

**Bath County EDA
PO Box 13**

June 9th, 2021 Meeting

Meeting minutes from the June 9th, 2021 EDA meeting (to be approved at the July 14th Meeting), Bath County Historical Society Building, Warm Springs, VA 24484

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting outside the Bath County Historical Society Building Wednesday, June 9th, 2021 at 6:01 PM. The building was locked, so (since the weather was nice) we sat out on the benches in front of the courthouse.

Members attending: D. Hahn, J. Wood, P. Haynes, T. Richardson, S. Puller, R. Garcia, & B. McWilliams (all were present) Members absent: none

Staff attending: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton (Administrator A. Harrison was absent)

Guests: Mike Bollinger (“The Recorder”)

Pledge of Allegiance: As we were sitting under the flagpole, we recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*

Agenda – After a quick addition by T. Richardson under ‘New Business’ involving potential trail clearing work, the agenda for the evening was approved (motion by D. Hahn, seconded by P. Haynes, approved unanimously)

Approval of Old Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 12th, 2021 EDA meeting (motion made by S. Puller, 2nded by R. Garcia, passed unanimously).

Legal ^{Counsel} Council: Nothing new to report

Treasurer’s Report: the treasurer’s report was modified to correct an invoice from last month from \$232 to \$235, and one new invoice was submitted (as part of the treasurer’s report) from Vector Security Service for \$175 for security services. In addition, an insurance bill for \$4,525 had just been received recently and both invoices were approved (a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay these bills was made by S. Puller, 2nded by B. McWilliams, passed unanimously). Current bank balance (before subtracting these two new bills) is \$232,267.09

Old Business: Millboro Cultural and Preservation Association (MCPA) & the old Millboro Elementary School (discussion continued from last month’s onsite visit to the school)

Chairman Joe Wood has sent a letter to the MCPA asking them to attend our July EDA meeting for further discussions and course of action proposals for the old schoolhouse, and we bounced around ideas for possible use. Pat Haynes said that he knows someone who might have an interest in the building. No particular motions were proposed or passed, but discussion is to continue at next month’s EDA meeting.

It was not on the agenda, but there was some discussion of the proposed sale of the Mitchelltown property to a developer who would then seek licenses/permits to build a “Dollar Tree” type store at this site (as reported in “The Recorder” newspaper and discussed at recent Board of Supervisors meetings). This brought up the general topic of how well informed IS the EDA on proposed topics like this, since most of us were surprised to hear of this in the manner that we did. Also, a recent “workshop” meeting between the Bath County Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Supervisors also caught some EDA members by surprise, albeit

that it was a very recent meeting (and merely a ‘workshop’ to bounce around the idea) and there remains a lot of time for input from the *Lodging Community* and the community at large.

Other topics of discussion included grant writing, the aborted County Tourism Director (“TD”) search (with a strong sentiment to resurrect the search effort or get on with the task of offloading this to a reformatted/reconstituted Chamber of Commerce Board), and the possibility of getting a ‘tourism report’ from Ashton prior to each EDA meeting and have this as a regular agenda item at each EDA meeting.

There was also a desire for the Chair & Vice Chair from both the Board of Supervisors AND EDA to have a special meeting to discuss further thoughts on these (and similar) topics.

As a related action item, it was asked that each EDA member put his or her thoughts on paper concerning what THEIR desires and ideas were for increased EDA roles, effectiveness, scope, increasing tourism & other business activity, etc., prior to the next meeting and come ready to discuss the EDA role in each of these areas. No particular motions were made or passed, but each member was asked to do this ‘homework’ prior to the next meeting.

New Business: Our Blue Grass Woods tenant (Industrial Park) needs recommendations for a contractor to do some sheet metal repair work. Lenny McEllwie (Millboro) was suggested.

Maintenance of Area Trails: With the backdrop of how important ‘outdoor’ activities are to our tourism industry, and how the various trail systems run by the US Forest Service (USFS), the TM Gathright Wildlife Management Area (TMGWMA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), public access trails run by the Homestead, etc., are a huge attraction for visitors and locals alike, Secretary Tom Richardson made a pitch for a one month trial effort to PAY the Alleghany Highlands Trail Club for the clearing of some of these trails, and to see what they could do with a sustained 30 day effort. \$3,500 should allow the club leadership to provide incentives for a more sustained trail clearing effort (more than just the ‘one day/week’ normal volunteer effort).

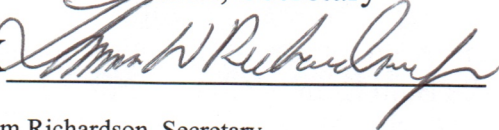
This was especially crucial THIS year because the USFS is hugely distracted by the vast amount of work to be done at Lake Moomaw and because of the very wet spring we have had—the wet weather has made the vegetation grow faster and resulted in a large number of ‘deadfalls’ (‘blowdowns’) that block these trails. The usual volunteer efforts have not kept up with the workload. After a brief discussion, and for a variety of reasons, the idea was abandoned without a vote.

Next Meeting: July 14th, 2021 at the regular Historical Society Building location (6:00pm)

A motion to adjourn was made and approved unanimously (1st: P. Haynes, 2nded by D. Hahn) a little after 7:00pm. It was starting to rain, but we were pretty much finished anyway.

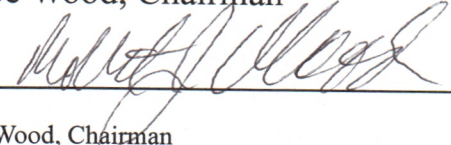
Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Richardson, Secretary

X 

Tom Richardson, Secretary

Joe Wood, Chairman

X 

Joe Wood, Chairman