner Hauver reviewed proposed changes to the Commission's Rules of Procedure. After the December meeting, Mr. Ennis and Mr. Kuster requested an opinion from the Town Attorney about speculative and conflicting reports in applicant and public testimony. The Town Attorney drafted amendments to the Rules of Procedure requiring applicants and those providing public comment to be sworn in.

Commission members clarified that general public comments which are not specific to a particular application before the Commission could still be accepted without the need to be sworn in. There was a question as to whether it would matter if there were a legal challenge to a case. Ms. Hauver noted that when speculative or conflicting information is presented, the speaker could be reminded that their testimony was sworn or affirmed, even if the swearing in is not meaningful from a legal point of view. Members felt the benefit of the requirement would be make people accountable for their testimony. It was noted that the County Planning Commission requires it.

Planner Hauver said she would revise the rules and review them more thoroughly for updates, and the Commission could discuss the amendments in more detail at their February workshop.

3. Comprehensive Plan Update: Draft Transportation chapter

Planner Hauver reviewed the draft Transportation chapter. Commission members noted the following:

- It should be noted that Walkersville is within an hour's driving time to the Washington and Baltimore beltways.
- The text should emphasize that 194 upgrades are a County and State priority.
- Add a table with the actual traffic volumes on area roads (not just a map with ranges).
- Include traffic accident data.
- The plan map should include a road connection from Longley Green to the proposed collector through the Staley property.
- The text should include the recommendation that signage be added to denote priority cycling routes.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Hauver