



"Where People and Trees Have Deep Roots and Grow Strong"

# SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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August 2022

## Introduction to the Somerset Traffic Committee

By Anne Yap, Member, Traffic Committee, Cumberland Avenue and Elizabeth Hurwit, Chair, Traffic Committee, Dorset Avenue

The Somerset Traffic Committee (TC) was reconstituted as an official committee in January 2022 and was charged with making recommendations to the Town Council regarding traffic flow and safety. Unlike many other towns in Montgomery County, Somerset "owns" its streets, meaning it is responsible for street cleaning and maintenance, siting stop signs and speed bumps, conducting traffic studies, implementing traffic safety measures, and other matters.

The TC has long existed in various official and ad hoc forms. Over the years, particularly between 2004 and 2015, the TC encouraged the Town to fund studies and traffic counts to inform traffic control measures. For example, one 2014 study focused on traffic flow on Dorset Avenue. It found that approximately 3,000 cars drove on Dorset Avenue daily, with about half of those during morning and evening rush hours. Between 20% and 45% of these vehicles were determined to be traffic cutting through from Wisconsin Avenue to Little Falls Parkway or River Road. In response to findings of this and other studies, the Town installed speed bumps, reduced the



speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph (and 15 mph over speed bumps), reduced the width of the intersection at Falstone Street and Warwick Place, and implemented one-way traffic on Warwick Place at school drop-off and pick-up times, among other measures

More recently, in November 2018, the TC surveyed Town residents on traffic and received responses from 281 households: 83% had concerns. Stop sign compliance was the most frequently cited concern, with traffic volume the second most frequent. The Town then increased police patrols from 8.75 to 17.5 hours weekly, targeting certain intersections for compliance at key hours, as recommended by the TC. A police log from 2019 to December 2021 listed 40 warnings and 4 citations for

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# ON MY MIND

## Constituent Services

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

The Council, Town Staff and I continue to take great pride in how well our small local government functions. We use citizens' tax dollars wisely as we oversee the efficient delivery of services like trash and recycling removal, tree maintenance, and road repairs, while operating recreation sites at the swimming pool and tennis courts. Among many other duties, we organize Town events and monitor construction sites.

Another important function of our Town government is to address individual questions and problems from any resident, at any time — often involving a topic outside of our jurisdiction. For example, we get inquiries about the U.S. mail, area traffic, noise, air pollution, school issues, police and fire protection, dirty drinking water and the like. We gladly assist.

So remember, even if it's in the middle of the night or on a holiday, if a tree is down blocking a road, snow removal is inadequate, a dog is barking and/or on the loose, etc., feel free to call the Town Hall (301-657-3211), our Town Manager's official cell phone (202-740-8635), or mine (202-549-2299).

It is also important to note that if there is any type of crime to report, however minor you think it is, or a fire, don't hesitate for a minute to call 911. Furthermore, posting on Facebook or other social media or area listservs could complicate matters and violate privacy or interfere with investigations, so please refrain from doing so. This is what the experts tell us.

Finally, in order to prevent conflict with neighbors, we ask residents to avoid "self-policing." So, if you see someone failing to pick up dog poop, not using a leash, taking down bamboo, parking on their lawn, etc., please contact us first, rather than confronting someone and getting into conflict. We want to avoid unnecessary headaches!

## CONTACT SOMERSET

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Open: 9:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday  
301-657-3211 | Fax: 301-657-2773  
TTY users call Maryland Relay

### SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

**EDITOR**  
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## Introduction to the Somerset Traffic Committee

stop sign violations. It should be noted that police officers have discretion over whether they take no action or issue warnings or citations, even though the TC has encouraged citations. Oversight of the Town's police program has now shifted to the Public Safety Committee, with input from the TC, and a revised mandate and reporting system is being devised.

Interestingly, traffic has been a concern among Somerset residents since at least as far back as 1976, when the Town Council approved trial turn restrictions on Dorset Avenue, little Cumberland Avenue, and Greystone Street. These proposed restrictions met State Highway Administration resistance and were not implemented. In 1984, the Council again approved similar trial turn restrictions pending approval by Town referendum, which narrowly defeated the proposal.

