



# Lucketts Ruritan

**Board of Directors:** *Peter Gustafson, President; Al Menendez, Vice President; Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary; Don Stanley, Treasurer; Jim McKenzie, Pat Logue, Mike Dunn, Gary Mears, Directors*

## General Membership Meeting Minutes—February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Attending:** Adams, J Benjamin, A Benjamin, Bond, Cleland, Dunn, Ewell, Fabboli, Falk, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Johnson, Kron, Logue, McKenzie, Mears, Menendez, Penaranda, Price, Quitter, Deb Sackman, Den Sackman, Scott

**Guests:** Brian Tinsman, Bob Carr, Forest Hayes (Candidate for Catoctin District Supervisor)

CTO: 7:30 PM.

Pres. Gustafson welcomed our guests and acknowledged the ladies of Furnace Mt. Church for preparing the dinner meal. He took a few minutes to note the status of members who were ill or who had ill family members (Howder, Hillebrand, Snooks, P. Stanley)

**Minutes:** February Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Don Stanley was not present, so A. Menendez presented the financial report for January. Total income for January was \$7,972.98 (primarily reflecting trash collections and dues); expenses were \$2,576.22 (primarily reflecting newsletter costs and History Detective event at LES. Note: we did not receive a bill for compactor service for the month) for a net income of \$5396.76. Checking account has \$31,816.31; our T. Rowe Price account has \$198,798.33, for an assets total of \$230,614.64.

Menendez also presented the proposed budget for 2019, as developed by the Finance Committee and conditionally approved by the Board, for approval by the membership. The 2019 budget was approved. He also noted the donations we have received from sustaining corporate members, that the committee would hold quarterly budget reviews, and he thanked D. Stanley for his effort on budget preparation.

### Program:

Our speaker for the evening was Forest Hayes, candidate for Loudoun Board of Supervisors for the Catoctin District. Forest was raised in Gary, IN, the son of a U.S. postal worker and grandson of a steel factory worker. He learned the meaning of hard work at a very early age and that life would be "hard but fair." Today he draws on his working class background as he seeks to provide a

### Next Meeting

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7:30 P.M.  
**Lucketts Community Center**

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Program:** The speaker for our March meeting will be Doug Graham, America's Routes, who will speak about Loudoun's back roads.

fair shot for all. He lives in Waterford, VA with his wife and two elementary-age children.

Forest has served as staff to the U.S. House sub-committee on Agriculture, Rural Development Appropriation, and as the driving force behind the survival of the Rural Economic Development Loan Program, promoting rural economic development and job creation. He has served as senior executive staff to U.S. Congressmen Peter Visclosky (D-IN) and Jose Serrano (D-NY), Congresswomen Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Julia Carson (D-IN), DC Mayors Adrian Fenty and Muriel Bowser, and Gary, IN Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. Forest excels at navigating and solving problems impacting local economies and has created and implemented several public and private partnerships.

Forest stated that he has noted changes in our community since he moved here; specifically, larger school class sizes. He believes little or no attention is being paid to the stresses and impacts of increased growth and more houses and that we need new leadership in Catoctin that will look farther into the future. He realizes that Rt. 15 is a major issue about which residents of western Loudoun are most concerned, many of whom are worried that the rural and historic character of this corridor will be destroyed by current development plans. He understands the transportation issues and policies but wants to learn more about the impacts of various options under consideration. He noted that the design phase for widening Rt. 15 to Montresor Rd. has not yet started, but for plans past Montresor, he wants to "hit the reset button" because local residents feel they are not being heard by planners and by the BOS. He believes we need a more organized community engagement

process, and that the conversation should not be restricted to Rt. 15 in Lucketts because the underlying issue is interstate commerce from MD into Loudoun Co. He noted that the fix does not have to be Rt. 15. Rather, we need a study to determine how valuable interstate commerce is, since it is a regional issue involving VA, MD, and DC Departments of Transportation. He believes we cannot be afraid of doing what is best, which may or may not be another bridge at Rt. 28.

Another issue is schools. Forest stated that, about 10 years ago, LES was the number one school in the county and number seven in the state, but now is ranked 303rd because the best teachers cannot be effective with 30 children in a class. In the last budget season, \$30M was allocated for a new LES, but it didn't happen because no one fought for it.

