



# 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- September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Attending:** Adams, Bond, Cleland, Falk, Ferreira, Gustafson, Hart, Hobbie, Hillebrand, Logue, McKenzie, Penaranda, Quitter, Siebentritt, Sorrell

**Guests:** Tia Walbridge, Gretta Siebentritt, Jackie Cleland, Mary Gustafson

CTO by Pres. McKenzie at 7:35 PM.

Pres. McKenzie welcomed our guest speaker, Tia Walbridge, Democratic candidate for delegate for the 33rd district.

### Program:

Pres. McKenzie introduced Tia Walbridge, Democratic candidate for delegate for district 33. A sheep farmer and small businesswoman, Tia lives in the Bluemont area, in Round Hill, with her husband and two young daughters. They raise Dorset sheep and remodel rental homes. Her husband, a disabled veteran, works at the Pentagon for the government. They live in a 300 year old farmhouse, which they continue to renovate. One of Tia's motivations for getting into the race for delegate was to become an approachable representative of the people in her district. She is totally committed to listening to constituents and showing that she cares about their issues. Health care is at the top of her list, as her husband has had cancer three times, leaving the family with large medical bills. She realizes how important medical coverage is to enable her family and other families with medical issues to be able to live as they wish. Accordingly, Tia is for expanding Medicaid as a good first step to bring down copays; she noted that states can do a lot by bundling benefits and reviewing different costs at various hospitals.

She cited the situation in Richmond, where funding was drastically reduced to the public school system workers, leaving school nurses, bus drivers, and support staff without adequate funding for needed items and supplies. She is committed to getting the quality standards back up and to raising the base pay of Loudoun County teachers, which is currently about \$7K less than other counties. Tia is also committed to keeping western Loudoun rural, keeping small towns

### Next Meeting

October 10th, 2017 7:30 P.M.  
Lucketts Community Center

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Program:** Our October speaker will be Erin Raynor, representative from Barbara Comstock's office. Also, Pearl Underwood will talk to us about opportunities for a 5013c non profit organization.

small, and supporting smart growth while preserving our rural heritage by encouraging farm-to-table initiatives and local wineries and breweries. P. Gustafson asked how we might prevent developers from building so many houses in western Loudoun, which affects our quality of life, also noting that the previous mountain side ordinance is no longer in effect. Tia said that the current Board of Supervisors is now on board with keeping the area west of Rt. 15 rural, even though the Comprehensive Plan does not address this issue. She said the expectation is that in the next decade, several large farms of 1,000 acres or more are expected to break up, so it is critical to close zoning loopholes to enable other project types such as farmlets, rather than large housing developments, as happened in Lincoln and Ashburn (where 28 condominiums were built on 1/2 acre). P. Gustafson said that we need better incentives for people to put their property into conservation easement, such as tax breaks for not selling development rights.

Other issues discussed:

- Removal of Confederate statues--Tia's position was that localities should determine what to do with such monuments, but she felt that they should go to a museum or a garden and new monuments should be put up to honor other heroes. But it is important that we remember the context of these statues, that they were erected during the Jim Crow era.
- Hunting/Shooting on Sunday--Mary Gustafson stated, that as a horse rider, she is concerned about people hunting and shooting guns on the weekend, where previously, hunting was not allowed on Sundays. Tia's opponent introduced legislation to allow the

firing of guns seven days a week; the concerns from the large equestrian community here were disregarded by the current delegate. Tia was interested in looking into this issue further.

- J. Adams brought up our regional traffic issues--he noted that the Dulles Greenway is expensive, we get a lot of Maryland traffic on Rt. 15, resulting in delays, congestion, and dangerous conditions; and Rt. 9 now handles more than 16,000 cars a day--Tia responded that the solution is a bridge over the Potomac at Rt. 28, (which has been studied since 1954) but Maryland doesn't want it, and Maryland owns the river. She said the business community in Maryland needs to get on board; in Virginia, we can begin by taking out stoplights and putting in roundabouts for traffic calming, efforts that should not stop at the Leesburg town border, but should extend all the way north to Point of Rocks bridge. She said we need a comprehensive plan that includes all of Rt. 15.
- T. Small noted that Maryland has preserved the rural character of the area around the river, but that Virginia hasn't done as well. For example, the town of Hamilton had no debt; then a developer put too many houses on small lots, the drain fields failed, and the town had to annex the area and put the homes on town water, and now the town is in debt.
- P. Logue asked for her thoughts on increasing low income housing in the county--Tia responded by noting that the recent proffer bill hurt and that amendments (or a reversal) are needed to require low income housing. She noted that the issue includes the push for higher density housing with the Metro coming into Loudoun. P. Gustafson said that the group, Envision Loudoun, is focusing on the 27,000 acres in the transition zone, which is being developed without a good long-term plan.