The TC hopes that after 46 years, technological improvements, engineering creativity, and residents' awareness of the potential major effects of surrounding

development will allow us to reduce traffic volume and increase traffic safety in Somerset. Please stay tuned for future articles on these topics, including a second article in this issue.

**We are looking for additional committee members. Join us!**

Otherwise, residents with concerns can email the committee members

- **Elizabeth Hurwit** (Chair; Dorset), [eahurwit@gmail.com](mailto:eahurwit@gmail.com)
- **Anne Yap** (Cumberland), [anneduboisyp@gmail.com](mailto:anneduboisyp@gmail.com)
- **David Leibovitch** (Trent), [david.leibovitch@gmail.com](mailto:david.leibovitch@gmail.com)
- **Malini Jadeja** (Dorset; on temporary hiatus)
- **Sherry Khanna** (Falstone), [khanna.somerset@gmail.com](mailto:khanna.somerset@gmail.com)
- and/or the Montgomery County Second District Police traffic complaint office: [2DTrafficComplaint@montgomerycountymdg.gov](mailto:2DTrafficComplaint@montgomerycountymdg.gov).

## AUGUST 2022 TOWN CALENDAR

### MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Town Council Meeting\*  
7:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

Public Safety Committee Meeting\*  
7:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting\*  
8:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 11



Town Manager Matt Trollinger Birthday

Communications Committee Meeting  
10:00 a.m., Somerset Pool

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 12



Town Administrator Linda Williams Birthday

### MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Town Council Work Session\*  
5:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Pool Committee Meeting\*  
8:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

Parks and Natural Resources Committee Meeting\*  
8:00 p.m.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Traffic Committee Meeting\*  
7:00 p.m.

\*Login information for Zoom meetings will be sent via email the week prior to the meeting. Residents may also email [town@townofsomerset.com](mailto:town@townofsomerset.com) for log in and dial-in information.





# UPDATES FROM THE Somerset Traffic Committee

By **Anne Yap**, Member, Traffic Committee, *Cumberland Avenue* and **Elizabeth Hurwit**, Chair, Traffic Committee, *Dorset Avenue*

## Current Road Issues

**Montgomery Parks Studying Permanent Little Falls Parkway "Road Diet":** As residents may know, Little Falls Parkway is now open on weekends while a permanent reconfiguration of the Parkway between Dorset Avenue and Arlington Road is being tested through Fall 2022. Montgomery Parks is considering permanently reducing Little Falls Parkway from four lanes to two in order to repurpose one of the existing halves of the road for use as a linear park, and then turning the other half into a two-way roadway. The TC will soon be conducting a survey on this issue among Town residents: keep an eye out for upcoming notices! Of note, a 2017 study counted 6,030 vehicles/day northbound and 8,030 vehicles/day southbound on the Parkway. Montgomery Parks will provide an opportunity for public feedback as the study progresses. The TC has already written Parks, **County Council Member Andrew Friedson**, and other county officials urging consideration of input from local residents. Survey results will inform our feedback to Montgomery Parks.

**Ridgefield Road Closed for 18 Months:** Meanwhile, Ridgefield Road between Westbard Avenue and River Road (as well as Westbard Avenue between River Road and Ridgefield Road) is now closed for roughly 16 months while construction continues at the Westbard Shopping Center. When reopened, these streets will be reconfigured and, according to Kenwood residents, more directly send traffic across River Road into Kenwood. In any case, the development itself, with new offices, apartments, and townhomes, will certainly increase traffic in our area; the TC intends to monitor ensuing traffic patterns.

The TC urges Town residents to consider how the Westbard development and Little Falls Parkway road diet together will impact Town streets when completing the survey mentioned above.

## Safety Reminders

At a meeting in May 2022, Bethesda police stated that traffic volume has returned to pre-pandemic levels. At the same time, a reorganized, more centralized Montgomery County Second District Traffic Unit has seen a reduction in officers from 40 to 26. This under-resourced unit must balance attention to crashes on major county roads with responses to neighborhood issues.

