



BELLEFONTE TOWN COMMISSION NEWS

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of Bellefonte

November 2004

Bellefonte Contact List

David Wishowsky, President
761-9403

Scott MacKenzie, Secretary
*Chair of Property & Facilities
Committee*
Newsletter & Website Editor
762-7907

Kathy MacDonough, Commissioner
*Chair of Comm. Rec. & Activities
Committee*
762-1235

Russ Norris, Commissioner
Chair of Town Services Committee
(lights, trash, streets, snow removal)
764-9504

Terry Thompson, Commissioner
*Chair, Charter & Ordinances Comm.,
Chair of Planning & Development
Comm.*
764-2669
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Curt A. Nass, Treasurer
Tax Collector/Tax Assessor
764-6568

Joe Finocchiaro, Jr., Building
Inspector /Building Permits
275-6594

Steve Russo, Plumbing Inspector/
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NCC Police - Emergency	911
NCC Police - non-emerg.	395-8171
NCCPD drug unit	395-8115
NCCPD confidential hotline	655-8045

November Meeting Report

Call to Order: President Dave Wishowsky called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The following Commissioners were present: Kathy MacDonough, Scott MacKenzie, Wayne Russell Norris, Jr., and Terry Thompson. Curt Nass was unable to attend.

The minutes to the October 11 meeting were read and a motion to accept them was made by Ms. MacDonough, seconded by Mr. Norris, and passed unanimously.

Bills - Mr. MacKenzie read the following list of bills and a motion was made by Ms. MacDonough to pay the bills, seconded by Mr. Thompson, and the vote was unanimous. Bills for October were:

NCC Police Contractual Services, Policing August 2-29, \$816; NCC Police Contractual Services, Policing - September to 10-3, \$1,428; Conectiv, Street lights - Oct, \$981.74; Conectiv, Town hall power - Oct, \$9.30; Conectiv, Traffic light - Oct, \$40.75; Waste Management, Trash pickup - Nov, \$7,951.96; Dave Wishowsky, Chairs - Staples, \$314.96; Scott MacKenzie, Secretarial stipend, reimbursement for sump pump, dehumidifier, supplies for installation, and printing of newsletter, \$428.17; Terry Thompson, Reimbursement for printer cartridges, seminar attendance, and postage, \$113.56; Mike McGrath, Reimbursement for 2 A/Cs, postage, deadbolt, website hosting fees (5 months), \$393.87; Kathy MacDonough, Town Hall open house expenses, seminar attendance fee, and postage for newsletter, \$224.28.

**Next Meeting
Monday, December 13th, 7 pm**

Yuletide in Bellefonte

On **Saturday, Dec. 4**, from Noon until 2 p.m., we will be decorating the Town Hall holiday tree. All are invited to help, and a special craft activity will be available for



children. Creative ideas and willing hands are welcome from volunteers of any age, and we encourage you to bring any decorations you would like to share from your holiday celebration or heritage. Our basic color scheme is red, white & silver; but please add a little of yourself to make it truly part of the town spirit.

On **Saturday, Dec. 11**, we will gather at Town Hall at 4 p.m. for the lighting of the tree. Everyone is welcome as we commemorate the season and spend a moment reflecting on the need for peace and love in our world. There will be refreshments, live music, and special guests. Please let us know if you are able to contribute any baked goods, coffee, hot chocolate, etc. (If you are, please call Rich at 762-8024 by Dec. 6 for planning purposes.) Come share stories, make new friendships, and rekindle old ones.

For more information, call Kathy MacDonough, 762-1235.

Treasurer's Report - Ms.

MacDonough read the Treasurer's for the period ending 10/31/04 showing total receipts for the month of \$46,219.25, and disbursements of \$10,983.67. Ms. MacDonough also gave the Tax Collector's Report showing taxes of \$41,627.84 of current taxes and \$2,592.40 of previous year taxes/fees collected during October, for a total taxes collected of \$44,220.24. The reports were accepted as read.

Committee Reports

Town Services Committee

Mr. Norris reported that he has checked and that the list of potholes given to DelDot has all been repaired at this time. No work as yet has been done to the grating at Bellefonte and Brandywine Blvd.

Mr. Norris received an amendment to the original bid for snow plowing from Thom. Finocchairo & Sons qualify that he is not liable for accidents resulting from snow plowing and that it was not his intention to remove any liability he bears for damage or accidents incurred during snow plowing. He also removed the "continuous snow storms" provision of his bid. The Commissioners voted unanimously to renew the contract.

Mr. Norris said that on further investigation, placement of sand barrels by DelDot is not available in incorporated municipalities like Bellefonte.

