

**Streets and Roads Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2019**

**Commission members in attendance:** Cindy Dunigan, Lynne Galletti, Susan Harbison, Jennifer Smith, Councilwoman Washabaugh

**I. Call to Order and Pledge** - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairwoman Jennifer Smith

**II. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Cindy Dunigan, seconded by Councilwoman Washabaugh and unanimously approved. They will be sent by the Secretary to town staff for posting.

**III. Council Liaison Report**

Councilwoman Washabaugh presented her report from the town council meeting. The town council has been updated on the action items that are being addressed by Street and Roads.

**IV. Citizen Comments**

Bill Butts, Planning and Zoning Commission Member spoke regarding the town master plan. He is visiting all the town commissions to get their input. He would like the input of the Streets and Roads on Chapter 6 – Transportation. It was agreed that this item would be added to the Streets and Roads Agenda for the May meeting.

Frank Dertzbaugh, Business Owner on Back Acre Circle, recommended that the Streets and Roads should govern the roads in the town of Mount Airy. He also recommended that the Commission set guidelines for the streets and roads for Mount Airy. He stated that the streets and roads are controlled by the Mayor and and Town Engineer. He provided copies of Chapter 112 Zoning Article VI, Ch 112, Article II, Ch 105 Article IV. Jennifer Smith responded that we are not a zoning body and we do not comment on zoning. She stated that the Town Council would need to request streets and roads to look into anything special like that. That is a Planning & Zoning Commission issue and not a streets and roads issue. We can make a recommendation to the town but we do not tell them what to do. Councilwoman Washabaugh agreed that we make recommendations to the Town Council and anyone can go voice their concerns to the Town Council during their public meetings. Jennifer Smith stated that any site plan process goes to the Town Planner before it ever goes to Planning & Zoning.

Mayor Rockinberg thanked the citizens that have come to the Streets and Roads meetings. He stated that the Town Council determines the standards for the roads, not the Mayor and Engineer.

Kim Bynack – Tressle Street – the traffic issue at Back Acre Circle is still a safety concern with speeding and illegal U turns.

Heather Hobbs Michael – Reading Court, During the 1999 planning of Back Acre circle, counsel advised that the planning on Back Acre Circle was a mistake. The 1986. Town Code – notice of hearing and compliance – the Mayor can enact an executive order and Mayor Rockinberg did have the right to act on behalf of the Streets and Roads in the traffic safety issue. Councilwoman Washabaugh stated that when she took over the Streets and Roads Commission, there was not a quorum so the Streets and Roads Commission could not conduct business. The Mayor had to take care of the safety issue until the current Commission was assembled. Councilwoman Washabaugh thanked the Mayor for taking action during this timeframe on behalf of the Commission and addressing the issue and working towards a resolution.

Chief Doug Reitz – He discussed the continued enforcement efforts to deter the speeding and illegal U turns at Back Acre circle. They have been issuing warning and citations. They have been getting complaints on speeding on Searchlight Way – this is not a town road however he has requested a speed survey to get data on this issue. Mayor Rockinberg asked Jennifer Smith if the speed limit could be lowered on a private road. Jennifer Smith skimmed the Maryland Code and could not find anything prohibiting it. Councilwoman Washabaugh stated that the traffic study from Back Acre Circle was just received by Streets and Roads. It will be reviewed and added to the May agenda.

Amanda Gillis – Tinder Court -Her complaints are about the speeding on Back Acre closer to the Goddard School. She wants to know if a stop sign could be put there. Jennifer Smith said that it is not recommended to put a 4 way stop on non 4-way area – it creates another issue of people rolling through the stop signs. Councilwoman Washabaugh mentioned that there is a 3 way stop in Twin Ridge that does provide some value in slowing down speeders. Susan Harbison stated that she would like more speed limit signs.

Shane Bickish, Chessie Court – There are no crosswalks in their neighborhood. Jennifer Smith asked him to suggest where they could be put. She stated that the crosswalks have to be put in an area that is safe, Streets and Roads will have to look at the curvature of the road, speed, sight distance. Shane asked if rumble strips could be placed on the street to slow drivers down. Mayor Rockinberg asked Streets and Roads to look into the strip. Jennifer Smith stated that the location and spacing of Back Acre Circle is why a recommendation was made to not put rumble strips in.

Lauren Belsky – Dance studio owner, they will be trying to get more of their customers to use the parking lot behind the building to drop off their kids instead of Back Acre Circle. They have sent emails, put up bright notices and she has been personally checking on people stopping on Back Acre and dropping off.

Frank Dertzbaugh asked about having a 3 way stop and crosswalk at his building at Back Acre Circle and Back Acre. Heather Michael asked Chief Reitz what the statistics were for citations and stops. Officer Maderas reported that they have been making traffic stops and the majority of the speeding stops were residents of the neighborhood.