These trends compel the Town Traffic Committee (TC) to provide the following reminders:

- Both the Public Safety Committee and the TC urge residents to remember that stop sign compliance is not optional! You may be ticketed for not coming to a full stop at Town stop signs — more importantly, our safety depends on our doing so.
- Pedestrians in our town's narrow streets can be hard to see—please walk/jog on sidewalks where available.
- When cars are parked on the street and only one lane is available, a driver must yield to traffic in the free lane when there are cars parked in the driver's lane.
- Please advise visitors and service workers not to park on the non-parking side of Town streets or in front of neighbors' driveways, *even for a brief time*. Long-term contractors with permits are allowed to park three vehicles on the street. Town Manager Matt Trollinger asks to be notified of repeat violations of parking rules. Call police directly whenever safety issues are involved.

# Independence Day in Somerset!

Somerset held its annual Independence Day celebration on July 4 at the Town Hall – complete with renditions of the National Anthem and the Somerset Anthem, remarks from elected officials, the reading of the Declaration of Independence by young Somerset residents (thank you, Somerset Dolphins!), celebration

of recent graduates, announcement of Somerset Dolphin record-breakers, the cupcake competition, and a visit from an antique fire truck from the Bethesda Fire Department. The video of the event is available on the Montgomery Municipal Cable YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3PKGepw>.



Photo courtesy of  
Kumar Vaswani (Trent)

Photo courtesy of Kumar  
Vaswani (Trent)





# News from the Tennis Committee

By Carrie Wofford, Chair, Tennis Committee,  
Essex Avenue

- The Water Fountain at the Tennis Courts is working again! Thanks to **Town Manager Matt Trollinger** for arranging the repair. Remember to stay hydrated!
- The tennis ball recycling program is going well. Our town has already sent 8,000 tennis balls to Vermont for recycling, where a facility sponsored by Wilson Tennis removes the fuzz and then crushes the rubber to make green products such as playground flooring (see information on RecycleBalls at <https://www.recycleballs.org>).

## "Take a Stick, Leave a Stick"

Did you notice the "Dog Library" at 5601 Warwick Place?



## GENERAL PERMITS AND VARIANCES

### TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

#### 5512 Greystone Street

- Standing Dead Tree (34")

#### 5535 Warwick Place

- Mulberry (20") —Tree is 75% dead and hazardous

#### 4902 Essex Avenue

- Box Elder (11") —Tree is dead

#### 4604 Dorset Avenue

- Hemlock (12") —Tree is dead

#### 5527 Uppingham Street

- Standing Dead Tree (15")

#### 4906 Falstone Avenue

- Red Maple (28")—Tree has a crack at the base and is hazardous.

## Summer Storm Safety Tips

"A relentless onslaught of thunderstorms deluged southern Montgomery County, northern Prince George's County and the northern areas of the District on Saturday night, causing streams to rapidly overflow and turning roads into rivers," the *Washington Post* reported on July 3 (<https://wapo.st/3aYqmkt>).

Our Town Council, on the recommendation of our Town's Environment Committee, declared a climate emergency last year (see <https://bit.ly/38DGIDz>). With climate change, we can expect more frequent and more intense storms, along with a host of consequences: downed trees and wires, flooding, lightning strikes, and damaged property. It has been speculated that a storm in February blew a street sign off a pole at Falstone Avenue and Uppingham Street. (More about this missing street sign in a future issue.)

Severe thunderstorms, which typically produce heavy rain for a brief period, pose a particular threat during the summer. Severe thunderstorms also pose a risk of tornadoes.

- It is important to know the difference between a severe thunderstorm **watch** and a severe thunderstorm **warning**:
  - A severe thunderstorm **watch** means that there is a possibility of storm activity in the area. A watch may last for several hours.
  - A severe thunderstorm **warning** means that severe thunderstorms are imminent or are occurring. **You should take shelter immediately.** Warnings are usually limited to a short period of time (generally less than an hour).
- Tornado watches and warnings work the same way.



- After a storm, hazardous conditions may still exist, including downed power lines and trees. Call 911 to report downed power lines.
- Consider avoiding roads near waterways, such as Beach Drive and Rock Creek Parkway, during or after heavy rain. More deaths occur from flooding than from any other thunderstorm-related hazard (see <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown> ). It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars, so if you encounter a waterlogged road, "turn around; don't drown." (I know it sounds like a cliché. But fire/rescue crews occasionally have to rescue drivers from high water.)
- You can receive alerts for thunderstorm and tornado warnings by signing up for Montgomery Alert at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>. Local TV stations also offer their own weather apps.