Mr. Norris gave a notice and pertinent trash ordinance to the operators of the Boulevard Self-clean laundromat. He explained to them that they can not put their trash out until 24 hours before collection.

Mr. Norris will be attending a workshop by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority on the proposed mandatory statewide recycling program on 11/16.

Charter, Ordinance, and Regulation Committee

Mr. Thompson reported that committee members had reviewed all current ordinances and recommended action. The first recommendation from the committee was that future ordinances do not amend old ordinances, but that they be repealed and restated. This will avoid future confusion over which ordinances affect or revise other amendments. Once all ordinances are reviewed and re-written, most will be restated as the new Building Ordinance, the new Plumbing Ordinance, the Property Maintenance Ordinance, or the new Zoning Ordinances.

Mr. Thomspson requested the purchase of the 2003 International Building Code, IBC Plumbing Codes, and IBC Property Maintenance Codes, upon which New Castle County bases its codes. The Commission approved the purchase of these code books.

Mr. Thompson, at the recommendation of the committee, introduced Ordinance 2004-03 and made its first and second reading (*at right*).

Town Property and Facilities Committee

Mr. MacKenzie reported that because of conflicting schedules, a meeting was held via email with Curt Nass and Mike McGrath. The following issues were discussed:

Facility rental of Town Hall - members recommend proceeding with setting price for increased utilities, etc. Remaining issues include increased insurance costs and no bathrooms. Commission will postpone any decisions until the cost of more insurance is obtained.

Renovations to day care and Town Hall - bids received for new roof and boiler. R&R of Newark was selected as low-bid vendor to do the roof. They have offered several value-added services such as installing a weathervane, demolishing and

ORDINANCE 2004-03

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE FOLLOWING ANTIQUATED, UNUSED, OR OTHER ORDINANCES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN COUNTY OR STATE REGULATION AND/OR LEGISLATION

Be it ordained that the Commissioners of Bellefonte, after careful review and consideration, do hereby repeal the following ordinances:

Ordinance 38-1 - An Ordinance regulating connection with and use of sanitary sewers - New Castle County has assumed responsibility for regulation, connection, and maintenance of the sewer system within the corporate town limits of Bellefonte.

Ordinance 41-1 - An Ordinance granting authority to The Bellefonte Town Commissioners to assess and set liens upon real property for sewer fees - New Castle County government has assumed responsibility for this function.

Ordinance 50-1 - Fire Prevention Code Amendment, 11/13/50, repealed - The Fire Prevention Code of Bellefonte, Ordinance 50-1, is hereby repealed in favor of the National Fire Prevention Association Codes and Standards, as amended in the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations, administered and enforced by The Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office.

Ordinance 61-2 - Fire Prevention Code amendment, 12/11/61, repealed - in favor of Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations and the Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office.



Scot Schwartz of R&R Roofing places the weathervane on Town Hall.

removing two non-operational chimneys, and refacing the remaining one. ServiceMark was selected as low-bid vendor to install the new boiler in the day care center, to be installed over Thanksgiving holiday so that day care operations will not be disturbed.

ADA Renovations - Bids are out to four vendors for construction of access ramps for Town Hall. Mr. MacKenzie also asked if anyone could recommend an architect to do the plans for the bathroom to be added to Town Hall.

Town-owned Parking Lot - Curt Nass sent a letter to Mr. Rosenblatt, the landlord for the bakery who had been leasing the town-owned parking lot, advising him of overdue rent. Mr. MacKenzie sent him a registered letter and was contacted by Rosenblatt, who stated his desire to continue to rent the lot. He brought the check for past due rent to Town Hall. The committee members recommends either leasing the parking lot by space or making it a public parking lot.

The Commissioners requested that Mr. MacKenzie discuss the appropriate lease fee with committee members and also talk to other merchants on Brandywine Blvd. to assess their interest in leasing the lot, or in the availability of public parking.

Mr. MacKenzie made a motion requesting authorization to send information to the Commission's attorney so that a draft lease for the day care center can be prepared. The motion was approved.

Mr. MacKenzie announced that ServiceMark submitted the low bid for replacement of the boiler in the Day Care Center and had also included an annual maintenance contract on the boiler and the furnace in Town Hall for \$300 a year. He made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$6,500 for the new boiler for the Day Care Center (Pending review of state requirements for boilers installed in public buildings, an additional \$1,000 was

authorized by phone poll of Commissioners on 11-10.)

Mr. MacKenzie made a motion that the Commission authorize the expenditure of \$500 for miscellaneous repairs and renovations at Town Hall. The motion passed.

Bids for correcting fire code violations at Town Hall (smoke detectors/front doors) and the day care center (partitioning of boiler room for storage) will be ready for the next meeting.

