



THURMONT TOWN MEETING

**MARCH 23, 2021 AT 7:00P.M.
THURMONT MUNICIPAL OFFICE
MEETING ROOM**

AGENDA TOPICS

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. CLOSED SESSION FROM 3/16/2021**
- 3. APPROVAL OF 3/16/2021 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**
- 4. UPDATE FROM YMCA**
- 5. DISCUSSION ITEM – ROOSTERS/FOWL IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**
- 6. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**
 - a. Commissioner Buehrer**
 - b. Commissioner Hooper**
 - c. Commissioner Hamrick**
 - d. Commissioner Burns**
 - e. Mayor Kinnaird**
 - f. Jim Humerick**
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- 3/20-5/1/2021 – 9AM – NOON – INDOOR FARMERS MARKET – THURMONT PLAZA**
- 3/25/2021 – 7:00 PM - PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING**
- 4/16/2021-4/24/2021 – RESTAURANT WEEK**
- 4/24/2021 – 8AM-12PM – COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT – THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021**

PLEASE SIGN IN
PLEASE PRINT

	NAME	THURMONT RESIDENT	
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1	MAILE WALKER Bruce Loveroak		
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TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2021

A Town Meeting of the Thurmont Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The following were present: Mayor Kinnaird; Commissioners Buehrer, Hooper, Burns, and Hamrick; CAO, Jim Humerick; Sr. Admin. Assist. Becky Long; Jim Wilkins; Vicki Grinder; Bruce Loverock; Bonna Loverock; Via Zoom: Anthony Brock; Evan Bates.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Buehrer led the Pledge of Allegiance

CLOSED SESSION FROM 3/16/2021

Mayor Kinnaird read the Closed Session Statement for 3/16/2021 into the meeting (See Attachment)

APPROVAL OF 3/16/2021 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Buehrer said "I make a motion that we accept the minutes as received for March 16, 2021." Commissioner Hamrick second. Vote: 5-0-0, motion carried.

UPDATE FROM YMCA

Vicki Grinder said "let me give you a little background to bring everybody up to speed on the YMCA Program. Mr. Humerick and I met with Chris Colville CEO of the Frederick County YMCA in October 2019. We then put together a focus group and met at the library in January of 2020 and had big plans to move forward and Chris' idea was a Y without walls; so we have programs, literally programs that will come here and not a specified building for them with a lot of them held outdoors. We walked away from that meeting and what she said she wanted to do was a Community Assessment Form; so we did that and we sent those out last March in the electric bills and we did receive assessments back at the end of April. Based on those assessments the YMCA came up with the top 3 needs in that assessment to start the Y without walls programs. Those three programs were Arts and Humanities; Teen Program; and Health and Wellness, all ages for health and wellness and Arts and Humanities. We have with us this evening two gentlemen that spearhead two of the three and they tried a program last year but obviously with the COVID we could not go through with them so we think that things are going to get better, and I have asked two of these gentlemen to join us this evening to talk about the programs that they are going to be bringing to Thurmont. I would like to introduce Anthony Brock who is the Director of Arts and Humanities programs at the YMCA."

Mr. Brock said "I am the Director at the new Y Arts Center in downtown Frederick. We opened our doors last June, it is in the heart of the historic district, and the building is at 115 East Church Street. So as Director, of course, we are located here but part of our mission is to do outreach and going to other communities like Thurmont and bedroom communities around the Frederick area. We talked with Vicki last year about bringing some arts programming to Thurmont and we are very happy about the Apples Church that we have available to us now to run some programs out of there. So what we will be doing this spring will be running some programs on the weekends. Some of the programs that I have run before that are good startup programs have been parent/child workshops, one-day events on like a Saturday morning where parents can bring their children in to do art work with them so we are going to do some curriculum around that on a Saturday morning for probably about an hour and a half to two-hour workshop to get some workshops started and then as we build this momentum we can offer some more diverse programming for grownups that want to take art course as well. We are excited to be partnering with you. The Y is an organization that is always looking to meet the needs of the community and to partner with other people to bring innovative programming to the equation; so what we do at the Art Center right now we will be offering visual arts programming to start with and we then also offer dance programs, theater programs, and music programs. These are some things moving forward that we can expand to include the Thurmont community as well. We want to thank you for inviting us into your community and making these arrangements so we can come up and put some great programming together for you."

