

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
April 26, 2023

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Gary Baker, and Mike McNiesh, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Town Manager Sean Williams, Director of Public Works Joe Birch, Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey, and a total of 9 citizens. The meeting was streamed on the Town's website.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer.

1. MINUTES

*Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mike McNiesh to approve the Town Meeting minutes and Closed Meeting minutes of April 12, 2023. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Tom Gilbert abstaining.*

Burgess Chad Weddle read a summary of the Closed Meeting minutes.

2. PARKS DISCUSSION – DOG PARK/FOOT GOLF

Kevin Conley discussed the possible addition of foot golf and a dog park to Heritage Farm Park. Nine holes of foot golf would cover 1/3 of the existing golf course, cost approximately \$2500 (not including signage), and GVAA soccer would be willing to donate money to the project. There was discussion on sign options, location, and possible inclusion of using project for an Eagle scout project.

*Commissioner Mike McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to allocate up to \$3,000 (barring donations from GVAA or funds from a Scout project) to install a foot golf course at Heritage Farm Park. The motion passed 4-0.*

Kevin Conley discussed previous Parks Commission conversations about the possible addition of a dog park at Heritage Farm Park. There was an extended conversation regarding the location, cost for fencing (estimate of \$25,998), adding electrical, adding water, security cameras, ground material, the potential need for testing the soil, grading costs for altering that piece of the land, possibly restricting access to Walkersville citizens, and the amount of time that will be required of Town staff. POS funding was discussed as an option for paying for the dog park, but it was agreed to focus installing a new playground at Heritage using POS funding this year, research the additional costs for the dog park, and potentially paying for a dog park using budget funds.

3. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

*Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to pay the bills submitted for the time period. There was no discussion. The motion passed 4-0.*

4. CHAD UPDATES, STAFF COMMENTS AND COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Burgess Chad Weddle read the announcements.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert complimented a Walkersville history display located at the library created by the Walkersville Historical Society

Commissioner Gilbert also inquired about a possible light installation at the new bench at the Frederick Street bus stop.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis inquired about trucks parking/idling at Rutters overnight. Trucks observed doing so should be reported to MSP. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis requested a reminder be placed on the Town FB page/Wire.

Commissioner Gary Baker discussed the productive meeting with the Planning Commission the previous night. Commissioner Baker thanked everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh attended the Planning Meeting last night in the upstairs, overflow location. He noted the sound and video were good. Commissioner McNiesh thanked those involved with the Planning Commission.

Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey noted that water bills were sent out this week and anyone needing assistance should contact Town Hall.

Director of Public Works Joseph Birch provided an update on the follow items:

1. The Maple and Maryland Ave project will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a message board out.
2. The Advanced Metering Reading (AMR) project is still in "IT Coordination".
3. The roadwork/sidewalk installation at Parkside on Biggs Ford Road is completed.
4. Meter replacement still ongoing, we will start in another area after bills go out.
5. Creamery Park playground installation of equipment is 95% complete (need a net still on order), poured in place material 99% complete (waiting on net), walk path completed, Basketball Courts/posts work in progress, striping of courts when temperatures allow it. Final grading and seeding has started.
6. The new walk path in Community Park has been started and is 50% completed. DPW may have to stop until ground dries out.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver discussed the results of the Planning Commission meeting the previous night. The Commission voted to designate the property purchased by FoodPro as agricultural on the comprehensive plan. The draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be out shortly.

Town Manager Sean Williams reminded anyone interested in volunteering to be on the Parks Commission or Planning Commission should apply by Monday.

The Town will also be hiring for a full-time water operator starting next week.

Burgess Weddle thanked Town staff for their work during the Planning Commission last night.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS/WATERSHED UPDATE

Patrick Isenock of 11 Kenneth Drive discussed the proposed stop signs installation on Kenneth Drive. Most of the feedback was positive. It was agreed to place the topic on the next Town agenda.

David Ennis of 118 Challedon Drive thanked Town Staff for their work during the Planning Commission meeting the previous night.

David Toohey of 113 Hibiscus Court discussed his concerns about installing a potential dog park but also disliked the idea of limiting the access for Walkersville residents only.

Mr. Toohey was also disappointed in the lack of voter turnout at the last election. There was a discussion on reasons for the low turnout.

Ron Layman of 24 W. Frederick Street discussed the process of Eagle Scout projects and warned that such projects can take some time to set up.

Kerry Stewart of 105 Sandstone Drive attended her first Town Meeting, had positive things to say about the information discussed, loves Walkersville, and attempted to avoid “throwing shade” at the previous locations she has lived.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (unless changed/cancelled due to Gov. Hogan/CDC recommendations):

- Wed., May 3 – Parks Meeting 7pm
- Sat., May 6 – ARIA Memorial Ceremony 10:30am – Heritage Farm Park
- Tues., May 9 – Planning Commission Workshop 7pm
- Wed, May 10 – Town Meeting 7pm
- Mon., May 15 – EDC Meeting 7pm
- Tues., May 23 – Planning Commission Meeting 7pm
- Wed., May 24 – Town Meeting 7pm
- Mon., May 29 – Town Office Closed – Memorial Day

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager