

October 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: Adams, Baker, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Gustafson, Hart, Johnson, Kibler, Kohler, Logue, Maruca B and F, Mears, Menendez, Penaranda, Quitter, Rubright E and R, Ruth, Small

Welcome: Guests: Brad Yetman, Aldana Caceres, Beth McClain, Tim McClain

Gary Mears gave the convocation 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 when available.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported that we just closed our fiscal year. He noted that the club made more in income than we spent by about \$10K. At month end, we had \$49,197.78 in our checking account and \$316,285.91 in our T. Rowe Price Investment account, for an assets total of \$365,212.69.

Induction of New Member:

The membership unanimously voted Beth McClain into our club as a new member! Welcome, Beth! Beth is an officer of the Catoctin Rural Alliance.

Status of the Catoctin Rural Alliance

The Alliance is a VA non-profit organized to preserve the Lucketts area environment. The newly formed group is seeking volunteers for leadership roles, including President and Treasurer. The Alliance also needs to establish 5013c status, as they plan to operate similarly to the Legal Defense Fund by enabling the tax-deductible receipt of donations as a non-profit.

An update to the current local issue about the well drilling on Limestone School Rd. was that the County issued an advisory opinion against the sale of water and that legal remedies may include fines and/or an injunction to stop operations. However,

video evidence of water trucks driving off the property is required before any penalties can be imposed.

Awards Banquet

We received several inputs from members in favor of a smaller event with smaller participation to manage Covid concerns and enable adequate social distancing. Due to the difficulty in locating a suitable venue and a commitment from a suitable caterer on a weekend, we will hold our annual banquet on a regular meeting night during the week. A motion was made and approved to hold the dinner on the second Tuesday in December (December 14th) at Fabboli Vineyards. Pres. Menendez will send out a message to members to provide anticipated attendees and guests to P. Logue.

Annual Community Services Report

President Menendez reported that this year our club received three Gold awards and one Silver award from Ruritan National. Gold awards were in the areas of Social Development, Environment, and Public Service; the Silver award was for Citizenship and Patriotism. Congratulations to these Committees for their good work!

Grant/Donation to Smarts Mill Middle School

P. Logue reported that Loudouu Cares, the administrator of GiveChoose funds earmarked for emergency assistance for Covid relief, returned these funds to our club, as they were not used in the relief initiative. Last year, we approved a Youth Development Grant application from the Lucketts Elementary School PTA to fund a mental health assembly to help parents and teachers cope with Covid, and we developed a relationship with Smarts Mill Middle School through the Rudy Youth Program. Consequently, the principal of Smarts Mill submitted a grant application for funds to improve an existing outdoor classroom space that had not been maintained since 2007-2008. The need was for outdoor furniture and sun shades for this space, with installation to be done by county personnel. A motion was made and passed to approve a donation of \$3K to Smarts Mill for the furniture and shades for this outdoor classroom area.

Updates

- Existing Firehouse
 - Club representatives are working with the Volunteer Fire Company (LVFC) to identify potential uses of the building for the community.
 - Since the issue of sewer/septic use was still unresolved, the volunteer company representatives asked the County for a six-month extension before service was to be cut off; in response, the County granted a one-year extension, which will give the LVFC time to determine their options for moving forward and determining the future use of the building.
 - Our club will continue to work with the volunteers to develop and submit a Concept Plan to the BOS within 180 days. (Note: Pres. Menendez' company has provided some alternatives, such as above ground sewer service).
- Compactor and Recycling News
 - P. Gustafson reported that the driver was late last week, but eventually arrived.
 - 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.
 - The holiday schedule for service is Monday, Dec. 27th and Friday, Dec. 31st.
- Future General Membership Meeting Locales
 - Pres. Mendez reported that future meetings will continue at Fabboli Cellars until the winter months, when we will return to the Community Center temporarily.
- Volunteers for Lucketts Antique Fair Parking in Berryville
 - Volunteers still needed for Saturday.
 - The Leesburg Optimist Club is apparently disbanding, so we will reach out to the Knights of Columbus as a potential partner for parking assistance in future.
- 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.
- Coat Drive
 - The LES PTA notified us that they can only accept new coats this year, no used coats. Steve and Cheryl Hillebrand have bought the needed number of coats and will deliver to the school.
 - Members can donate to the coat drive via a Donate button on our website.

Announcements

1. P. Gustafson reported that the Mosby Heritage area has been renamed as the VA Piedmont Heritage Area. The managing group is planning to deliver a series of two-hour history programs in the county, one of which will be about Lucketts, to be held the first weekend in March at the LCC.
2. G. Mears reported that Faith Chapel is now formally closed, but the Food Pantry is still ongoing and active. Pre-pandemic, the pantry served 30-60 families; now it serves 100-200 each month. He also noted that determinations about possible uses for the chapel and associated buildings are ongoing.
3. The family of Wayne Bevans asked that our donation in Wayne's memory be made to Blue Ridge Hospice.

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

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

October 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 Al Menendez’ home.

CTO: 7:10 pm

Attending: Dunn, Fauber, Gustafson, Hart, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Small, Stanley

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

Treasurer’s Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report for October, the first month in the new fiscal year. We had \$49,130.29 in our checking account, and \$328,134.56 in our T. Rowe Price account, for a current assets total of \$376,993.85. The Board approved the Treasurer’s Report.

Scholarship Committee Website

T. Small stated that all applications and committee documents are currently stored on Tom’s gmail account; as archivable information, these documents should be moved to a different, more accessible online storage site. After discussion, the Board decided to confer with K. Watts, who hosts our club website, about establishing an email address for committees on the Club website and a Google Workspace (free to nonprofits with free Zoom access) for archiving documents. We would need a volunteer archivist to manage the document storage and an administrator to manage the Google Workspace. The BOD acknowledged that we need more research, additional information, and testing. We will ask at the General Meeting for volunteers for these functions.

Compactor/Recycling Subcommittee Status Report

P. Gustafson reported confirmation with the trash company and the County of the date changes for the holidays. We need a poster and an announcement in *Lucketts News & Notes* (and maybe on Facebook) to disseminate this information to residents. We also need a

lockable shed for storing our trash equipment to enable easier transport to the school on trash days. One recommendation was to locate a small shed at the edge of the LCC property, but we would need county permission. P. Hart and A. Menendez will look into available options. D. Stanley also noted that the minimum dump fee at the landfill has increased to \$7.00.

November General Membership Meeting and December Awards Banquet

We will hold our November General Membership Meeting and our December Awards Banquet (on Tuesday evening, Dec. 14th) at Fabboli Vineyards. Guest attendees will be limited this year, but we will invite Pearl from National and Supervisor Kershner.

Old Firehouse Status Report

No progress to date. The sewer hookup to LES will be maintained for now. The point was made that if the LCVF sells the building to an entity that is NOT a 501c3 non-profit, the group must donate the proceeds to another non-profit. In our advisory role, we can negotiate holding meetings there in the future; however, the space is not large enough for full club meetings, but can accommodate smaller groups, such as committee meetings. A motion passed (with one No vote) to hold our January/February/March meetings at the LCC to accommodate weather conditions.

Virginia’s Congressional Redistricting

P. Logue reported that our area may be affected by this action. We need someone to track this at the federal level and determine whether any changes will potentially align us with other groups or districts.

Possible Increase in the Club’s Facebook Presence

P. Logue noted that we need an expanded group presence on Facebook to establish and coordinate a group of local volunteers to help neighbors in need of support. For example, J. Adams needs some help during his wife’s recovery from surgery.

Adjourned 8:15 pm

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

