

## November 2021 - General Meeting Minutes

CTO: 7:15 PM

**Now that COVID-19 has eased, we are resuming our regular monthly Membership and Board Meetings. Meeting venues will be announced each month. This month's meeting was held at Fabboli Vineyards, beginning at 7:00 pm for socializing before the meeting.**

**Attending:** Dunn, Fabboli, Hart, Hillebrand, Johnson, Logue, McKenzie, McLain, Menendez, Penaranda, Quitter, Rubright E and M, Stanley

**Welcome:** Guests: Kathy Dickerson, Julie Tassi

Mike Dunn gave the convocation, welcomed our guests, and thanked Doug Fabboli of Fabboli Vineyards and meeting organizers Don and Patty Stanley.

**Minutes:** Minutes from earlier meetings will be circulated and posted on our website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley reported that we have \$49,130.29 in our checking account and \$328,134.56 in our T. Rowe Price Investment account, for an assets total of \$376,993.85. This month begins our new fiscal year. Don noted that a significant expenditure this month was our donation of \$3K to Smarts Mill Middle School for outdoor furniture. Significant income was \$3500 from parking at the Lucketts Antique Fair in Berryville.

### Awards Banquet

We will hold the dinner this year at Fabboli Vineyards. The start time is 6:30 for drinks and socialization, with the dinner following. We have engaged a young singer to provide entertainment.

### Rappahannock District Convention

Pres. Menendez will attend this event next week in Winchester, VA. He will accept three awards won by our club in three categories. (See October minutes for details of these awards earned by several of our committees).

### Committee to Evaluate Expanded Facebook Activity for Lucketts Ruritan Club

P. Logue reported that we need to set up another group page associated with our club to drive volunteer efforts in the community. The page would describe opportunities for anyone to

volunteer for specific events. Volunteers would not have to be club members to volunteer. The idea is to offer another way for people to learn about the club and hopefully, want to become a member. We are looking for a volunteer to help manage this online page for the club.

### Club Archives

P. Logue stated that we currently have no process for archiving our club documents, especially our materials for scholarships and grants. She recommended that we set up a new ad hoc committee, headed by T. Small, to look at our options for expanding our website capacity, or alternatively, for using Google Workspace. We need a volunteer to manage and scan old club records and past issues of *Lucketts News & Notes*.

### Updates

- Existing Firehouse
  - Club representatives continue to work with the Volunteer Fire Company (LVFC) to identify potential uses of the building for the community. A meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10 at 3:30 at the firehouse to develop objectives going forward. We prepared an MOU to help in determining these long-term objectives, one of which is to permanently solve the sewage issues.
  - As a result of the request to the County by the volunteer company representatives for a six-month extension before sewer service would be cut off, the BOS granted a one-year extension of the service connection to LES.
- Compactor and Recycling News
  - We have a new County point of contact, Chastitie Langley.
  - Our application for waiver of the tipping fee at the landfill was approved by the BOS through FY 2023-2024. We cc'd Supervisor C. Kershner of this waiver.
  - We will explore options for placing a small shed at LES to house our equipment. We will also need a cart to enable easier moving of equipment and supplies.
- Future General Membership Meeting Locales
  - Pres. Menendez stated that we will hold our January and February (and perhaps also

March) meetings at LCC, weather permitting. This plan may change if Covid issues arise that necessitate other options.

- Pond Cleanup at KJ Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary
  - M. Johnson reported that this event in early November was a great success! Several volunteer groups participated.
- Ruritan/LWC partnership for the pond clean-up at JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary
  - B. Scott reported that the pond clean-up will be November 6th from 8:30 until 11:30AM.
- Lucketts Calender
  - The new Lucketts calendar is in production. The LES PTA will sell the calendars for \$10 to benefit the school.
- Coat Drive
  - We did not conduct our normal drive this year, due to Covid restrictions, and the requirement that the school could accept only new coats, no used. Kim Baney at LES provided us with the information to purchase the 34 needed coats.
  - Steve and Cheryl Hillebrand bought the needed number of coats for \$834, leaving \$196 in our coat budget for next year.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## November 2021 – Board of Directors’ Meeting Minutes

