

Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee
Minutes of November 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Those in attendance were Lynn Schmitt, Michelle Landon, Marianne Biviano, Jeff Stevens, Gary Lofton, Kevin Alderman, Michelle Springer, and 6 people in the audience.

First on the agenda was approval/correction of the August 3, 2015 minutes. Marianne made a motion to approve the minutes. Michelle L. seconded the motion. The minutes were passed unanimously.

**The date for the November 2014 meeting needs to be corrected from the 2nd to the 3rd.

Next on the agenda was the setting of the 2016 quarterly meeting dates. They will be as follows:

February 1, 2016

May 2, 2016

August 1, 2016

November 7, 2016

**We will skip the September 2016 monthly meeting due to the holiday (Labor Day).

Michelle L. made a motion to pass the meeting dates. Marianne seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Next on the agenda is the Council House Update:

Anna is not present so Lynn gave the results of the meeting with the county attorney. The engineers report will need to be followed. An organization or entity has to step up and take responsibility/liability for the Council House. The Shawneeland Committee, Frederick County, or the Preservation Group does not want to have the responsibility. A resident asked if the Clowser family could take the responsibility. County Attorney would prefer it be an organization or entity due to permits and insurance. Gary Lofton clarified that an individual could step up to sign for the liability/responsibility of the Council House. Lynn has spoken with Anna on the matter. Lynn makes a motion to give 1 month to get an organization or entity to step up and take the responsibility. A resident voiced concern that it isn't fair to expect the subcommittee to find someone during the busiest time of year. That with the new information, more time should be allowed. Other questions were raised about just leaving it stand still. The engineers report states that it has to be stabilized to be fixed. Also that tearing it down is ruining the community. Residents would really like to have the time to find an organization or entity to gain the responsibility/liability. What will happen if no one steps up and takes the responsibility? We will move forward with tearing it down. The asbestos will have to be removed professionally then the crew will tear the structure down. Gary Lofton spoke and said that this has been going on for some time. How much will it cost to have the asbestos removed? There is 158 square feet and Kevin believed the last quote was for \$2,300 and it would come from the funds of Shawneeland. A rough estimate for total repair was \$30,000. Who owns the land that the Council House is sitting on? The Sanitary District owns the land. Do they want to sell it?

Other questions were how will it be permitted if the County owns the property? Gary Lofton says there has not been any plan for the end result of the Council House. What will happen to the Cemetery? The cemetery will not be touched. Could the bricks be sold or given away to someone who is doing a restoration of old buildings? What about the fixtures and beams? The committee has no problem with selling the bricks, beams, fixtures. It would help recoup some of the money for the asbestos removal. If sold the money could go towards people with projects or doing things within Shawneeland. If it does come to the point that it will be tore down, could a notice be put out for those interested in the bricks, beams, or fixtures. If it is tore down is there any confirmation that the money will go into a special fund account for special projects. The money will go into the general fund according to proper procedures. A line item can be established specifically for the funds from the Council House but it would have to be approved through the Board of Supervisors. A question was asked how many residents it would take to get the Board of Supervisors to approve the special line item. Gary stated that it would have to be majority of the residents to get the approval. The residents just want to do what is right for the building and for it not to be torn down in vain. If someone comes along before it is tore down could it be revisited? Yes it could. Can a vote be made during a monthly meeting? A couple residents asked for copies of the Engineers Report. They can pick them up at the office on Tuesday. Lynn made a motion that at the December 1st monthly meeting an entity or organization needs to be brought forward with a real commitment to take the responsibility/liability. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- *Could a new light be installed at the Tomahawk Mailhouse? The light has been purchased and will be installed in the next couple weeks.

- *Informing the community. Signs and notices will be posted. There are also postings on the Facebook page. There are postings on the County Webpage but they run behind several months.

- *A resident brought up that Marianne and Barry's terms are expiring on the 9th. Gary Lofton said that Barry was reappointed to serve another term and Marianne also expressed interest to serve another term also. Gary hasn't received interest from anyone expressing interest in serving therefore Marianne will be reappointed.