For more information on weathering severe thunderstorms, visit <https://bit.ly/2LpFtSA> .

# The Friendship Heights Alliance

**By Robin Barr, Council Member, Essex Avenue**

What has happened to Friendship Heights? Our neighbor to the south was once a vibrant, buzzing retail center with a popular movie theater, several department stores, and two indoor malls. Most of that has gone now and the area has more than 500,000 square feet of retail space lying empty. How can it be revitalized?

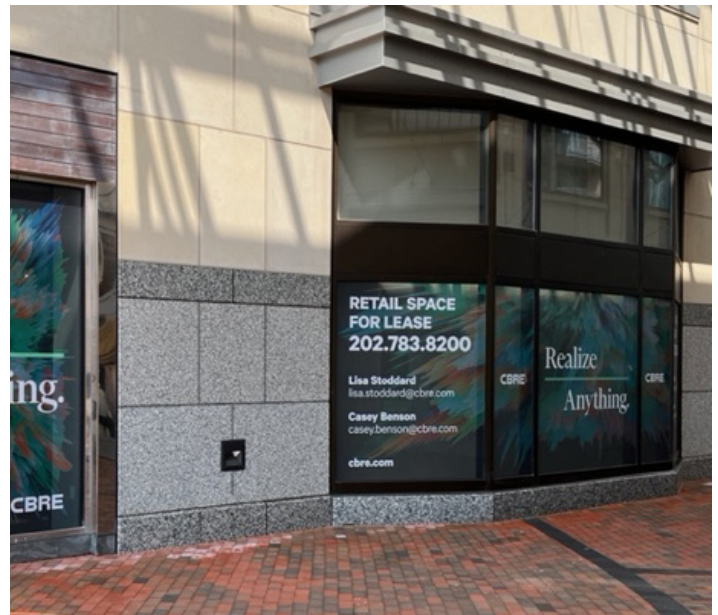
Many people have been asking the same questions and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) commissioned a panel to examine what can be done to create a vibrant neighborhood again. That panel issued their report in April 2021 (see <https://bit.ly/3JdDYVX>). Their recommendations included: adding more affordable multi-family housing, creating a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape, and improving bicycle access and safety.

That report was produced by the D.C Council of the ULI. Its recommendations focus mostly on the Washington, D.C. side of Friendship Heights, although the report does make a major recommendation on moving the WMATA Bus terminal, which is in Maryland (just). However, the Maryland piece of Friendship Heights has substantial walkable streetscape — on both sides of Wisconsin. And, like the D.C. side, it has empty storefronts — on both sides of Wisconsin.

Some of the challenge of revitalizing this area lies in the fact that it crosses a boundary between Washington, D.C., and Maryland. To be fair to the panel that produced the report, they did have one recommendation that allows collaboration across the great divide of Western Avenue. They recognized the cross-government challenge.

The panel recommended that Friendship Heights establish a “Friendship Heights Alliance”. The alliance is composed of property owners in the area whose goal is to turn initiatives into reality — a reality that creates Friendship Heights as a dynamic, inclusive, walkable, and desirable urban space. Property owners are drawn from north and south of Western Avenue.

The Alliance held their first event on July 21 at the Chevy Chase Pavilion on Wisconsin Avenue. They have a website (<https://friendshipheights.com/>) and advertise events on it. If you are at all interested in what happens to our neighbor, the website is well worth a visit. They will be holding future meetings where you can express views and participate in bringing this vision to fruition.



*Photo courtesy of Robin Barr (Essex)*





# The U.S. Supreme Court and Somerset: Our Responsibility Just Grew

At the end of June, the Supreme Court decision on *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* constrained EPA's ability to tackle climate change. Specifically, the Court ruled that the Clean Power Plan, which addresses carbon emissions, exceeded the authority given by Congress in the Clean Air Act. The Court's majority adopted for the first time the "major questions doctrine." According to this doctrine, when an agency establishes a policy that has major economic and political significance, the authority from Congress for that policy must be explicit. The Clean Air Act does not explicitly mention carbon emissions.

The ruling is likely to limit federal agencies more broadly as they struggle with interpreting older federal legislation defining their mandates. How explicit must a statement in a law be to allow the agency to regulate the activity? What constitutes a major economic and political impact?