## **V. Old Business**

- a. **Request for pedestrian crossing across Prospect Road at the intersection of North Main** - Town Engineer Barney Quinn responded that. Handicap ramps already exist; therefore, a crosswalk can be painted – Brian will do this once the weather clears. **status update needed**
- b. **South Main Street left turn onto north Bound MD 27** - Staff contacted the State Highway Administration (SHA), this issue has been addressed 3 previous times. SHA responded that a dedicated left turn signal is not warranted. SHA has not come up with any additional signage or street markings that would make the conditions any safer. **It was agreed to take this item off the agenda**, Councilwoman Washabaugh will respond to the citizens who made this request.
- c. **Rising Ridge Road Signage** – The Town Engineer responded with a recommendation to add 3 posts and 6 signs. The Commission was in agreement. Cindy Dunigan made a motion to approve, Susan Harbison seconded, the Commission unanimously agreed. **It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.**
- d. **Storm Drain Cover/Sidewalk issue Twin Arch Road and Century Drive** – Code enforcement sent a letter to the property owner to have sidewalks replaced. Staff will follow up on this issue and ask Brian Johnson to look into rebuilding the 3 storm inlets near the intersection as needed. **It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.**
- e. **Sterling Glen Speeding Issue** – The results of the speed and traffic study was received at this meeting from Brian Johnson. **Jennifer Smith will evaluate the study and will report back at the May meeting.**
- f. **Twin Arch Speeding Issue** – The results of the speed and traffic study were received at this meeting. Each member received a copy for review. **This will be put on the May agenda to discuss.**
- g. **Back Acre Circle Parking and other Issues**– Town Engineer Barney Quinn answered questions from the March meeting. 1. Is on street parking not allowed per State Code, COMAR 21-1003? This code does not prohibit on-street parking, except within 3-feet of safety zones or impeding an intersection, sidewalk, crosswalk or public driveway. 2. Possibility of shared parking with business owners on Back Acre Circle – Barney Quinn met with the owners of 1602 Back Acre and 2904 Back Acre. Due to liability issues, maintenance, cost to install a set of stairs, this is not a viable option. 3. Site distances impeded by hills at Back Acre/Back Acre Intersection – Per Town Code 98-16 F.(5) a minimum of 200 feet site distance is required form the intersection. Per site visit, Barney Quinn found that there is more than 200 feet of site distance in all directions from the intersection. 4. Opening Back Acre towards Circle to through traffic – Two issues with opening the circle – that portion is not publicly owned, and guardrails have not been installed that are required. This would be a liability on the owners’ part. Opening the circle in the near future is not likely. 5. Provide cut through on east side of building – the elevation difference to provide a second access to Back Acre Circle would require a lot of excavation and is not practical. Barney Quinn met

with the building owner about the possibility of taking away 2-3 parking spaces to create a turn-around behind the building. They are not going in that direction at this time.

- h. Traffic Light at Main Street and Ridgeville Blvd** - This item was held for the May meeting. Councilwoman Washabaugh will email Mayor Rockinberg and Barney Quinn for a **status update.**
- i. Hill Street Issues** – Drainage in front of 404/406 Hill Street. Barney Quinn found water sitting at the end of the driveways but found no exposed drain. The use of a metal detector found a slight detection. He has asked Brian Johnson for a solution to removal of the standing water. **Status update needed.**
- j. Detours on Main Street during Town Events** – The Mount Airy Department of Public works has taken care of this issue. The detour signs on Prospect Road have been placed at Rising Ridge Road. The Main Street detour will not be placed at Sunset Avenue. Brian Johnson is working on signage being installed at the intersection of South Main Street and East Ridgeville Blvd to have notification that Main Street will be closed for a town event and alternate routes should be used. **It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.**

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Requests for Temporary or Permanent On-Street Parking** - The Commission discussed the list of items needed for a standard request form. Cindy Dunigan asked for an aerial view of the area the person is requesting something to be done so that Streets and Roads will know what area they are talking about. Other items that were discussed were name and address of businesses in the area, how much parking they currently have, how much parking they are or are requesting, times and dates parking is needed, The reason for the permit request, the aerial photo should show dimensions of the area they need, distances to any intersections, stop signs, cross walks, hydrants, etc. **This will remain on the May agenda.**
- b. Speed Limit on MD 27 through Mount Airy Town Limits** – Citizen questioned the speed limit through Mount Airy on MD 27. Jennifer Smith stated that the State Highway Administration has jurisdiction on the speed limit, not the Town. Lynne Galletti stated that per Barney Quinn, a Route 27 Corridor Study had been done a few years ago, paid for by the Town. The study identified what improvements may be needed as development happens. Jennifer Smith will look at the recent corridor study and see what recommendations were made as far as speed limits and will send an electronic copy to each Commission member to review. **It was agreed to keep this on the agenda for the May meeting.**
- c. Request Forms received through the Town Web Site** - Councilwoman Washabaugh had several old requests that were addressed. Old ones that had been handled by Mayor Rockinberg

were given to him to respond to the residents. There was one dated 10/29 – Dougherty – Has to do with the storm water management issue. Councilwoman Washabaugh will email this to Barney Quinn and Mayor Rockinberg for follow up. One from Flower Avenue – the Mayor handled it was given to him for follow up. Susan Harbison submitted a request on 2/2/19 – she wants a traffic study done on Twin Arch Road between Century Drive and Aaron Lane. She wants to expand the center turn lane onto Aaron Lane. Jennifer Smith said that she will look at the Route 27 Corridor Study and see if it went as far as Twin Arch. Cory from Leafy Hollow Circle wants a speed bump on his street. **This will be added to the May agenda.** Katy Nolan, Twin ridge wants the signs at the speed bump on Park Ridge looked at. **Added to May agenda.**

**VII.** The next meeting of the Streets and Roads Commission is Tuesday, May 5, 2019 7:00 pm.

**VIII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Lynne P. Galletti