

**Crozet Community Advisory Council – Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**CCAC members present:** Meg Holden (Chair), Mary Gallo (Vice Chair), Nancy Virginia Bain, George Barlow, Beth Bassett, Brenda Plantz, Bill Schrader, Janice Applebach, Phil Best, Leslie Burns, Kim Guenther, Jennie More, John Savage, Meg West, Tom Loach (Planning Commission)

**CCAC members absent:** Ann Mallek (Board of Supervisors),

**Public attendees:** Jim Duncan

**Chair Meg Holden called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.**

- 1. Agenda Review** (Meg Holden – CCAC chair): Meg Holden welcomed our visitors, distributed the agenda and reviewed it with the Council, and welcomed any additions.
- 2. Approval of Minutes from the June 19, 2013 meeting:** The June minutes will be reviewed at the September meeting.
- 3. Public Comment:** Meg Holden encouraged public comments or questions now or at any time during the meeting.
- 4. Project Updates/Information:**

Update on Library Fundraising (Bill Schrader): Bill reported that things were coming together, with bookcases arriving this week, Crutchfield installing the overhead projector, TVs, and audio visual wiring, and proofs of the Giving Tree leaves being made. The punchlist work has started. On August 24 the old library will close and a soft opening of the new one will be on September 4. The grand opening will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 28 with Delegate Steve Landes as keynote speaker. There is \$523,000 in the bank, and including the matching grants (including BAMA Works) there is a total of \$848,500. More proposals are going out this week, and they will continue applying for grants through September 2014. With the furniture paid for they are now buying books, which donors can do at Barnes & Noble and Amazon, to increase the library's holdings from 33,000 to 75,000 volumes. On Tuesday August 27, a Book Brigade will line up to pass the last 200 books from the old library to the new. About 180 people are needed to make it work. Several classes and clubs will help; let Bill know if you have one. The next big event will be on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. and will be a Salute to Swing at the new Stonefield Shopping Center. Dr. Mallek's band will play.

The first floor of the library: On the right side, there will be a tourist and convention office, with area information on wine and artisan trails, Shenandoah National Park, etc. It is expected to be staffed by volunteers from a number of groups. On the left side, in response to the request for proposals there had been a proposal for a new business in Crozet, but no more was known about it, and it is still in discussion.

Old library: There is still thought that this might be used for a substation for county police.

Bill encouraged members to send letters in support of the new Northside Library.

- Update on streetscape: A member reported that there had been an accident by the Methodist Church; be careful driving in town. It was also noted that the stop sign position at the Jarman's Gap Road and Crozet Avenue intersection is all wrong and that Ann knows about this. This intersection will be busier. The contract has not been awarded for the streetscape, as the utilities need to be completed first. It was noted that based on the information at the June meeting downtown, most of our slopes in Crozet will be treated as preserved. No one had anything to report about the Barnes Lumber property.

Anything on plans for pedestrian crossing signal at Clover Lawn/Harris-Teeter: No word yet on any changes. There appears to be a greater police presence there and on Jarman's Gap Road. CCAC members were encouraged to contact VDOT; the local representative is Joel DeNunzio. Meg H. said that she would check with Ann. Meg W. reported that the road striping on Haden Lane is unusual, with very different lane widths, even taking into account the way the lanes had been described to us in a previous meeting. It was noted that a car had run through the fence along Route 240, over the wall, and landed in the Great Valu parking lot. It was also reported that vandals had loosened the lug nuts on a car in Old Trail. Two arrests have been made in rash of car break-ins too.

The Crozet Safety Corps is coming along and will have meeting in September with police to organize the groups. Vandalism has been a serious problem; keep cars locked. The Crozet Safety Corps website has more information, including a crime map. The Corps is intended to facilitate communication between the community and police. There is also a lot of information on Jim Duncan's blog. Two bears were seen in Old Trail today.

**5.** Beth to report on PTA meeting with Barbara Massie Mouly and education boards long range plans, and having School Board representatives to our meeting: There was a meeting with Ms. Mouly at the Crozet Elementary PTO meeting. Beth described the operational and five-year capital budgets for school board. The School Board has a long range planning committee that figures out how to grow. Recommendations include

additions to Crozet Elementary and Henley Middle School, etc. The second five years of the plan are more aspirational. Beth says the approach to high school growth is a concern; the plan talks about the high school of the future, but it's not a very solid description. The "new" school sounds like it could be tied to technology and be a portion of an existing school. The County is not seeking land for a new high school at this time.