**With the ease of COVID-19, we are resuming our regular monthly Membership and Board Meetings. Meeting venues will be announced each month. This October BOD meeting was held on Oct. 26th at Don Stanley’s home.**

CTO: 7:17 pm

**Attending:** Dunn, Fauber, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Stanley

**Minutes:** October Minutes and those from earlier meetings are available on the Ruritan Club website.

**Treasurer’s Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report for November. We had \$52,808.38 in our checking account, and \$321,307.75 in our T. Rowe Price account, for a current assets total of \$373,845.13. Trash, dues, and parking are doing well and on budget, but we will lose some on the banquet (not significant), and we have distributed \$2,264 in donations. The Board accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

### Annual Coat Drive

S. Hillebrand reported that LES needed 34 coats, but our budget was \$1K, so we did not provide shoes or gloves this year. Cheryl Hillebrand searched 11 websites for the needed sizes, bought 24 coats for \$800, and made up the difference with new coats we had left from last year. Steve said we may need to revisit our procedure for obtaining new coats, as the process was difficult and time-consuming this year. Cheryl wants to retire from managing this drive, so we will need a new team. The Board moved to thank Steve and Cheryl for their many efforts on the coat drive. Much appreciated!

### Compactor/Recycling

No news; no current issues.

### Rt. 15

P. Gustafson provided a handout entitled “Rt. 15 N; For Your Consideration” that summarized the decision by Loudoun County to four-lane Rt. 15N for nine miles, from Battlefield Parkway to Lucketts, with limited access. This document states the intent of County staff (on record) to make this rural arterial an expressway, which would increase speeds, encourage development, and limit access

for those who live and do business along the route. This document is a request that the Rt. 15 North Phase 2 CPAM be removed from the list of top priorities in the County staff's work plan. Reasons include:

1. **Cost.** This expansion project will cost half a billion taxpayer dollars, money critical to the needs of Eastern Loudoun transportation, such as the Loudoun Metro stations. The cost of the planned four-laning to Montresor Rd, (Phase 1), is now more than \$10M; the cost of four-laning to Lucketts (Phase 2) is \$300M more.
  2. **Priorities.** Federal and state authorities have rejected funding for Phase 2, and the County has removed federal funding for Phase 1, thereby placing a substantial financial burden on Loudoun taxpayers for the cost of maintaining critical infrastructure in eastern Loudoun.
  3. **Shortcomings.** VDOT and transportation consultants have identified significant shortcomings with the project and have offered cost saving alternatives to improve safety and performance on Rt. 15. These have not been acknowledged or incorporated by the County.
  4. **Risk.** Rt. 15 widening will create new problems and require greater expenditures. For example, the transportation bottleneck will only move northward to Lucketts and farther, to the Point of Rocks Bridge, where the road again becomes two lanes. Maryland has no plans to widen the bridge or build a new one. The unique karst terrain of the whole corridor within the Limestone Overlay District and the associated critical aquifer will further increase risk and cost. Finally, the impetus for this project appears to increase land development in rural Loudoun with an accompanying increase in demands for public infrastructure and services which would generate even more traffic.
2. Realignment of two side road intersections for safety and access.
  3. The construction of single-lane roundabouts at Whites Ferry/Raspberry Drive, Montresor/Limestone School Roads, Spinks Ferry/NewValley Church Roads, St. Clair Lane, and Lovettsville Rd.
  4. Construction of improved, scenic byway-appropriate shoulders the length of the corridor.
  5. Employment of traffic calming practices through Lucketts by combining the \$14M VDOT Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment's Performance-Based Pilot Project for a quadrant intersection with VDOT's plan for pedestrian and safety improvements in Lucketts village, instead of a Lucketts bypass.
  6. Adherence to the 2019 Comprehensive Plan language to consult with the Lucketts community about any improvements.
  7. Establishment of safe, expedited access to businesses, schools, and churches along the corridor.
  8. Protection and improvement of the affordable housing in Lucketts village.

Additional concerns include impact to the Catoctin Rural Historic District and degradation of the value of the area as a tourism resource (Civil War Trails, Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area, and other cultural assets between Catoctin Mountain and the Potomac River).