Tia plans to conduct her campaign professionally by welcoming inquiries, responding to citizens' concerns, and by holding open door events and community meetings. She emphasized that she is locally-focused and wants to address community issues. Her campaign office is in Purcellville, open

10-6 every day; she can also be contacted on her website

**Minutes:** August minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** C. Bond presented the monthly financial sheets. Total income was \$5,682.23 (reflecting trash receipts, member dues, and parking income) and expenses were \$6,525.92 (reflecting compactor service cost and scholarship donations, meeting meals and miscellaneous expenses) for a net ordinary income of -\$843.69. We received \$1,511.05 unrealized gain income from our T. Rowe Price account, resulting in a net income of \$667.36. Checking account has \$14,769.27; our T. Rowe Price account has \$179,392.57, for an assets total of \$194,891.84. Dues owed are \$730. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

## New Business:

*Route 15 Stakeholder Meetings:* S. Hillebrand reported that postcards were sent out, encouraging people to fill out and return the citizen survey about Rt. 15 issues. The Board had approved the expenditure of \$500 to print and mail the postcards, but the full membership needed to approve the additional \$65 cost. The membership approved. We also promoted the survey at trash, at the Lucketts Fair, and at local churches. So far, we have received 202 surveys online, with more coming in the mail. P. Logue will put the data into a spreadsheet, to be reported in *Lucketts News & Notes* and to be presented to the BOS at the next stakeholders' meeting.

Hillebrand also reported that VDOT has removed three of the five painted straight arrows in front of the school, added signs for Right Turn Only, and will install rumblestrips in November. He noted that cars are still passing at the light at Lucketts Road, in spite of the new direction (and that there are no speed cameras in Virginia!)

*Membership Committee:* J. Adams reported that we are updating our brochure and are providing a club representative at trash on the Saturday before each monthly meeting.

*Community Support:* Parking: we need to consider the number of parking events we do each year, and we need to increase our non-fund-raising opportunities for projects that can help the community.

*Coat Drive:* Hillebrand reported that the Rudy Youth club will manage the coat drive again, led by Karen Price. We will collect coats until the end of October and distribute by Thanksgiving. The Rudy Youth Club consists of 4th and 5th graders; they meet two times a month; we will help them plan and conduct a fundraiser as well as a fun event to acknowledge them and to involve parents in the club activities.

*Historical Lecture on Indians in Local Area:* C. Bond attended a lecture at Point of Rocks on the Piscataway Indians who settled in our area. He would like our club to sponsor a similar presentation and make it a community-wide event, perhaps in the January-February timeframe. After discussion, we decided that the Rudy Youth Club could sponsor this event and hold it at the school.

*District Meeting:* Pres. McKenzie attended a District Meeting, at which Pearl Underwood discussed ways to leverage a 5013c status to obtain donations and grants. We will invite Pearl to our October meeting to discuss this issue further and get ideas for our club. S. Hillebrand suggested that we could approach our trash compactor service and suggest they waive the 6% fee increase for a 5013c and take it as a tax writeoff for their company as a 5013c sponsor.

*Nomination Committee:* Pres. McKenzie reported that the committee is working on officer nominations for 2018.

## Old Business:

*Trash:* P. Gustafson reported that the trash company has waived the 6% fee increase for compactor service for the remainder of 2017. He is working on an updated sign to be posted at trash, showing where trash donations are being applied to benefit the community.

## Announcements:

1. Norbert Dee has resigned from the club.
2. Our Holiday Party will be held the first Saturday in December (December 2nd) at Skills, USA.
3. J. Adams reported that David Whitmer, of Taylorstown, is mentoring a group of young people on the use of firearms from all U.S. wars. This group does presentations at various community events, if asked. Adams suggested that our club sponsor a presentation as a community event.

Pledge of Allegiance was said and 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

October 3rd, 2017

Attending: Bond, Falk, Hillebrand, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez, Penaranda

CTO 7:30 PM.