- *What's going on with the asphalt? Kevin will cover it in the manager's report.

Kevin presented the manager's report. There has been extensive spot and grader patching done throughout Shawneeland. This involved 14 trails. We used the motor grader to apply asphalt over top of where the tar and chip was giving up. If we do not do that the roads will deteriorate through the winter. There's a section of Cherokee that doesn't have anything on it. We ran out of asphalt and at the end of the day it will not affect snow plowing. We have finished mowing all the trails for the 2nd round. All of the snow equipment is prepared for the winter. This month we will start cutting down the dead/dying trees. There are 90 marked for the staff to cut and 29 for a contractor to cut down that is not safe for the staff to cut. This will be done as long as the weather permits. On Assateague someone is cutting trees down. It looked as they were cutting on the other side of the fence which is not on Shawneeland property. Trees are left along the right of way for Shawneeland residents to have. If you see someone suspiciously cutting trees please call the Sheriff's Office.

Public Forum:

**A number of people on Dakota and Rainbow Falls have had bear sightings. A resident was confronted by a bear; it tore down their bird feeder. Are there any postings on the Facebook page about sightings? Anyone who sees a bear should contact the Game Warden. The Game Warden has told residents to keep their trash inside or take it to the convenience site every day. He also said to not feed the birds.

**Is the February meeting going to be at the Fire Hall? With the turnout that we've had there is no reason to have the meeting at the firehall. The February meeting will be at the Shawneeland office.

**Could people speak 1 at a time? It is difficult to hear when multiple conversations are going on.

**There is a large amount of people that do not pay their taxes. County Attorney says lots were purchased when Shawneeland first opened. Many of the owners have since passed away and their relatives may not even know the lots exist. There is a lengthy process for having an auction for delinquent taxes. It is not a requirement to give your social security number or a second address when purchasing lots. Could we move forward with having an auction for the unpaid taxes? Some owners are traceable. Could we start the process? Gary Lofton responded that the Treasurer is a bulldog when it comes to collecting taxes. Some instances it is cheaper to write off the taxes than move forward with an auction. Ruth gave some facts as of October 27, 2015, \$5,452,230 are owed just in delinquent taxes. We had an auction for 6 properties that sold for a total of \$11,400. If you would like more information on the process of delinquent taxes, schedule a meeting with Mr. Orndorff. He is more than gladly to sit down and discuss the process.

**Patty spoke about the pollinators. It is a natural habitat for butterflies. By Swan Lake on Bowman Lane would be a great place to get certified. We could have a sign installed (I will pay for). We will save money because we don't have to do anything except put a path in. What she is asking for is to mow on different cycles than we currently do. What we need is the milk weed. She has gotten with Dominion Power who basically told me that Southern Electric gets some of their resources from Dominion Power. My trail was devastated this summer from the spraying. Our community would be stepping forward to help in the effort of helping the pollination problem. It would be a great place for our kids, the boy scouts, and girl scouts to learn about the environment. The only problem foreseeable would be no entrance for fisherman. The crew has already got a head start on developing the area. The crew would just have to wait till the 2nd frost to mow the area. Another great spot is on the golf course, it is an area that doesn't get mowed. Could someone plant nectar plants in their yard to help out? Yes definitely. She gave a pamphlet out of plants that help the pollinators. Are there any obligations for the pollinators? The only thing that needs to happen be no mowing or pesticides. Another area that could be added is on Cherokee. Do we have to plant anything? No we do not have to do anything. Lynn made a motion to pass to allow the regrowth around Swan Lake on Bowman Lane. Jeff seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**There is a house on Tomahawk by Red Fox Trail that the guttering is falling down. It's been like that for 6 months. It's a real eye sore.

**Gary let everyone know that he is not on his phone during the meeting. This is how he takes his notes. He has 3 years' worth of notes on his phone. He then goes back and looks at the notes.

**Carpenter bees are our friends. Please don't kill them. It takes a lot for them to cause damage. They are great propagators for Azaleas and other long stem plants. They have a special cutting tool. The female can sting but the male cannot. If they are causing damage, coat your deck with vinegar.

Lynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michelle L. seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.