That puts the ball squarely in the hands of state and local governments. We are governed by our own codes. Global warming *can* guide our laws. Indeed, both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties have aggressive Climate Action plans that are a foundation for county policies going forward.

What can Somerset do? In April 2021, the Town adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency. That resolution is a basis for action going forward. We can revise our building codes to focus on reducing carbon emissions in new and renovated homes. We can also adopt codes to mitigate the effects of climate change, as we are doing in changing how we regulate runoff from stormwater.

At the same time, we have our own constraints. As a municipality, we cannot regulate carbon emissions directly. Ironically, pollution control is governed by federal laws, and these preempt local action on that basis. It is ironic because EPA is the designated agency, and its authority now is reduced due to this Supreme Court ruling.



One avenue open to municipalities is noise regulation. Noise is a local nuisance. It is associated with adverse health effects (see Sustainability Corner in the July issue of the Town Journal). Unlike chemical pollution it does not spread widely. Local governments, then, have the authority to regulate noise.

Gas-powered engines operate through a long series of little explosions that generate pressure that drives the wheels. Explosions are noisy. Our Town can regulate that noise. Our gas-powered leaf blower ban goes into effect in September. At its June 21 work session, the Town Council encouraged the Town's Environment Committee (Chair, **Barton Rubenstein**, Dorset) to develop a plan for phasing out all gas-powered landscaping equipment in Town. We can make Somerset quieter — and incidentally reduce carbon pollution. Now that's not a bad thing!

Of course, family commitment is the first building block of community action. So, I hope that you and your family feel the "burn" of carbon and are taking actions already to reduce carbon emissions in your home and yard, and, through that, in our Town and in our nation too. Share your ideas with neighbors and I would love to hear about your ideas as well.



## Updates from the History and Archives Committee

### More on Somerset Music

The History and Archives Committee, through a recent burst of crowdsourcing, finally was able to complete the lyrics of the Somerset Elementary School song "Somerset, O Somerset." As previously reported, it was written by students sometime in the 1970s. It is the third Somerset-related song we have identified, following **Cathy Pickar's** (Dorset) 2021 "Somerset Anthem" and **Joan Rabinor's** (Trent) "Ode to Somerset" written in 1996 (see June and July 2022 issues of the Town Journal for details).

#### Somerset, O Somerset

*Somerset, O Somerset  
The best school in the land.  
High on a hill, Oh what a thrill  
To see a school so grand!  
We read and write and spell  
We're taught our math so well  
We wish that we could stay forever  
Good ol' Somerset School!*

### Digital scanning of Somerset historical documents begins

On Tuesday, July 12, Mononoe, LLC collected four very full boxes of Somerset archival files (72 files in total) for digital scanning. Dates for these materials range from 1898 to the last decade and cover such topics as Town residents, the historic district, Town events, anti-development efforts (starting in the 1950s), Town issues and Somerset Elementary School. These files and the documents they contain will hopefully be available for access on the future Town website.



James Fisher, President of Mononoe and Town of Somerset History and Archives Committee Chair Paige Whitley (Cumberland). Photo courtesy of Paige Whitley.

# From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



The weather on July 4 was beautiful, as usual, for our Town's Independence Day event, which was well attended beyond expectations. As usual, Somerset youth were the stars of the day — some acted as the Color Guard (including Cumberland Avenue residents **Sophie and Jake Foster** and **Claire Rovak**, daughter of **Council Member Shannon Rovak**), and some participated in the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence (including many members of the Somerset Dolphins). Announcements of graduations and of swim team records, as well as the cupcake contest, also starred young Somerset residents. Many thanks to **Budget Committee Chair Anne Kelly Bolten** (Cumberland), who helped organize the reading of the Declaration of Independence. I want to thank members of our outstanding staff **Town Manager Matt Trollinger** and **Administrative Assistant Linda Williams** for making the day so special, along with the maintenance staff. I was pleased that our **State Attorney General Brian Frosh** (Grantham), **State Senator Susan Lee**, **State Delegates Marc Korman** and **Sarah**

**Love**, **Montgomery County Police Chief Marcus Jones**, **Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich**, and **Montgomery County Council Members Hans Reimer, Will Jawando, Evan Glass** and **Andrew Friedson** were all able to join us to make meaningful remarks. Special thanks go to our Superstar **U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin** for his rousing closing message about the value of our democracy.

