



Lucketts Ruritan

Board of Directors: Jim McKenzie, President; Conrad Falk, Vice President; Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary; Craig Bond, Treasurer; Tom Small, Rich Cleland, Al Menendez, Pat Logue, Directors

General Membership Meeting Minutes- May 16th, 2017

Attending: Adams, Baker, Bond, Dee, Dunn, Fabboli, Ferreira, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Kron, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez, Meyerhofer, Penaranda, Quitter, Snooks, Sorrell,

Guests: Patrick Ryan (Taylorstown Community Assn.), Matt Healy (Selma Estates), Rick Logue, Robert Frye, Cheryl Hillebrand, Evelyn Snooks, Barbara Scott, Jane Meyerhofer, Kay Quitter, Jackie Cleland, Mikayla Fei

CTO by Pres. McKenzie at 7:35 PM.

Pres. McKenzie welcomed our guest speaker, Supervisor Geary Higgins, and guests. He announced that, in the interest of time, Ruritan General and Board Meeting Minutes for April and the April Treasurer's reports were available online on our website for review and that we would not address these items at this special meeting.

Following a blessing by P. Baker, Pres. McKenzie invited all attendees to help themselves to dinner in the kitchen. He noted that we did need to address a few items of club business before the presentation by Geary Higgins.

New Business:

Scholarship Committee Report: T. Small reported that we received 10 complete applications, which were being evaluated by the Point of Rocks Club, with results due back to us by the end of May for final evaluation. He reiterated that this year, we allocated \$10K for LCC and \$5K for high school graduates and now have an additional \$4K that was returned from Brigham Young University from a student who withdrew. He asked the membership to approve the \$5K, the \$4K and another \$1K, for a total of \$10K for high school scholarships. This motion was approved. F. Nassauer will manage the school Citizenship Awards and the accompanying plaques for awardees from the elementary, middle and high schools.

June Speaker: Since we have planned our summer picnic this year for July, we will hold a normal club meeting in June. The speaker will be Jeffrey Judge from Eagletree Farm cafe and winery.

Next Meeting

June 20th, 2017 7:30 P.M.
Lucketts Community Center

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Program: Our speaker will be Jeffrey Judge from Eagletree Farm cafe and winery who will talk to us about this new local venture and offerings.

Joint Picnic, July 22nd: We are planning a joint picnic this year with other local Ruritan clubs. Attendees will include Point of Rocks, Hamilton, Lovettsville/Waterford and Lucketts club members, families, guests and social pets! Each club has a planning responsibility. Events will include competitions and games and we will have music and food, as usual. A good time will be had by all, so bring a friend or potential club member and get to know your neighbors and other local club members!

Old Business:

Arrowhead Presentation: Pres. McKenzie summarized last month's presentation of the Jenkins arrowhead collection at the LCC. See April minutes for details.

Program:

Pres. McKenzie introduced Supervisor Geary Higgins and staff member, Mikayla Fei. McKenzie reiterated that our club takes no position on any of the issues to be discussed, and that this meeting is for informational purposes only. We may sponsor a public meeting later in the year.

G. Higgins began by introducing the Rt. 15 study, recently released by Kimley-Horne, that addressed traffic and maintenance issues along Rt. 15. He noted that this 296 page report covers road issues from Leesburg to Montresor Rd. and not the whole corridor up to the Point of Rocks bridge. He sees this report as a start, as it does not contain or include everything the local community wants to see addressed. Higgins stated that recommendations in the report included using the existing right of way to widen Rt. 15 to four lanes from Leesburg to Montresor Rd. and installing a traffic light at the bypass and a four-stop signal or

a roundabout at Whites Ferry Rd. Discussion by the group focused on the fact that traffic lights cause more backups and do not improve traffic flow and that roundabouts do work well to keep traffic moving (example: the roundabout at Rt. 50 toward Middleburg). Higgins will hold at least two public input sessions later in the year to facilitate development of recommendations to stakeholders and the Board of Supervisors by fall to enable funding commitments. Although our goal is to extend improvements north to the Maryland line, it is important to start now on the lower half of the road from Leesburg, as we have no timeline until we have a project. Higgins stated that \$1.6M is left over for work on the Rt. 15 corridor, currently earmarked for a third lane up to Whites Ferry Rd. He said that aside from this committed project, not much would happen for about two years.