Evans Bates, Coordinator of the Teen Services and interim Volunteer Coordinator for the YMCA of Frederick County, said "I am excited to build a partnership and relationship with the folks up in the north county. One of the things that was requested and one of the needs that the community spoke about is wanting to have more things for teenagers. We started a program in Thurmont that is a version of the Leaders Club which kicked off in January 2021. After talking to Vicki I realized that north county that is a lot more going on than just in Thurmont so in the fall we will be changing the name to the North County Leaders Club so it will include Emmitsburg, Sabillasville and other surrounding communities. The Leadership Program is similar to what we are doing downtown; we are building partnerships with groups in the Thurmont area like a program with the Lions Club, Thurmont Historical Society, we are planning to participate in the street sweeping, we will be doing a food distribution either Thurmont Middle or Catoclin High School in May. We have received a lot of support from Vicki and also received a lot of support from Apples Road Church letting us use their property as a meeting space. The purpose of bringing the program to Thurmont or just having the Leaders Club in general is that we want to teach young people the value of service. We have been able to prompt through the Main Street Facebook page, Vicki sent out our flyers through the water bills, today I talked to the Catoclin Feeder Group like counselors from the Catoclin schools, teachers and I felt it was very interesting. It is a program that has a fee, so if you are a member of the Y it is \$300 for September-June. This year we started the program in January so I prorated the program to \$130 if you are a nonmember of the Y and \$105 if you are a member, and then when we start up again in the fall then it will be the full amount. Local businesses and individuals can sponsor memberships as a way to push this program and give more kids the opportunity.

The Thurmont Leadership Group presently has 3 girls; 2 girls are 8th graders and 1 is a freshman at Catoctin High School. Our goal is to start the school year with at least 10."

Vicki Grinder said "I just want to point this out and hammer it home, the residents came and said we need a YMCA, we want a program; so these programs just don't happen overnight. These YMCA buildings like in Urbana they have been five or six years getting to that point so these programs have to be well attended over a period of several years and then they fit that into their business model and say in five years how can we build this. So we are in this for the long haul and so I would encourage everybody who wanted these types of programs, and once Anthony opens up the seniors part of the Arts and Humanities I have no doubt they will flock to that and the same thing with the Health and Wellness; I believe the ages for Health and Wellness are 35 and up. So these are the three areas they are going to focus in on, and again this is for the long run. We will also reach out to Mayor Briggs of Emmitsburg to get the word out up there that this is just not only for Thurmont that anybody can come in North County. We are all in this together so we welcome everybody, not just from Thurmont, to joint Evans' Teen program, Anthony's Arts and Humanities program and when we get the Health and Wellness up online."

Commissioner Buehrer stated that he had been a member of the YMCA when he was young, but the learning process was unparalleled. He feels that we have an environment here that fits the YMCA Program to a T with our two State Parks, our 4-H Program everything can kind of come together with the YMCA leadership. He wished them the utmost success.

Mayor Kinnaird stated this is absolutely a long-term program and it is something we will have to nurture and keep encouraging people to get involved with. He thinks we need to reach out to businesses to see if we can get some sponsors for some children to get started in this. He will encourage the Town of Thurmont municipality to sponsor a couple children.

Jim Humerick said "Vicki and Michelle Mays have been working on programs for our Summer Park Program and we are planning for that to happen this year but a lot will depend on how the future goes, but as far as programming goes we are also working on that from our perspective as well." Ms. Grinder stated that they have come up with a Plan A, Plan B and a Plan C so regardless they will have something.