In spite of recent investments and enhanced publicity, our batting cage at Town Hall is not being used very much. I hope this will change in coming months.

Finally, there are a number of openings on Town Committees and as I am always recruiting, interested residents — particularly high school students — should feel free to get in touch with me.

SAFE TRAVELS TO EVERYONE VENTURING OUT OF TOWN IN AUGUST!

## Erratum

In the July 2022 issue of the Town Journal, Marnie Shaul's tenure on Town Council was inaccurately reported as 13 years. Marnie actually served 14 years on the Council, 13 of those as Council President.



## Somerset's Helping Hand Is Just an Email or Phone Call Away

If you need a ride, someone to pick up some groceries or a prescription, a ride to the Metro, or even if you just want to get to a friend's house, please contact **Somerset Helping Hand**. We have a list of 30 Somerset volunteers who can help.

Send an email to [HHSomerset@gmail.com](mailto:HHSomerset@gmail.com) or call **Barbara Zeughauser** at 301-951-8560, **Kathleen Kenyon** at 301-656-8581 or **Jim Berry** at 301-656-6089.

If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please send an email to [HHSomerset@gmail.com](mailto:HHSomerset@gmail.com).





# Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

August is often a slow time of year— residents are out of town, school is not in session, Camp Somerset has come and gone, and the Swim Team season has ended. But “slow” is a relative term, as we are over halfway through the calendar year, and things keep rolling along in Somerset!

We have a number of items on the docket that may interest residents:

## Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Town Council Meetings

Beginning in September, with the help of the local access channel Montgomery Municipal Cable (Channel 16), Somerset will begin holding “hybrid” meetings. This will allow those of you who have become accustomed to Zoom to continue to log in that way, but allow the Council to begin meeting in-person, as most of our neighboring municipalities have done. This will be an interesting change – because of COVID, over half of the Council has never participated as a Councilmember in person! We learn as we go, and I appreciate in advance your patience as we work through any kinks in the process. Please let us know how you feel about this change — how have you liked the Zoom meetings? Should we continue to offer that as an option?

## LED Streetlights

Along with **Councilmembers Barr** and **Rovak**, I had several meetings with Pepco in July to move forward on LED streetlight replacements in Somerset. We have received confirmation from Pepco that the offerings they have are 3000K temperature, meaning they create less glare and have a warmer color. This is consistent with professional recommendations for LED streetlights in residential areas such as Somerset.

Two big remaining questions remain:

1. Would the Town retain its maintenance agreement with Pepco? In other words, would Pepco continue to replace our LED streetlights if/when they go out? (Note, though, that LED lights last much longer than our current ones.)

2. What kind of schedule would be used for the change to LED lights? Pepco has suggested that the change might have to be done incrementally. If that is the case, we need to work out a schedule that, over time, would allow us to replace all the streetlights in Town.

We are making progress on this long-standing project. I hope that we are finally on our way to a solution, and will at least get this project started this fiscal year.

## Pool Deck Repairs

Another upcoming project, the repair and replacement of the pool deck, is badly needed to maintain structural integrity and safety at the pool. The Council has scheduled the replacement of the concrete decking around the pool this fall. Unfortunately, that means that we will not be able to extend the pool season into the fall as we have done the past couple of years. But we will be ensuring the structure and safety of one of the town's greatest assets. The work will be extensive, beginning in September, and will probably continue into spring 2023. All of the concrete will be replaced around the pool basin, and doing so will necessitate the removal of all of the fixtures around the pool – lights, water fountains, lifeguard stations, railings, etc. Many of these items are at or near the end of their lifespan, so I will be recommending to the Council that while we are making these repairs, we also replace many of these items so new items can be fastened into the new concrete. Piping underneath the concrete may need to be replaced as well. All told, it will be a big and expensive project, but critical to maintaining our excellent facility.

We have an ambitious budget and plan for the year ahead — other projects include solar panels, a roadway master plan, town-wide sign inventory, a new website, and much more!