The school board is looking at about 300 new kids county-wide in ten years, with two-thirds of those in the western area, although some think there will be more growth in north of the county. Ms. Mouly is on the capital improvements oversight committee. Tom says that there are 7,000 development rights granted but not built and so 300 new kinds in ten years sounds like an underestimate. Apparently the estimates do not look at full build-out of subdivisions. Beth has looked at enrollment projections for Crozet and Brownsville Elementary Schools for this fall and the small projected increases appear to be correct. However, the sizes of Henley and WAHS are the primary concerns. Our schools are the key attractions to the area and drive family decisions, but when confidence wanes, more people home school. Concerns were raised over distance learning because of the lack of interaction. Assumptions are made that growth will be near the employment centers, but that is not necessarily the case. Jennie noted that people live where they want and in this county and that decision is not driven so much by where the employers are as the schools. Meg H. says that growth decisions must take schools, which drive growth, into account. CCAC members noted that it is difficult for teachers to talk about this. Meg H. asked the group to think about how we want our community to look and feel. How large should schools be? Meg says she will put this back on the agenda next month. There is some perception that Crozet gets favorable treatment by the County, but we believe this is because it is a cohesive place, and perceptions aren't always reality. It took nearly 20 years to get the library built. The sense of the CCAC was that it would be preferable to build a new school rather than do additions to existing schools. Are there models out there for communities that have been able to address this kind of thing? How about in Europe? Reston? What models are there in Virginia, or around the country? How maintain the beauty of the place now? Meg asked that members do some research to figure this out. This topic will stay on our agenda. Note that Old Trail has 450 rooftops now, and is projected to have 1,800. It is critical to get the parents of elementary school kids involved. We might reach out to Ned Galloway, the School Board's at large member, who is responsive. Tom says we need to advocate for what our kids need, and that schools shouldn't get too big. Mary says that additions are a safety issue because the school gets bigger and the parking and access stay the same. There is an October meeting to talk about the Capital Improvement Program and we should receive notice. Perhaps we should have Peter Wertzer, who was appointed to the long range planning committee by Ms. Mouly, to a meeting. His background is in strategic planning. We should do our homework and then decide how to proceed at the next meeting.

6. Feedback on Planning Commission's public meeting to hear public comment on

the Comprehensive Plan, held on July 23: Tom says that the only thing that worries him about the Comprehensive Plan update is the intersection language regarding development because Crozet is not mentioned while Shadwell is. He said that the Planning Commission has the votes to say that this community does not want development at the interchange. Bill noted that the language is very vague. Tom says that it may be beneficial to send a representative to the BOS at the public hearing to ask that they clarify that Crozet is excluded from this goal. We need to shore up Ann and Tom's efforts. Bill will send around the referenced pages. Tom said that other than this issue, the treatment of the Crozet area seemed OK.

7. Wrap up on Independence Day Celebration: CCAC members wondered how the event turned out. Did it cover costs? There was an impression that the crowd was bigger, but the funds had not been tallied yet. Perhaps the donation request at the gate should be per person rather than by the car. CCAC members said that some people still question what the money is for and don't have a good understanding of how much this costs. Perhaps better signage would help.

Leslie passed around a park flyer that explains that Crozet Park is indeed privately owned, but the County helps maintain fields. More people are needed on the board. The group needs a long term vision making use of volunteers and fundraising. Leslie has a good supply of the flyers, and if you need any, let her know. She reiterated that more people are needed from the groups that use the park.

**8. Items not listed on the Agenda.**

Tom told us that representatives of the Field School came to the Planning Commission two weeks ago. The proposal is in limbo now, but if it is approved we should start thinking about what will be done with the building. This will need to be reflected on the School Board's Capital Improvement Plan.

It was also mentioned that work on the Restor'n Station has started.

9. **Announcements:** None.

10. **Future Agenda Items:** None.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by John and seconded by Bill.**

George Barlow  
Secretary