DISCUSSION ITEM – ROOSTERS/FOWL IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

Bruce Loverock said "I am here with my wife, Bonna, and we are property owners at 508 Gateway Drive West in the Town of Thurmont. We are here as a follow-up to a complaint that initiated in approximately July 2020 regarding what I am calling incessant crowing noise coming from a property immediately adjacent to our property at 508 Gateway Drive. In the latter part of July 2020 I tried to get information relative to raising and boarding of fowl from the Town of Thurmont, particularly their animal ordinance and getting an understanding of it which I have read. That was followed up by me attending the Thurmont Town Meeting August 25, 2020, and at that meeting I mentioned some frustration that I had in getting information relative to my issue. To the heart of the matter I mentioned the incessant noise

nuisance that we were experiencing associated with the crowing fowl immediately adjacent to the rear of our property. At the conclusion of the meeting Mayor Kinnaid said that he would look at the Frederick City Ordinance and Emmitsburg's to see exactly what they say compared to Thurmont's and will bring it back to the Commissioners to discuss it. Here we are six to seven months later and discussion with Mr. Humerick in trying to understand what has or hasn't happened since then. I was left with the impression that nothing really has happened since then in terms of follow-up or discussion to address our nuisance complaint. This six to seven month delay has added to our frustration; we continue to have problems with incessant crowing noise coming from an adjacent property, the aforementioned adjacent property, so what we are asking for is 1) the Town of Thurmont take immediate action relative to our complaint. This is a public nuisance that being incessant crowing noise coming from the adjacent property. We are requesting that the offending crowing bird or birds be removed immediately. 2) Relative to the procedure that we should follow, and we have tried to follow what we thought was the proper procedure in how we would follow-up with this with the town and we have had a conversation with Mr. Humerick recently about what would be the procedure so again we want to make sure we have an understanding of what we should be doing to follow up with the Town with our concerns, who we talk to, how is it documented and where we go from here. Our concern again, this has gone on a long time and relative to the six to seven-month timeframe it just seems that it has fallen through the cracks. So again we want to make sure that we are following procedure that would be expected of us and that are concerns are addressed in this case the crowing noise is eliminated 3) Relative to the issue at hand here, which I am going to call crowing fowl, that in looking at the Thurmont's Ordinance Chapter 43 entitled Animals be rewritten to address the boarding and raising of fowl with an Ordinance similar to the City of Frederick which I have read and it is very encompassing and I have also read some of the Ordinances from neighboring jurisdictions within the County and what I see across the board with maybe a few exceptions is that they seem to indicate that roosters are not allowed example the City of Frederick, other jurisdictions and the State of Maryland I have looked at their Ordinances, too, and it seems like there is a precedent that they don't allow roosters. Some places go so far as not allowing any fowl, some of them go so far as to say that you need to have an adjacent property owner's permission in addition to the other things that may be in the Ordinance and some limit the number of fowl. If you look at the current Ordinance for the Town of Thurmont it does address a nuisance. Our main complaint is here is that we want to have this issue addressed and it is not being addressed, and there is precedent across the County and across the State and other jurisdictions that we wouldn't be the only ones having a concern about this."

Discussion was held on this issue with questions, concerns and comments addressed. At the end of this discussion it was decided that a letter from this governing body would be sent to the property owner asking him to voluntarily get rid of his rooster/crowing hen/fowl and if he chooses not to then we would consider legislative action to prohibit that animal on his property because it is causing a nuisance. The Board told the Loverocks that they would be kept apprised on what is going on with this issue.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Buehrer:

- I just want to echo Vicki, I attended the Farmers' Market Saturday and there was an extremely nice turnout, and I encourage our citizens to patronize the Farmers' Market like they do in the spring and summer, plus there is a social atmosphere that is very conducive to friendliness. (Vicki Grindler stated that it was out of this world and had approximately 175 people attend. There are 16 vendors and the vendors are in place for the outdoor market.

Commissioner Hamrick:

- Thurmont Restaurant Week featuring the Top to Go Bogo will be happening on April 16-24, 2021. The participating restaurants are Bollinger's, Celebrations Catering, Los Amigos, Rocky's New York Pizza, Roy Rogers, Thurmont Bar and Grill and Thurmont Kountry Kitchen. We have a card which they will honor some discounts if you bring this card with you and they will also accept the newspaper ad to receive the deals as well. Please patronize these participating restaurants.
- The electronic newsletter will start July 1st which will be in place of the insertions you have in your utility bills. It will also be present on the website or Facebook page, but if you would like to receive the electronic version instead of the paper please send Karen Schildt an email at kschildt@thurmontstaff.com with your email address. There will be copies at the Town Office, Hobbs Hardware and Ace Hardware for those who do not have an email.