# Council Meeting Actions

The following actions were taken by the Somerset Town Council at its monthly meeting, held July 5, 2022:

- Approved joining as a signatory on an amicus brief for the upcoming case *303 Creative v. Elenis*, concerning non-discrimination laws in places of public accommodation based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Approved a building permit application, submitted by Kelly Vogan of Case Design Remodeling, on behalf of **Jeffrey Nussbaum**, for the construction of a rear addition to the existing home located at 4716 Essex Avenue.
- Approved a building permit application, submitted by Michael P. Rouse of MPR Architecture, on behalf of **Geoffrey Buteau** and **Amy Bonezzi**, for the construction of a rear addition to the existing home on the property located at 5522 Uppingham Street.
- Approved a building permit application, submitted by **Daniel Bremer-Wirtig** and **Rebecca Lamadrid** for the construction of second and third story additions to the existing house on the property located at 5613 Warwick Place.
- Approved the removal of four (4) Tulip Poplar trees in Vinton Park, abutting the property located at 5522 Warwick Place and the following three (3) Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist.
  - Ash 15' dbh—4722 Dorset Avenue
  - Sugar Maple 5" dbh — 4800 Grantham Avenue on Surrey Street
  - Flowering Cherry 4" dbh — 4809 Falstone Avenue
- Adopted a Town Policy regarding any person appointed to represent the Town of Somerset on an outside Committee

The recording is available at the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/3PvkYUW>, Passcode: Be\$N89cs

For links to recordings of other Town Council meetings, see *Video Recordings of Town Meetings* on page 15.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

BOZEMAN, MONTANA: Awesome Every Season! Ski Big Sky & the Bridgers! Fly fishing. Trail rides. White water rafting. Hiking/ biking everywhere. Enjoy our 4-bedroom home on 20 acres with spectacular 360 degree vistas. Four night minimum stay. Just four miles to downtown Bozeman. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-717-8083 (2/23)

PARIS, FRANCE: Picturesque Day and Nite! And more affordable than ever! Enjoy our one-bedroom apartment in the 2nd arrondissement - the heart of historic Paris. Walk to the Louvre, the Pompidou Center, the Seine and two Metro stops. Four night minimum stay. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-717-8083 (2/23)

SEA COLONY - BETHANY BEACH - OCEAN FRONT APARTMENT - EDGEWATER BUILDING: 2 bedrooms plus 1 tiny one with bunk bed and 2 full baths. Immaculate and all updated. Has a few summer weeks available. Contact **Luba Marx** at 301-233-2727 (7/22)

Ads are printed as a courtesy to Town residents. The Town makes no representations as to quality, safety or otherwise regarding the goods and services advertised. Readers should make their own inquiries. To place an ad, submit typed or neatly printed copy to the Clerk-Treasurer. Ads must include a Somerset phone number. Price: \$5 per advertisement per issue. Check or exact change. Fifty word limit per advertisement.



# For Your Reference

## TOWN OF SOMERSET COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR
Audit Committee	Chuck Edson (Surrey)
Budget Committee	Phil Young (Greystone)
Communications Committee	Barbara Marenus (Surrey)
Environment Committee	Barton Rubenstein (Dorset)
Equity & Inclusion Committee	Atsuko Horiguchi (Essex)
History & Archives Committee	Paige Whitley (Cumberland)
Newcomers Committee	Phyllis Wiesenfelder (Cumberland)

COMMITTEE	CHAIR
Parks and Natural Resources Committee	Kristen Khanna (Uppingham)
Pool Committee	Matt Zaft (Dorset)
Public Safety Committee	Kumar Vaswani (Trent)
Revenue Committee	Nick Fox (Cumberland)
Stormwater Study Committee	Ellen Globokar (Dorset)
Swim Team Committee	Jeff Mascott (Surrey)
Tennis Committee	Carrie Wofford (Essex)
Traffic Committee	Elizabeth Hurwit (Dorset)

## TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR 2022

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

(All times at 7:00 p.m. on a Monday, unless otherwise noted)

- Monday, August 1, 2022
- Tuesday, September 6, 2022  
(Note: Monday, September 5 is a holiday)
- Monday, October 3, 2022
- Monday, November 7, 2022
- Monday, December 5, 2022

### WORK SESSIONS

(All times at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted)

- Monday, August 15, 2022
- Monday, September 19, 2022
- Monday, October 17, 2022
- Monday, November 14, 2022
- Monday, December 19, 2022

*Continued on page 14*



## For Your Reference

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### LINKS TO COMMITTEE-PROVIDED RESOURCES

