



**Town of Townsend Community Engagement
Committee Meeting
August 30th, 2024 @ 1:00 pm
VIA Conference Call & Town Hall
141 Main St, Townsend, DE 19734**

1:00 pm Community Engagement Committee Meeting

- I. Call to Order: approximately 1:00 pm.
- II. Opening Ceremonies
 - a. Roll Call: Chairman D. Wiggins, Town Manager J. Goodyear, and Public Works Supervisor P. DiMartino.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: Pat Augustus Gilbert.
 - d. Announcements: none.
- III. Citizens Comments & Participation.
 - a. None.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda.
 - a. Agenda adopted.
- V. Discussion to collect topics and suggestions for community engagement
 - a. TM Goodyear advised Chairman Wiggins of his duties for the Committee and confirmed staff support would include herself, PWS DiMartino, and TC Rivera.
 - b. The Committee discussed current and proposed butterfly garden locations.
 - 1. TM Goodyear advised the garden at the Town Park will need to be re-established; noting, the location chosen was not the best due to the lack of sun and access to water. TM Goodyear suggested another location may need to be chosen.
 - 2. PWS DiMartino confirmed Town Hall has a garden.
 - 3. Budget request of \$300 to be submitted to the Finance Officer for a new garden.
 - 4. Plans for the new garden.
 - c. The Committee discussed the possibility of holding or continuing to hold, the following events at the park:
 - 1. Clean-up
 - 2. Movies
 - 3. Food truck
 - 4. Jazz Festival



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- 5. Tree Lighting ceremony
 - 6. Back-to-School
 - d. C Wiggins advised he would like to host a meeting at the Town Park or other locations to better engage the community. C Wiggins explained the meeting format should be non-formal format so that residents can voice their concerns and/or opinions. CM Wiggins suggested even walking through the Town to engage the community.
 - e. TM Goodyear suggested the following small-scale events to engage the community:
 - 1. Coloring contests
 - 2. Community Clean-up
 - 3. Bring your child to Town Hall Day to shadow staff
 - 4. Send in love stories for the month of Valentines Day
 - f. TM Goodyear advised the Town may partner with local businesses and organizations for events.
 - g. Ms. Augustus Gilbert stated she is of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; noting, the local chapter is Alpha Alpha Tau Omega. Ms. Pat Augustus Gilbert explained their chapter has been around for approximately three years and is committed to community service. Furthermore, as the Chairperson of Enhance Our Environment, which actively engages the surrounding community, she offered the Town their services to assist in any community efforts.
 - h. The Committee discussed the food pantry located at Town Hall and the possibility of installing another one at the Town Park. PWS DiMartino suggested installing another one at the Town Park. TM Goodyear advised the Town may solicit donations to stock the pantries. TM Goodyear to reach out to the student who donated the food pantry last year as part of a school project to see if there is interest for a second donation.
 - i. PWS DiMartino advised Public Works was part of the Food Drive and is interested in participating again this year.
 - j. TC Rivera to provide criteria for the re-certification of NWF. TM Goodyear advised former CM Mertz may be a valuable asset to assist with the re-certification.
- VI.** Ongoing Business Updates.
- VII.** New Business.



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- a. Ms. Augustus Gilbert advised their chapter partnered with Keep Delaware Beautiful to assist the Town with a Clean-up event that was held a few months prior. Ms. Augustus Gilbert advised if any assistance is needed to hold another event, she may contact Keep Delaware Beautiful on behalf of the Town. Ms. Augustus Gilbert confirmed they will need at least a month's notice to plan.

- 1. C Wiggins proposed a possible event in October. Ms. Augustus Gilbert advised they are unavailable October 19th.

- b. Ms. Pat Augustus Gilbert announced that the NAACP is holding a Freedom Fund Gala on Friday, September the 6th and invites the Town to attend. C Wiggins stated he plans to attend.

VIII. Discussion regarding next meeting date.

- a. C Wiggins advised he will reach out to TM Goodyear with a proposed date; noting, he would like to invite the rest of Council to attend.

IX. Adjourn.

- a. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:52 pm.
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