Planning and Development Committee

Mr. Thompson attended a seminar held by the Institute for Public Administration in Rehoboth, which Mr. Thompson and Ms. MacDonough attended. They both reported that this workshop was very informative. Mr. Thompson stated that the name of the committee might need to be changed and responsibilities reassigned to conform to state requirements. He announced that Planning Committee meetings would be held regularly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at Town Hall. These meetings welcome public participation. Mr. Thompson stressed that the formation of the Town Plan requires heavy community involvement and welcomed any new volunteers who would like to volunteer.

Community Activities and Recreation Committee

Ms. MacDonough reported that a meeting had been held on October 24. They had developed list of holiday events, which was published in the newsletter. The first of these events would be on November 20 for making decorations for lampposts on the boulevard. The second would be a tie-in with "Art Around Town" on December 3 where the boulevard would be decorated with luminaries and that people throughout the town were welcome to join in. On

December 4, Town Hall would be open for a family event that features decoration making for the town tree.

Ms. MacDonough made a motion to authorize spending up to \$300 for supplies and decorations for this schedule of holiday events and Mr. MacKenzie seconded. A discussion was held and a member of the audience suggested that these events be given a tone of "diversity" and "inclusion" for people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. The Commission wholeheartedly endorses this idea and was intending on making these events completely secular. The motion passed unanimously.

Inspector's Report

Neither inspector attended this meeting, nor did they prepare reports. Mr. MacKenzie supplied a copy of a letter that was sent to the inspectors on October 12 asking them to attend or supply reports, and offering assistance in the preparation of reports. Mr. Wishowsky said that he would call both inspectors and discuss the matter with them.

Old Business

Ms. MacDonough gave a brief report on a complaint at 701-3 Melrose Avenue regarding drainoff from an underground spring that was disturbed. She is still investigating and working on a plan of action and will report back at the next meeting.

Ms. MacDonough reported that she had researched prorating the dues for the League of Local Governments. The membership fee was approved.

Mr. Wishowsky reported that the complaint regarding youth loitering on Beeson Rd. has been temporarily resolved and that he would keep an eye on the situation.

New Business

Mr. Thompson spoke regarding a letter received from the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) asking us to adopt a resolution adopting the

State's Hazard Mitigation Plan for use in Bellefonte. They are awarding \$1,000 grant from DEMA for time spent on mitigation action development and review of the plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacKenzie made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$1,250 for postage for the town newsletter. The measure passed unanimously.

Mr. Wishowsky reported that he made an error in stating the County's noise ordinance at the last meeting. Apparently, the source of the noise defines the time when it can occur. Construction is permitted Monday - Friday, 7 am to 9 pm. On weekends, the hours are 9 am - 10 pm. For music and party noise, a violation occurs from 9 pm to 8 am. Noise from trash collection is permitted after 6 am. Animal noise is a violation if it is 10 minutes continuous or 1/2 hour or longer (intermittent).

Mr. MacKenzie reported receipt of a copy of a letter of complaint sent to the

NCC Executive from neighbors on Monterey Place regarding noise, light, and drainoff coming from a new, 24-hour service at the BP station on Philadelphia Pike. The Commission asked Mr. MacKenzie to send a letter to the property owners endorsing the neighbors request for a privacy fence being installed on the property line (the letter requested an 8 foot privacy fence, but Bellefonte ordinance and codes prohibit a fence higher than 6 foot without a variance from the Board of Adjustments. This will be explained in the letter).

Diana McWilliams, newly-elected state representative for Bellefonte, introduced herself and said that she was very impressed by all the positive action being taken by the Commission and looked forward to working with us to make Bellefonte a better place for everyone to live.

John Cartier, newly-elected NCC Councilman for Bellefonte introduced himself to attendees and echoed Ms.

McWilliams that he looks forward to helping Bellefonte and the surrounding communities. He offered his assistance on all matters in working with the County.

The meeting moved to adjourn at 10:00 pm. The next working meeting for the Bellefonte Town Commissioners is set for Tuesday, November 30, 7 pm, at Town Hall. The next Town Hall meeting will be held on Monday, December 13, at 7 pm, Town Hall.

Meeting Schedules

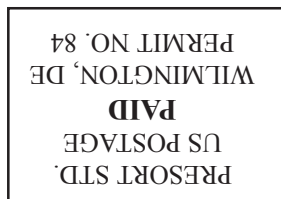
Charter/Ordinance Committee - 1st and 3rd Thursday

Commission Working Meeting - last Tuesday of each month.

Planning Committee Meeting - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Public attendance and observation is welcome.

*Bellefonte "One of Delaware's Best Places to Live" -- Delaware Today, March 2003
"Hip and cool..." -- Spark Magazine, The News Journal, May 2004*



*Bellefonte Town Commission
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