The September Board meeting was held on October 3rd because several members were out of town in September and we did not have a quorum.

**Minutes:** Board approved draft September minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** C. Bond provided the financial profit and loss reports. Total income was \$9,490.75 (reflecting trash receipts, member dues and parking income); expenses were \$6,789.44 (reflecting compactor service cost, meeting meals, parking expenses, and donations) for a net ordinary income of \$2,701.31. Checking account has \$17,550.58; our T. Rowe Price account has \$179,392.57, for an assets total of \$197,247.15. Dues owed are \$304.00. Pres. McKenzie will contact those in arrears for dues. The BOD approved the Treasurer's Report.

### New Business:

*Rt. 15 Stakeholders Committee:* P. Logue reported that the next meeting of the committee will be in October. She distributed a brochure summarizing the work of the N. VA Transportation Alliance, which lobbies on regional transportation issues, such as a train bridge over the Potomac. She noted that our club also needs to learn more about regional transportation issues that impact our community. And, the Montgomery County, MD Chamber of Commerce that represents that business community is becoming more active about the next election and getting business people more involved in regional transportation issues. The hope is that the business community may bring more vision regarding another river crossing, understanding that there is a need for a multi-modal crossing (such as accommodating trains and self-driving cars).

T. Meyerhofer is managing the email list obtained from the submitted Rt. 15 surveys. S. Hillebrand asked the Board to approve \$100 for three easels, to be used for an indoor display of the Rt. 15 maps. BOD approved.

*Rudy Juniors:* P. Logue asked for a club donation of \$150 for this year (2017) and \$500 for next year (and annually thereafter) to fund their projects. BOD approved.

*Coat Drive:* S. Hillebrand reported that the coat drive is underway, to continue through October. We need collection boxes at trash and at LCC. The committee will ask Gary Mears if a room at Faith Chapel can be used to sort the collected coats. We discussed holding a "Thank You" event at the end of the drive to acknowledge the efforts of the Rudy Junior Club. We will sponsor a bonfire at P. Gustafson's house, with food and games and giveaways of T or polo shirts for the kids and small items for parents. BOD approved \$1000 for promotional products for this event and \$500 for food and drinks.

P. Logue reported that LES PTA President, Karen Price is interested in getting a Rudy Junior Club started at Smarts Middle School, especially since middle schoolers are required to join a club at school at this age. Such a club would also serve as a potential pipeline for parents to join our club.

P. Logue explained a Watchdog Dads program at LES, to be held on Wednesdays, to encourage local fathers to become more involved at school.

P. Logue stated that the bell originally installed at the Community Center is now in the courtyard at LES, but there is no accompanying plaque to explain it or describe its significance. The BOD discussed assisting the Rudy Junior Club with a project to research a historical plaque for the bell.

*Monthly Speakers:* October speakers will be Erin Rayner from B. Comstock's office and Pearl Underwood from Ruritan National to discuss 5013c operations. For November, we will ask Dave Birtwistle from the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance to speak.

*Gary Mears Application for Membership:* BOD approved Gary's application; we will submit to the membership at the next General Meeting.

*BOD Meeting Dates:* October Board meeting will be held on October 24th, rather than the 31st, which is Halloween; the November meeting will be held on Nov. 28th; and the December meeting on January 2nd, since we do not meet between Christmas and New Year's.

*Holiday Party:* The date for our annual party will be December 2nd at Skills, USA. We will use the

same caterer as last year and invite Kara Fulop to play piano again during the cocktail hour. We also need to start identifying additional guests to whom we will send invitations.

*Historical Lecture on Indians in our Local Area:*

We will invite Chris Haugh, a local historian to speak about the local Indians and their culture in the January-March timeframe. This event could be planned as a community-wide event at the school, with the Rudy Junior Club as the sponsor.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Trash:* P. Gustafson is finalizing a sign that summarizes how trash donations are used to benefit our community.

*Daydream Designs:* The Board discussed and approved paying P. Gustafson's company, Daydream Designs, for the design work performed for the club. Peter and Mary Gustafson have donated many hours of work for the club, and the Board felt that these valuable and much appreciated efforts should be fairly compensated.

**Announcements:**

1. S. Hillebrand announced that fund raising ideas from the committee included a casino night in the February-March timeframe.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*