

BERRYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL STREETS AND UTILITIES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Berryville-Clarke County Government Center
MINUTES
September 24, 2024

A meeting of the Berryville Town Council Streets and Utilities & Community Development Committee was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in the Berryville-Clarke County Government Center, located at 101 Chalmers Court in Berryville, Virginia.

Members of the committee present: Diane Harrison, Chair (Streets and Utilities); Ryan Tibbens, Chair (Community Development)

Staff present: Jean Petti, Deputy Town Manager; Miranda Dodson, Town Clerk

Press: None

1. Call to Order

Mr. Tibbens called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus on a motion by Ms. Harrison.

3. Unfinished Business

Mr. Tibbens asked for an update for 23 E. Main Street, Restroom, Livery Stable, and the Bridge.

Mrs. Petti said that the Town has had small progress with the projects and updated that the bridge project is on track. Mrs. Petti confirmed the option 1 layout for the Livery Stable that was discussed at the July meeting. Both Mr. Tibbens and Ms. Harrison agreed that option 1 is the better choice for the project.

Ms. Harrison also discussed removing the bathroom/utility room and adding on-demand water heaters at each sink. She said removing that bathroom and water heater could be cost effective. Mr. Tibbens said that he just wants to make sure that the committee is being cost effective with the project and keeping it functional.

Mrs. Petti said that the Keith Dalton, Town Manager would like to meet with the engineers again to ensure the stabilization plan is still adequate and that she will collect additional HVAC bids

Mr. Tibbens asked for any discussion of the restroom.

Mrs. Petti asked the committee to confirm the single restroom plan and offered to order siding samples for the committee to review. Mr. Tibbens and Ms. Harrison agreed to look at the samples and that a single restroom plan is best for the area.

Mr. Tibbens asked for any discussion on sidewalks in the park.

Mrs. Petti read a recommendation from Keith Dalton, Town Manager, suggesting pavers and not concrete. This will be a larger upfront cost, but he believes it will provide aesthetic benefits while making sure it is still compliant with ADA. Ms. Harrison disagrees with pavers and is in favor of concrete sidewalk. She believes it serves seniors with walkers, families with strollers, and resists damage from flooding. She said she worries that the pavers will not withstand the elements such as freeze/thaw. Mr. Tibbens said that he is in favor of stamped concrete or pavers to maintain a consistent aesthetic. He said that, looking at the area, there is a lot of different brick and would like to see consistency.

Mrs. Petti will follow up with Town Manager to review the feedback from the committee.

Mr. Tibbens asked for discussion for the trees in the park.

Mrs. Petti suggested that the committee ask the Tree Board for input for replacing the trees. Ms. Harrison and Mr. Tibbens agreed. Mrs. Petti said she will follow up with Christy Dunkle to ask the Tree Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Tibbens asked for any discussion on Crow Street improvements.

Mrs. Petti updated that this is the first large public works project planned for 2025. The drought this past summer made it impossible to complete. The Town has been updating citizens as they call in to inquire. There was no further discussion.

Mr. Tibbens asked for any discussion on trains stopping on tracks.

Mrs. Petti said that there has been no new response from the railroad regarding the trains stopping on the tracks. She asked if the committee would like Town staff to continue to try to get a response or answer. Mr. Tibbens and Ms. Harrison agreed that there was no need to continue unless there is another occurrence. Mr. Tibbens then said that, a few weeks ago, he was going past Josephine Street when he noticed that just the crossing bar was down, but there was no train. He was unsure of how long they were down but did notice that cars started to go through the bars. There was no further discussion on the trains.

Mr. Tibbens asked for any discussion on weeds.

Mrs. Petti said it is before legal counsel prior drafting an ordinance. The goal is to have the ordinance in effect prior to the next growing season. There was no further discussion or unfinished business.

4. New Business

Mr. Tibbens asked for discussion for Battletown/ BelVoi water projects.

Mrs. Petti updated that plans are at the engineers for review. Ms. Harison asked if there was an update on the project. Were ARPA funds being used and if not, do we need to look at next years budget for funding. Mrs. Petti said that she believes the ARPA funding was moved to other projects but would inquire the status of funding for this project. A discussion on stormwater projects and there are no projects on the table at this time.

Mr. Tibbens asked for discussion of trash rates.

Ms. Harrison said that she read an updated from Frederick County that the tipping rates are increasing and voiced concern that it will affect the trash rate here in Berryville. Mr. Tibbens asked if staff could follow up on the increase to hopefully inform the citizens at the beginning of the fiscal year instead of the middle of the year. Ms. Harrison mentioned the dumpster ordinance that was put on hold for implementation and asked that it be addressed as we have a number of visible dumpsters in the area. The ordinance was approved quite a while ago when the new ordinance for trash bins was put in place.

Mr. Tibbens then discussed in-town parking. He asked Town staff to inquire about purchasing the NIK's parking lot. This would provide an additional parking lot and encourage beautification of the area. Mrs. Petti said that she would inquire and bring findings back to the next meeting.

Ms. Harrison asked Mrs. Petti to revisit the parking spacing in the Rixey Moore parking lot with Rick Boor, Public Works Director. She gave Mrs. Petti a sketch of the parking lot with her desired layout so that only one straight line of blocks is in place as is done at Costco. This would help with clearing the lot and not having multiple obstacles in the area.

There was no further discussion.

5. Other

None.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 4:42 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Harrison.