Commissioner Burns:

- I want to remind everybody that we have an in-person Planning and Zoning Commission meeting this Thursday at 7PM, so come out and get involved in everything we are doing and talking about.

Jim Humerick:

- We had a rain barrel workshop scheduled for this past weekend and there was an issue with the hosting so it was rescheduled for last evening that was very well attended. We will be passing out the rain barrels to the folks who attended that workshop tomorrow evening here at the municipal offices.
- The Town Office lobby is going to be closed on April 1st from 8AM-Noon to install a new glass partition at the front counter and it will be reimbursable by some COVID grants out there.
- Tomorrow, not sure of timing, the Thurmont Historical Society is having a new HVAC system installed and they asked if the Mayor and Commissioners would like to stop by to have a photo op taken since they have been so supportive of the operation of the Thurmont Historical Society.
- We recently removed the parking lot lights from the Municipal Parking Lot. We installed some LED lights around the perimeter and it has worked out really well. We were talking about the

Farmers' Market and we may be able to reconfigure some things in the Farmers' Market now without those lights in there so that we can get more vendors in; we can park cars differently, we will take a look at that and see how we can figure it out.

- The Streets and Parks Department worked hard today planting 22 trees today at East End Park and they have 6 more to plant Eyler Road park and then we have 17 shrubs to plant around the recycling center which will be done as soon as the guys have time.
- We are hoping to bring our seasonal back April 1st. We also have a meeting set up for next week with the high school to talk about partnering with them with some projects here in Town. We wanted to start talking to them because Harold and I were thinking that when seniors graduate they may not want to go to college or do the military and what a better place to start their career than right here in their hometown. We will be talking during our budget discussions about funding a person to come in for just two months in July and August to help us do some things here in Town and I have already given that solicitation to the high school to say if there are any students that are interested hoping that funding will be approved, it is not much in the grand scheme of things, to bring someone here to get some extra work done and provide that apprenticeship program for them.

Mayor Kinnaird:

- Easter is coming soon and there are a lot of service organizations, Lions Club, Vigilant Hose Company in Emmitsburg and several others are running fund raising programs. Right now the Lions Club is selling their wooden Easter eggs; the Civitan are selling peanut butter balls coated in chocolate and the Vigilant Hose Company has their crab cakes, shrimp and oysters. I encourage everyone to look on Facebook or newspapers and look for these events and go to them to help support all of our local nonprofit organizations and also outside of our community.
- There is an Easter Egg Hunt March 27th-April 1st here in the Town of Thurmont. Safety Pup has hidden Easter eggs in the parks in the Town of Thurmont; kids can you find the Easter eggs. One egg per child and you can bring in the coupon inside the egg to the Thurmont Police Department to obtain your prize during office hours, 8AM-4PM, Monday March 29th until Thursday April 1st. Coupons need to be given in order to receive your prize and if you are unable to come to the police department to pick up then please contact the police department at 301-271-0905 to make arrangements. There are two golden eggs hidden and if you find one of the golden eggs you will receive the grand prize. Safety pup has hidden eggs in Community Park, East End Park, Eyler Road Park, Woodland Park, Pleasant Acres Park, Orchard Hill Park, Carroll Street Park, Ice Plant Park, Mechanicstown Square Park, and Memorial Park.
- Hats off to the Thurmont crew they put up some new dugouts down at the ball parks at East End Park. They do a good job for us.

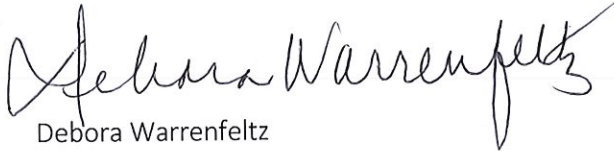
- Jim called last week and arranged for twice weekly emptying of the recycling bin,

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MOTION – Mayor Kinnaird asked “any last calls up here? None, I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn.” Commissioner Buehrer said “so moved.” Commissioner Burns second. Vote – 5 -0-0, motion carried.

Without further discussion the regular meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Debora Warrenfeltz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Debora Warrenfeltz