

MARCH 13, 2025|MINUTES FOR AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR WHISPERING HILLS CORNER LOT

Attendees: Eddie Hargreaves, Leigh Zahm, Katie Everhart, Janet Gilmart, Michelle Dove, Steve Bowman, Matthew Kelly, Wyatt Claudy, Chandler Fishack and Melissa Hargreaves

Mission Statement: To determine the best use of the Whispering Hills neighborhood, town-owned lot as a benefit to the citizens of Smithsburg, while valuing input from the residents and taking the community into consideration.

Action items

- ☐ The minutes from last month's meeting were approved.
- ☐ Brad Nee's resignation was accepted as he is moving to PA. Michelle Dove will be the new co-chair. Chandler Fishack has submitted an application to join and we had a couple guests join our group this month and hope they consider officially becoming a member of this fun, creative, and thoughtful mixture of Smithsburg citizens.
- ☐ We reviewed the outcome of the survey sent to citizens to get a feel for what they would like to see the lot used for. The overall themes were community green space; gardens, trees, and a gathering place for residents.
- ☐ We had an in-depth discussion about issues/risks to be considered as we move forward. Michelle spoke with the town manager to answer some of our concerns.

Discussion topics:

There is an electrical junction box located on the premises so electricity will not be an issue.

Water accessibility - not an issue

Increased noise - fence or natural sound barriers

Off street parking - minimal, if any, paving

Lighting - capabilities- festival lighting - possibly solar - motion activated; consideration of residents

Minimize workload for town maintenance; trash/cameras

Walkability from town proper - sidewalk or pedestrian lane created on road using barriers for safety.

Chandler Fishack shared that the "Smithsburg Tractor Society" would like to offer assistance with a community garden should we go that route. He envisions the space could be used as an educational space, among other things. Gardening techniques, etc. with workshops provided for community members. Harvest could be used by citizens or Tabitha's Table.

The group liked the idea of the space offering educational opportunities especially with the proximity to our schools. Beekeeping was also mentioned as a possibility.

Those in attendance are to bring a visual of the lot taking into consideration the things that we discussed. We will be sharing those at the next meeting which will be held at the lot so we can better understand where things could potentially be located.

Our meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 10, at 6:00 at the lot, or in the first floor conference room at Smithsburg Town Hall in case of rain

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Hargreaves