

February 7, 2022

From: Mayor Larry Hushour

To: Town Council and Citizens of Mount Airy

Subj: MONTHLY MAYOR'S REPORT, FEBRUARY 2022

- 1) On January 18, met with Kaz Bros, LC (Victor and Craig Kazanjian) and Attorney, Dave Bowersox, staff and 2 Council members to discuss, in general terms, the future of Center Street development. No commitments or obligations were agreed upon.
- 2) On January 18, met with Sudha Kaistha of SK Printing to discuss her new Mount Airy magazine, the "4 County Catch," and inclusion of newsworthy events. (Melissa Thorn in attendance)
- 3) On January 19, attended Mount Airy Senior Task Support (MASTS) meeting.
- 4) On January 20, participated in Mayor's meeting with Frederick County Executive, Jan Gardner.
- 5) On January 24, met with staff to discuss bike trail in Windy Ridge Park and grants.
- 6) On January 25, met with Parks staff in Summit Ridge to discuss park improvements.
- 7) On January 25, observed/attended Streets and Roads meeting.
- 8) On January 26, met with Preservation MD and town volunteers to discuss Flat Iron building, and their processes, if restoration were an option.
- 9) On January 26, met with Wildwood Park HOA representatives to discuss Storm Water pond, sidewalks and tree trimming.
- 10) On January 27, attended luncheon of Frederick County Builders Assn.
- 11) On January 30, had phone conversation with Denise Fox concerning Mount Airy Fireworks display.
- 12) On January 31, met with staff (Melissa Thorn) to discuss EDC matters.
- 13) On January 31, observed Planning Commission meeting.
- 14) On February 1, attended Historical Society meeting. They voiced support for preserving the Flat Iron building at the meeting through a vote of attending members.
- 15) On February 2, attended Mount Airy Senior Task Support (MASTS) meeting. Members of Wildwood Park HOA in attendance.
- 16) On February 2, alerted by staff the "Brownfield grant" for the former CSX property was not received.

Notes:

- Town Staff is still utilizing the "clipper" magazines to disseminate information and upcoming events. SK Printing is introducing a "hybrid" of news and advertising called the "4 County Catch." The town purchased 2 pages of advertising in the first edition to advertise events and also recap the Council meeting and put out some town information.

- Denise Fox called and we discussed the town's support of the annual Fireworks display. She expressed an interest in having a town staff member become familiar with the process as she plans to step further away from the organization of the event. I agreed (with staff concurrence) to have a staff member "shadow" her this year and advised her I had no intention to decrease the town's support of the event.
- I am looking forward to hearing from and monitoring the Main Street Safety Task Force.
- The Mount Airy Senior Task Support (MASTS) group continues to meet and evolve as a nonprofit. They also remain a task force at this time. They have a new member from the Wildwood Park community. Their next meeting is February 10, 10am.
- Chic Fil A traffic is still being monitored, but complaints and concerns are not as significant in January.
- Volunteer of the Year: We have several volunteers who have been nominated for this award. The selection committee will meet on February 9, to make the selection. No date has been set for the dinner, but it will not be in February.
- The Community Garden project is underway. I'd like to thank the Rotary Club for their grant and manpower provided for the project.
- Harrison Leishear status: I will be meeting with staff to discuss our interests as we move forward in setting up a process with the county on this property on February 8, at 11am. Council is welcome to attend within Open Meetings Act requirements.
- Rails to Trails: Work continues on the boardwalk east of Main Street, funded primarily through a grant. For the west side of Main Street, our Brownfield grant request was denied, but Secretary Brinkley is trying to get us some funding through the State to offset the costs. This will require staff and support through the Frederick delegation to keep it in the state's capital budget.
- Urban Renewal Authority: Our bill to gain Urban Renewal Authority did not get presented to the legislature for various reasons. An attempt to introduce it through the Senate was thwarted as well due to political complications. We will try again in 2023.
- The Historical Society's Bag and Basket Bingo is February 26, has been rescheduled due to MAVFC requirements for the activities building and general Covid concerns to June 24, 2022.
- MML "If I were Mayor" event is scheduled for 4th graders at Mt. Airy Elementary on Feb. 9, at 2:15pm, and Twin Ridge Elementary Feb. 23, 1:30pm.
- As follow up to the Jan. 26, meeting with Preservation MD, we (I and the volunteers) are meeting with a preservation engineer for a cursory look and evaluation of the building on Feb. 23, at 9:30am. Council is welcome to attend within Open Meetings Act requirements.
- Code enforcement issues have been coming to my attention. As Covid hopefully dissipates, we will be more cognizant of deviations from the town code and start enforcing some items, namely flag/feather banner compliance. This will be handled in a fair manner as we notify businesses of the issues.

- Welcome to our new social media part-time employee! Welcome to Gina Gallucci-White.
- Winter weather is still upon us. Please move your vehicles off of the roadways and into driveways or other approved parking spaces to facilitate plowing of the roads.