Forest noted the lack of reliable broadband within the Catoctin District and that schools in Lucketts, Lovettsville, Waterford, Lincoln, and Hamilton have no reliable broadband service. He believes possible solutions include renegotiating the contract with Verizon and ComCast; entertaining bids from other vendors to bring 5G service here; or renting space on our buildings to run antennas for signals across the western part of the county with the revenue reinvested to improve schools.

Farms are another issue here. Forest stated that our way of life is worth fighting for, so we need to make our farms profitable. He promised to fight for full funding of the conservation easement legislation currently under consideration. Forest stated that he is running for the BOS slot in a party-agnostic way in that we should look at this as a future rather than a past issue. For example, there are 170,000 acres in Western Loudoun, but no processing plants. He believes we are in a position to say no to housing developers if we are creative and forward thinking about land use. We need workforce level housing in western Loudoun and that product from our land is near the new metro stations. Accordingly, we need transportation-oriented development. Transferable development rights are one tool but not the whole answer, as zoning is key. Forest stated these issues as a math equation: make farms more profitable to contribute to the overall county budget. Club member J. Adams commented that a big problem is that we piecemeal everything instead of developing a larger, integrated plan.

## **New Business:**

**Hunting History for Kids Event:** Pres. Gustafson announced that this event will be held on Sunday, February 24th at LES. Eric Hillebrand will be the featured speaker. TDonations will go to the LES PTA. This is also a key fund-raiser for the Rudy Youth Club, who will hold a bake sale following the presentation. Sign up sheets are available for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup.

**Committee Assignments:** Pres. Gustafson encouraged members to sign up for one or more committees of interest if you haven't done so.

**2019 40th Anniversary Events:** 1) Picnic: We will again hold the picnic with other local Ruritan clubs, but we need decisions on venue, food, and entertainment; 2) Sip 'n' Social: we will move this event to the fall; the Furnace Mountain Church ladies will again prepare the food; 3) Holiday Banquet: we need a chairman for this event, as M. and K. Quitter have retired from this role. We also need to decide on a venue and caterer. For all of these events, we need volunteers to help.

**Compactor and Recycling:** Pres. Gustafson announced that our contract has been sold again, this time to Bates Trucking. He has received the names of a POC at Bates and a service rep.

**Parking:** We have been approved to assist with parking at Suzanne Eblen's Antique Fair, now held at the fairgrounds in Clark County. For our assistance, Suzanne gives us a generous \$5K donation.

## **Old Business:**

**Membership Kits:** P. Logue has ordered new shirts and hats. We will develop new membership kits with these items and information from Ruritan National for new members.

## **Announcements:**

1. There is a Lion's Club golf tournament in Purcellville this weekend.
2. We received a thank you note from T. Munoz for our mailing of *Lucketts News & Notes*.
3. J. Frankenfield will oversee tree planting on a maximum of three acres. More info to follow.

Pledge of Allegiance was said and meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## February 2019 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** Bond, Dunn, Gustafson, Logue, McKenzie, Mears, Menendez, Penaranda, Stanley

Meeting was held at the home of A. Menendez, 42518 St. Clair La., Leesburg, VA 20176. CTO at 7:30 PM.

**Minutes:** Draft February General Meeting Minutes accepted with a minor correction.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer D. Stanley provided the monthly financial report for February. Total income was \$4,362.43 (primarily reflecting trash and member dues); expenses were \$2,435.00 (primarily reflecting compactor service costs, meeting meals, newsletter printing, and the History Detective event), for a net income of \$1,545.43. Checking account has \$29,833.76; our T. Rowe Price account has \$204,290.00, for an assets total of \$234,123.76. We received \$382 in dues. Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Board discussed an issue with the mailing house for *Lucketts News & Notes* regarding the requirement for a supervisor for the workers. These people will now come to the LCC to do the mailing of the newsletter, instead of the current Leesburg facility.

Board also discussed categorizing income from the History Detective event as a donation; a one-time expense for business cards for Board members; and the need to send email reminders to club members who still owe dues for 2018.

**2019 Budget:** The Board discussed club assistance to two local families from the nearby trailer park who lost everything from a recent fire. Although our Emergency Assistance category is not funded, the Board agreed that this kind of assistance is what our club is here for. Board approved \$550 to cover the bill for the two families to stay at the Little Rock Motel for a week.