### **Finance Committee Report**

P. Logue reported that P. Baker has recommended that due to various administrative practices, we move some of our investments, specifically, our scholarship funds, out of T. Rowe Price, to another custodian. Pat moved to approve this change and recommendation from the Finance Committee; motion carried. Treasurer D. Stanley then recommended that we separate our cash and investment accounts in T. Rowe Price into two accounts to enable better tracking, and that we maintain no more than \$10K in our checking account at Truist Bank as petty cash, and move

The document also presents requirements for a workable solution:

1. Elimination of the signalized intersections.

surpluses to the T. Rowe Price general fund. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

### **December Awards Banquet**

We will hold our December Awards Banquet (on Tuesday evening, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>) at Fabboli Vineyards. We have engaged Kevin Caterer from Leesburg; P. Gustafson and Pres. Menendez will determine awards such as Citizen and Ruritan of the Year. We are planning for about 50 guests, including special guests Susan Lee, Pearl Underwood, Supervisor Kershner, and Dennis Bagnall from Ruritan National.

### **Old Firehouse Status Report**

The volunteer fire company holds the following positions:

1. They will not relinquish ownership of the building, but will make it available for public use. They want to continue with their current mission of public service, which is to provide a food truck at an approved location during emergencies.
2. The volunteer company has no relationship with the County.
3. The Lucketts Ruritan Club is welcome to use the building for meetings and storage, with a lease agreement with terms.
4. The volunteer company reserves the right to approve potential or suggested uses of the building.

### **Report from Ruritan District Meeting**

Pres. Menendez reported several proposed changes to Ruritan National Club policies:

- Elimination of the requirement to serve meals at club meetings
- Addition of the option to combine officer duties
- Elimination of the requirement to hold a mandatory one meeting a month and enable meetings to be held virtually
- Require a quorum of 50% plus one of membership to remove an officer
- Elimination of the category of At Large membership while retaining the Associate Membership category

- Require officers and directors under the age of 18 to have an adult sponsor
- Enable membership committees to receive points for awards; committees will submit a report to National for consideration for award
- Clubs that own facilities and may be trying to sell them because of high maintenance expenses can contract with outside groups and services
- Approval of the incorporation of some clubs to protect against fraud
- Motion passed to sponsor the Apple Blossom Festival and assess clubs \$100 to support; motion included increasing members' annual dues by \$1 per year to fund the festival, to \$51 per year (up from \$44)

Our club received three Gold awards and one Silver award from Ruritan National this year. Gold awards were in the areas of Social Development, Environment, and Public Service; the Silver award was for Citizenship and Patriotism.

### **Donation to Fearing Family**

The Board moved (with one no and one abstention) to donate \$500 to the Fearing family, following a fire at their home. G. Mears will serve as POC with the pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church.

### **Boy Scout Settlement**

Last year, the Club registered as a Claimant in the bankruptcy proceeding initiated by the Boy Scouts of America through the courts. As a result of that action, the Club received communication from lawyers representing the Boy Scouts regarding elections that needed to be made by Claimants. Because our Club is a "Chartered Organization," these actions had particular significance. Three options were presented. The first was to support the terms of the Trust set up through the Courts to address the claims of sexual abuse victims. The second option was an election to "Opt Out" of this fund and settlement. The third option was to make a contribution to the Trust described in the first option if the club had been established prior to 1976 (Our club was established in 1980, so this option did not apply to us).

Al and Pat read the documents independently, and both recommended to the Board that the first option was the best one for our Club. By making that selection, the Club retains access to Liability Insurance coverage that the Boy Scouts of America has had in place for their “Chartered Organizations” for many years.

This coverage would be in addition to the Club’s Liability Insurance coverage through Ruritan National. Making the first option our choice in no way created a concern that Troop 1910 had any history of sexual abuse, reported or unreported. Based on the nature of this type of open-ended legal settlement, Option One preserved the maximum access to insurance coverages to protect the Club’s assets from future claims in this specific matter. The Board approved this recommendation, and Treas. Stanley and Pres. Menendez will complete and submit the required form as appropriate before the December deadline.

Adjourned 9:00 pm

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