#### STORMWATER STUDY COMMITTEE

- Stormwater Study Committee Report: <https://bit.ly/3M7R9b4>
- FAQs for Somerset Residents: <https://bit.ly/3uVIX96>
- Resource Guide to Green Infrastructure: <https://bit.ly/3MhYnsW>
- LIDC Final Report — Stormwater Master Plan 1/20/2022: <https://bit.ly/3uUADp8>
- Recording of May 10, 2022 Stormwater Study Committee Town Forum: <https://bit.ly/39FMAr3>

#### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- Ban on Certain Pesticides: <https://bit.ly/3MKQpt5>
- Resolution Declaring Climate Emergency: <https://bit.ly/38DGLDz>

- Sierra Club Maryland Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Pledge: <https://bit.ly/3NuCeZ5>
- Fossil Fuel No-Proliferation Treaty: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org>
- Ban on Gas-Powered Blowers: see Chapter 140, section 3 (§140-3) of the Town Code (<https://bit.ly/3LDF1xR>)
- Recording of June 7, 2022 Bee Forum: <https://bit.ly/3be19SN>

#### EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

- Resolution Condemning Anti-AAPI Hate: <https://bit.ly/38I0t7r>
- Recording of January 18, 2022 Slavery & Segregation History Forum Recording: <https://bit.ly/3MHSV3o>

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### VIDEO RECORDINGS OF TOWN MEETINGS

- Town of Somerset YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3yU2gkG>
- July 5, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3Pvchds>
- June 21, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3v8atir>
- June 6, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3RRNnWV>
- May 16, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3b25k4z>
- May 2, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3sRf2MI>
- April 18, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3wGV9Jn>
- April 4, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3Ny8iv0>
- March 14, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3lALzTf>
- March 7, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/38HRmDC>
- February 14, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/389iMC8>
- February 7, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3ab6v0B>
- January 20, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3x3qRB1>
- January 3, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3lG5zDS>

# Preliminary Agenda

(The final agenda is available and emailed to Town residents on the Friday before the monthly Council Meeting.)

## Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting August 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Somerset Town Council will meet via Zoom on Monday, August 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda and updates are posted on the Town website: [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3cAIKl6> Meeting ID: 812 5400 1931 Passcode: 916876

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

### Somerset Town Council

- Steve Surko,  
Council President
- Robin Barr
- Debbie Heller
- Kabir Kumar
- Shannon Rovak

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

7:00 p.m. Opportunity for residents to make public comments\*

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7:10 p.m. **Motion:** To consider approval of agenda as presented

### CONSENT AGENDA

7:15 p.m. **Motion:** To resume in-person meetings beginning September, 2022

### NON-CONSENT AGENDA

7:15 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit application, submitted by **Josh Freeman**, for the construction of a rear deck on the house at the property located at 5702 Warwick Place

7:35 p.m. Building Administrator's Report

7:40 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the appointment **Elizabeth Harris** as the Town Apiarist, for the maintenance of a Town apiary in Vinton Park, and establish an annual stipend of \$500, as recommended by the Environment Committee

8:00 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a community program to develop Town Values and Vision Statement, as recommended by the Equity & Inclusion Committee

8:20 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a Resolution establishing a public Town police log, as recommended by Public Safety Committee

8:35 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a Resolution establishing a schedule for street sign replacement, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee.

8:45 p.m. **Discussion:** Manager Report

9:00 p.m. **Motion:** Adjourn

### KEY

**Public Hearing Item:** Agenda item where public comment is permitted.

**Discussion Item:** Agenda item limited to discussion among the Council, Mayor and Town Staff.

**Motion Item:** Agenda item requesting action, limited to Council discussion.

**Comments:** Opinions and Questions from Town residents.

\*Questions should be submitted via email ahead of the meeting to [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com) or [town@townofsomerset.com](mailto:town@townofsomerset.com).

\*Residents who wish to present for a particular Agenda item are advised to arrive 20 minutes ahead of the item's scheduled discussion time, as discussions can run ahead of schedule.

The Mayor and Town Council may entertain a motion during the open meeting to close a portion of the meeting, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provisions Article), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The Preliminary Agenda for each month's Town Council Meeting is posted on the Town website ([www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.