The LCCAB did not receive our \$2500 check to be forwarded to the Loudoun Co. government; the treasurer will issue another check.

The Board agreed to put *Lucketts News & Notes* on Facebook as well as on our website to expand access to its content.

We approved a donation of \$500 to the Lucketts Bluegrass Foundation. P. Hart will pass along our check to the foundation.

## New Business:

**Monthly Speakers:** Our speaker for March will be Doug Graham, from America's Routes, who will speak about Loudoun's back roads. America's Routes is a committee of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, focusing on documenting and educating the public about the rural roads of Western Loudoun County. This historic 300-mile network of old roads lies along the Loudoun Valley next to the Blue ridge Mountains and was used for agriculture. This unique resource does not exist anywhere else in the country.

**Club Updates:** We need to update our official documents, club brochure, and website. Pres. Gustafson will update our official documents; several internal club groups who need to distribute our brochure will provide input to its content and refer to content provided in our Sip 'n Social brochure from last year. P. Logue, P and M. Gustafson, and S. Hillebrand will manage this effort. We will also include this brochure in welcome packets to new neighbors.

**Committee Assignments:** Our Environmental Committee is planning a collaborative project with the Rudy Jr./Rudy Youth clubs to mark stormwater drains in Village Green. This project will showcase the Ruritan commitment to our community's youth and to the protection of the environment. The group will complete the stormwater drain marking and provide environmental education on how this project helps protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, of which we are a part. The proposed date for the drain marking is Saturday, April 17, from 2-4 pm, to coincide with Earth Day Week.

Another environmental project is the Loudoun Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) to be held on Tuesday, March 26, from 5-8 pm at Heritage High School. The purpose of this event, co-hosted by LCPS, Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance (LESA), and the Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork, is to amplify youth voice in environmental problem solving by showcasing to a real-world audience how students have contributed to environmental stewardship in Loudoun County. The event will feature student-created exhibitions of environmentally-themed projects and ongoing activities. For more information, email [seas@loudounnature.org](mailto:seas@loudounnature.org).

Another environmental project is the planting of trees on the 87-acre Stumptown Woods property,

now called the Black Oak Wildlife Preserve. Groups can apply to Loudoun County to plant trees on three acres at the preserve at a cost of \$7K per acre.

Pres. Gustafson noted that all club committees need to get up and running. The Ad Hoc Committee should start planning our 40th Anniversary celebration and picnic, tentatively scheduled for July 13. The venue for the picnic is still not determined, but the Board agreed to look into the availability of Tarara Vineyard. Another event to be planned is another Sip 'n Social at Fabboli Cellars in the fall. We also need organizers for the annual Awards Banquet. D. and P. Stanley, M. Dunn, and C. Hillebrand will begin planning for the banquet. P. Logue will organize another History Event for 2020, featuring Eric Hillebrand again or Richard Gillespie, former Educational Director of the Mosby Heritage Area. P. Gustafson noted that we should take advantage of the research resources at Thos. Balch Library

**Parking:** Next parking event is in May, in Berryville.

### **Old Business:**

**Hunting History for Kids Update:** Pres. Gustafson thanked club contributors and presenter Eric Hillebrand for a very successful program.

**Membership:** Pres. Gustafson has produced two plaques, one to the LES ladies who managed the school expansion through the BOS, and one memorial plaque to add the names of club members who have passed away (J. Rocks, C. Martin). We also received a plaque from the LES PTA thanking us for our contributions.

Board discussed items for inclusion into membership kits for new club members. We approved the purchase of 100 magnet-based name tag holders and reprinting of member name tags.

**Open Table:** P. Logue presented a handout about Open Table, a licensed model that provides the process, training, and research to invest in individual and community transformation. The model trains various community groups and sectors to form communities, called Tables, to work together to support and improve their local communities.

**Board Meeting Locations Going Forward:** To save the fees charged for renting space at the LCC, the Board will meet at one another's homes each month. The rotation schedule is as follows:

- March--J. McKenzie
- April--P. Logue
- May--D. Stanley
- June--P. Gustafson
- July--M. Dunn
- August--G. Mears
- September--A. Menendez
- October--J. McKenzie
- November--P. Logue

### **Announcements:**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*