Higgins also noted that some of the options presented in the study have already been ruled out by VDOT because of the cost. S. Sorrell asked about the possibility of smaller projects to address safety issues, such as installing rumble strips and reflectors in the northern part of the road to the bridge. Higgins responded that his office has asked VDOT for this about four times; VDOT's response was that they would look for federal money to fund new countermeasures that would include Rt. 15 but that their priority is striping a center line and installing additional signage. VDOT noted that some areas along the corridor are not wide enough for shoulder strips, but G. Higgins pointed out that these strips could be installed now where possible. Cheryl Hillebrand stated that a No Passing sign at areas of red pavement would be a small, but important, improvement now. D. Snooks said that a macadam and dirt area near the Little Rock Motel should be improved and that rumble strips are needed on both sides of yellow lines. J. Adams stated that all passing should be disallowed all along Rt. 15, as this practice is the cause of many accidents. He noted that Rt. 32 in Maryland is a good example of what we need here. Higgins noted that, unfortunately, VDOT is less receptive to the improvement of two lane highways in favor of building four lanes. He also noted that this study is not VDOT's study, but rather Kimler-Horne's assessment, and that their study objective was to recommend ways to get traffic out of Leesburg. Their report also calls for a safety study. T. Dunn said that three lanes could be a viable consideration if the directions changed to two lanes one way and one lane the other way

during rush hours. Higgins noted that some money left over from a project on Rt. 66 has been returned to the state, another reason why we need to get something in motion now to try to capture some of these funds for our local needs on Rt. 15. In response to a question by P. Logue on how we might keep VDOT accountable, Higgins said to go to input meetings, such as those sponsored by Envision Loudoun, and post comments on VDOT's website. D. Fabboli asked how Middleburg got the funds for the roundabout; Higgins said Middleburg had a Rt. 50 task force that sponsored the project. Higgins' goal is for us to move ahead and not start over with more studies. Twenty four thousand cars travel Rt. 15 daily, which is more than twice the capacity of the road.

Other suggestions for Rt. 15 included requiring a toll at the POR bridge (N. Kron), commuter buses from Gettysburg to Frederick (M. Quitter), and working to get Maryland to support the construction of a new bridge across the river. This latter suggestion is obviously a regional issue, made more complex by the unwillingness of Montgomery County to consider another bridge. Higgins noted that Maryland State Government is more receptive but not willing to engage with Montgomery County at present.

Another issue included bringing broadband service to rural areas such as Lucketts. Higgins has met with Verizon, Winchester Wireless and T Mobile to explore options. Verizon acknowledges six areas with inferior coverage and is negotiating better coverage; however, Verizon and Comcast are known to "cherry pick" the least expensive areas to provide coverage. Citizens can post input and comments on the Loudoun County website on this issue. P. Gustafson noted that Verizon has already extended FIOS down Rt. 15, but it ends at Vanish and Village Green. Higgins is working on an RFI to provide fiber installation (not dark fiber, which is proprietary).

Higgins briefly discussed the overall development plan for our area and showed a map indicating areas (in green) that have been approved for development and areas (in blue) not approved for development. He noted that development is hampered in our area because it is a limestone overlay district; the AR-1 zoning has not, and probably will not, change. Recent developments, such as Village Green, Falconnaire, Selma and Raspberry Falls were all approved before 2008. He

explained that AR-1 zoning allows "by right" development--four houses on 20 acres.

P. Hart noted that more enforcement is needed along Rt. 15 with a greater presence by enforcement personnel. Higgins responded that he thought enforcement has improved. C. Hillebrand said that enforcement is especially need on weekends--the increased local traffic to wineries and breweries results in greater speed and more drunk or impaired drivers. K. Quitter said some of these safety issues could be addressed in driver education programs. B. Fry, who had a recent accident on Rt. 15, said that a three-pronged approach is needed: 1) education, to include additional signs, road lighting, reduced speed limit to 35 mph, and no passing all the way to Leesburg; 2) get projects in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan; and 3) work toward another bridge across the river.

S. Hillebrand brought up the issue of the local junkyard and associated dumping; Higgins asked to be informed if this property comes up for sale.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Note: The trash schedule can always be found on our website at: <http://luckettsruritan.org/for-members>, then click on the "[Compactor/Recycling Assignments](#)" link.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

May 30th, 2017

Attending: Bond, Falk, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez, Penaranda, Quitter, Small

CTO 7:30 PM. The Secretary sent minutes from our last General meeting via email for review by the Board.

Pres. McKenzie noted that, due to a conflict with primary elections, we are moving our June General Membership Meeting to Tuesday, June 20th.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bond provided the May financial profit and loss reports. Total income was \$6,553.66 (reflecting trash receipts, member dues, parking and fundraising income) and expenses were \$4,892.64 (reflecting compactor service cost, meeting meals and donations) for a net ordinary income of \$1,661.02. Checking account has \$15,650.35; our T. Rowe Price account has \$169,182.19, for an assets total of \$185,657.54. Dues owed are \$1,116; banquet dues still owed are \$60.00. The BOD approved the Treasurer's Report.

Bond noted we received proceeds from the barbecue concession at last year's Lucketts Fair. He also noted that the Club membership list needs to be reconciled with the list from District and National before he makes the July payment to National.

New Business:

Scholarships: Tom Small reported that the Point of Rocks club finished their evaluation of the 10 complete scholarship applications received this year. Joelle Ortega was deemed exceptional. Four others were worthy of recognition, but were substantially equal. Tom recommended an award of \$4,000 for Jessica and \$1500 for each of the others. The Board approved this recommendation. Tom noted that this year's application evaluation process was successfully conducted 100% on-line. We need to cut a check to pay POR for their evaluation assistance.

Citizenship Awards: The Citizen of the year award is going to Carder Saul. Connie Falk will present scholarships and Citizenship Awards at Tuscarora HS (June 5) and Lucketts Elementary (June 8).

Jim Mackenzie will present at Smarts Mill Middle School (May 31).

Craig Bond is having the permanent plaques noting the Citizenship winners updated and returned to the schools.

Finance Committee Report: C. Falk reported the results of the Finance Committee's review of our liability insurance and contracts information. He submitted a summary report. In summary, all Ruritan clubs are covered under Ruritan National's liability insurance policy from the Philadelphia Insurance Company. In 2012, National added a "Fund Raising Events Endorsement" that applies to bodily injury, property damage and personal advertising injury related to fund raising events. We are also covered under this Endorsement.

C. Falk also reported that the signatories on our checking account have been updated.

Picnic: Pres. McKenzie announced a planning session on 27 June at Skills USA at 6:30 PM with representatives from other local clubs to discuss the joint picnic to be held July 22nd at Skills, USA. This picnic will serve as our July monthly meeting. M. Quitter noted that we could thank Skills, USA for their hospitality and generosity by purchasing a new commercial grade BBQ grill and presenting it as a donation from our club. The Board approved this donation and expenditure.

The July 22nd picnic will be open to prospective members. We encourage our Club members to bring prospective members as guests.

Monthly Dinners: J. Mckenzie has been informed that the ladies from Furnace Mountain Church may want to resume preparation of club dinners at our monthly meetings. He will call POC John Adams to confirm and to determine which months the ladies would be available.

Monthly Speakers: The speaker for our June meeting will be Jeff Judge from Eagletree Farm cafe and winery. July is the picnic, so no speaker is required.

Unfinished Business:

Trash: Pres. McKenzie reported that we need a scrub of our membership to determine more accurately who does and does not do trash and the reasons for these assessments and current waivers. Health reasons are obvious, but we will revisit our policies about trash duty and clarify these for the

membership. The BOD will discuss this issue further at a later date.

C. Falk noted that we need a large trash can for plastic bags used to bring recyclables to the trash service. Plastic bags are not allowed in the recycling bins, so we need a way for people to dispose of them after emptying them into the bins. We need a sign at the bins to encourage people to dispose of plastic bags properly.

Pres. McKenzie will ask P. Gustafson if our contract with the compactor service company includes assistance by the truck driver to help people unload their trash bags from their cars.

Pat Logue reported that the Membership Committee will focus efforts on recruiting at Trash Collection.

Followup on Rt. 15 Safety Meeting with G. Higgins; P. Logue reported on a followup meeting she attended with G. Higgins and two representatives from VDOT, Stacy Carey and Susan Glass. VDOT has approved a contract to install rumble strips along all 11 miles of Rt. 15 from Leesburg to the POR bridge and will add strips on the shoulders where possible via a change order to the contract. Other issues discussed at this meeting were reducing the speed limit, prohibiting passing and changing the red separation medians to make them more visible and to better reflect the rural character of the road.

P. Logue noted that many opinions are being expressed. A vocal group is the N. VA Transportation Alliance, a 30-year old group consisting of developers and smart growth proponents. Virginia based, this group drives the political agenda.

C. Bond reported that he called a member of the Montgomery County Council about the issues on Rt. 15 and offered that the Ruritans could provide a forum for discussion of safety, volume and other citizen issues on Rt. 15. At present, the position of this Council is not in the best interest of commuters, but the recommendation was to contact the councilmember for transportation to open a dialogue.

Announcements:

1. M. Quitter reported that he looked into the email we received from a Leesburg Eagle Scout asking for a donation from our Club for a bench and butterfly garden project at LES. Quitter learned that this scout was from a Leesburg troop affiliated with the Mormon Church. He explained to the Board that typically, the responsible troop raises any needed funds and usually solicits funds from the benefitting organization. Accordingly, in this case, the Board voted to decline providing additional funding for this project, since we already donate a significant sum to LES.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary