

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



# Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



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March 2022

## Plan for 2022 Somerset Election Submitted to Town Council

By Sherry Bindeman Kahn, Chair, Board of Supervisors of Elections, Essex Avenue

The Town of Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections has submitted to the Town Council a proposed plan for this year's election for Mayor and two Council seats, to be considered at the March Council meeting. Maryland law provides that all municipalities must offer a no-fault "absentee" ("mail-in") ballot in every election. The Board has therefore proposed the following dates to allow for mail-in ballots to be sent and processed, as well as providing in-person voting on the assumption that there will be no state of emergency this year.

Please mark your calendars for these proposed dates:

- **Tuesday, May 24:** Town Election
- **Monday, April 4:** Nomination of candidates at the Town Council meeting
- **Monday, April 11:** Final date for nomination by petition filed with the Town Manager and signed by 20 registered voters

The Town Charter requires its elected officials to be:

- Citizens of the United States;
- Residents of the Town of Somerset for at least 18 months preceding the election;
- Qualified voters in the Town of Somerset and the State of Maryland.

If you are a qualified resident of the Town registered to vote in Montgomery County, you are automatically registered to vote in Somerset. If you are not a United States citizen who has previously registered in the Town, or are not registered with Montgomery County but are a qualified resident of Somerset who has not previously registered, you may vote in the Town election by registering by **May 10**.

Further details on the election, including instructions for registration, will be sent via Town email blast, and will be included in next month's Town Journal.

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## ON MY MIND

### Anti-Racist Training

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

During the past two years, Town leadership has taken a number of steps to establish Somerset's commitment to racial equity. As a result, I think we are gaining a better understanding of the many challenges to this goal. Kudos to the Town Council for the role they have played.

Included among these steps was the creation of an Equity and Inclusion Committee (spearheaded by **Council Member Robin Barr** (Essex)), purchase of a Black Lives Matter Little Library, and a public forum on underlying racism in the Town's history, thanks to a collaboration between the History and Archives Committee and the Equity and Inclusion Committee. Of course these are just baby steps as we begin conversations and acknowledgements of the painful past and troubled present in order to make a better future.

It is my belief that as a public servant, it is my duty to help residents become more informed on this topic and help provide them with some of the tools and advice needed.

Having been fortunate to have multiple careers in my lifetime (elected, legal, real estate, nonprofit), I have had many professional trainings in discrimination, diversity, race, etc. However, there is always more to learn. And while I am feeling the benefits of the recent public discussions in Somerset on this topic, I have realized that I need to do a deeper dive. It is amazing how many wonderful programs are available in the Washington metropolitan area. After doing some research, I decided to sign up for one of them, Leadership Greater Washington's Anti-Racist Series 101.

This six-month course, including small study groups, will give me and the other participants the opportunity to immerse ourselves in this topic, then to "use exposure to information, group interaction, and personal sharing to explore the way systemic racism impacts each and all of us... and to take that awareness into action."

In like manner, I would like to suggest that all Somerseters take similar steps to increase their knowledge and skills so that future public discussions will be more meaningful and suggestions for changes to Town policies will have greater impact.



### 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).

## CONTACT SOMERSET

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### TOWN ARBORIST

**Tolbert Feather**  
[town@townofsomerset.com](mailto:town@townofsomerset.com)

### TOWN HALL

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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Deadline for copy and ads is the 15th of the month at 4:30 p.m.

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[www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)

# Town of Somerset Staff and Council Members Distribute N95 Masks and COVID Antigen Tests to Residents



On Monday, January 31, **Town Manager Matthew Trollinger** and **Town Administrator Linda Williams**, along with **Council Members Debbie Heller** (Falstone), **Kabir Kumar** (Trent), and **Robin Barr** (Essex), distributed COVID antigen test kits and N95 masks to approximately 250 Somerset residents (each resident received a bag with four test kits and 6 masks). In partnership with Montgomery County, the Town provided them free of charge. As of press time, masks and tests were still available at Town Hall for residents to pick up between 9:00 am – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## MARCH 2022 TOWN CALENDAR

### MONDAY, MARCH 7

Town Council Meeting, via Zoom\*  
7:00-9:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Revenue Committee, via Zoom\*  
8:00-9:15 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Equity and Inclusion Committee, via Zoom\*  
8:00-9:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, MARCH 14

Town Council Work Session, via Zoom\*  
5:30-7:30 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.





# Town Council News

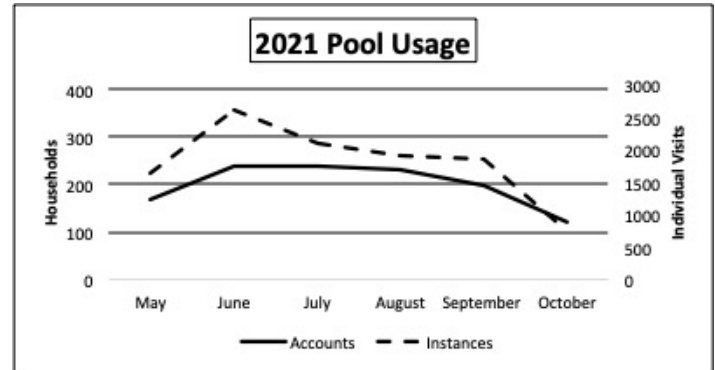
## Should the 2022 Pool Season Be Extended?

By Council President Steve Surko, *Uppingham Street* and Debbie Heller, Council Member, *Falstone Avenue*

Our Town Pool is a wonderful asset. Recognizing this, during the first two years of COVID, the Town Council extended the pool season. The Pool Committee has recently recommended several options to the Town Council to maximize the pool's potential this year, including opening early the first week of April and extending the season through the end of November.

The recommendation to lengthen the pool season from what we have traditionally enjoyed over the years represents a significant extension of the pool season from the traditional week before Memorial Day through the end of September—and would require significant additional funding. Our current budget does not include funding for an early opening; the rest of the pool season will be addressed in next year's budget.

The Town Council discussed the recommendation to open early at its January work session. To inform this discussion, Council Member Shannon Rovak sorted through 2021 Member Splash data to analyze pool usage. Overall, she found that 331 accounts used the pool for 10,890 instances. This means that roughly 80% of the households in Somerset used the Town Pool at least once. But the level of usage varied considerably, with 132 households using the pool for less than 10 visits while 33 households accounted for 40% of pool usage. Pool usage also varied over the course of the season. The graph below shows, unsurprisingly, that pool usage was greatest during the summer months—and dropped off dramatically in October. Our pool enjoyed its greatest usage on Saturday, August 28 with 226 visits. It is worth noting that this was a Food Truck night.



This resource is not inexpensive. In our current FY2022 budget, with planned expenses of \$2,087,643, pool costs of \$372,478 (excluding repayment of the pool house bond) make the pool the largest discretionary item. The Town Manager's rough estimate is that it would cost an additional \$50,000 to open the pool seven weeks early.

Unfortunately, as the Council prepares to consider this request, we note that Somerset's income is down from several years ago. As a result, our anticipated income this year is only \$1,803,468. This is down from \$2,058,319 in FY2019. Although Somerset qualifies for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Budget Committee has determined that ARPA funds cover only one-third of the anticipated revenue shortfall over the next few years. The Town Council will work with the Budget Committee to balance this year's budget (some expenses such as road and sidewalk repairs, for example, can be deferred in the short term) and develop the FY2023 budget. In the long term, the Budget Committee has identified the need for the Council to consider an increase in our real estate tax to support regular Town operations.

The Council discussed these factors briefly at our working session on February 14 and agreed to consider a compromise proposal to open the pool on May 6 (similar to last year's early opening). This would cost an estimated \$14,000 more than budgeted for this fiscal year. As the Council wrestles with competing Town needs and budget realities, we welcome resident input. Please submit your comments regarding an early pool opening to the Town Manager at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com).

# "Read it. Love it. Return it."

## Somerset's Black Lives Matter Diversity Library

By Sumi Choi-Hu, Member, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Dorset Avenue

Our unassuming little library celebrates its first birthday this month! In February 2021, the Somerset Black Lives Matter (BLM) Diversity Library was established with a mighty mission—to raise awareness about racial diversity through literacy. Conveniently located on Dorset Avenue in the picturesque Founders Park, it boasted substantial foot traffic this past year! Have you had a chance to visit?



The Somerset BLM Library, a Little Free Library, launched with a bang! With both Black History Month and Lunar New Year occurring right at the inception of the library's launch, there was so much to celebrate. Here are some highlights from the year:

- We honored Black History Month with several books for our youngest readers, including *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison. Meanwhile, we rang in the New Year with *The Great Race: A Tale of the Chinese Zodiac* by Emily Hiles.
- The library offered various genres for our more mature readers, from memoirs such as *Becoming* by Michelle Obama to the outrageously funny *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan.
- We celebrated Ramadan, the most sacred month in the Islamic culture, through several offerings, including the Quran, translated by Andullah Yusuf Ali.
- In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, we highlighted some stories of Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina

Supreme Court Justice. We also featured Julissa Arce, an undocumented immigrant, with her book titled *Someone Like Me*.

- Later that year, the library donned spooky webs and spiders to celebrate Halloween and offered trick-or-treat themed board books for our budding readers.

Did you know that the library was entirely stocked and replenished through thoughtful support and generous donations from Town residents? In 2022, we plan to expand the range of inclusive material offered, but we cannot do so without your support. After all, community engagement begets more engagement.

Do you have books piling up in your home? Is the spring-like weather inspiring some spring cleaning? If so, we ask for your support in keeping Somerset's BLM Library running throughout 2022. Please consider donating!

For comments, questions, or to share titles, please reach out to Sumi Choi-Hu (Dorset) at [choi.sumi@gmail.com](mailto:choi.sumi@gmail.com)

## 2022 TENNIS FEES

Please pay your 2022  
Tennis Fees to Town Hall  
**\$25 per family**

TWO WAYS TO PAY:

- (1) **Drop off a check or cash to Town Hall** or
- (2) **Pay by Venmo: @TownofSomerset-MD.** Be sure to write "Tennis Fees" and your name and address in the "notes" section, so the Town knows what the payment is for.

# Somerset Neighbors Volunteer To Help Newly Arrived Afghan Evacuees

By Amy Hoang-Wrona, *Grantham Avenue*

Since the last U.S. airplane left the Kabul Airport on August 31, 2021, approximately 76,000 Afghans have resettled in the US, with almost 4000 here in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Many Somerset residents have stepped up to help, with dozens of efforts underway, large and small, to welcome these newest U.S. residents. Several Somerset residents' churches and synagogues have sponsored families, and some Somerset neighbors have themselves sponsored families, collected clothes and housewares, assisted refugees with filling out documents, found jobs for refugees, and provided guidance in navigating life here in the US. Former Somerset resident **Lucky Marmon** (Cumberland) noted, "The outpouring from our Somerset neighbors was amazing," after she used the listserv to request items for the family that her church sponsored.

Many neighbors have taken the initiative in spearheading specific initiatives. **Ava Strong** (Warwick), daughter of

**Danae Wright** and head of the Refugee Support and Awareness Club at her high school, spent two months collecting donations to furnish a family's apartment last April. **Laura Levine** (Grantham) is on the board of the Washington English Center, which provides English language classes, tutoring, and other services to immigrants both virtually and in person. She reports that several Somerset residents have volunteered to teach there.

Somerset residents have also worked with nonprofit organizations contracted with the State Department for refugee resettlement, including the International Rescue Committee ([rescue.org](https://www.rescue.org)), HIAS (originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; [hias.org](https://www.hias.org)), and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and World Relief ([lirs.org](https://www.lirs.org)).

There are also a number of local volunteer organizations—see table below for information about some for which Somerset residents have volunteered.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SERVING AFGHAN REFUGEES

### Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Center [irocenter.org](https://irocenter.org)

**Mission:** "To harness the power of community to welcome our immigrant and refugee neighbors by delivering support, education, and outreach..."

#### What Volunteers Do

- Meet and help families directly
- Determine what a family needs
- Activate networks to help supply needed items
- Collect the items and arrange delivery
- Decide whether to continue contact and support

**How To Volunteer:** Email [megan@IROCenter.org](mailto:megan@IROCenter.org)

### KindWorks [dokindworks.org](https://dokindworks.org)

**Mission:** "Meets pressing community needs and builds community by mobilizing individuals in volunteer service."

#### What Volunteers Do

- Consult the organization's ongoing list of needed household items, contact the set-up coordinator, and arrange delivery
- Donate furniture. To do so, email KindWorks with pictures and dimensions. When there is a need for it, KindWorks can arrange a pick-up.
- Can deliver two weeks' worth of groceries through "Kind Kitchens"

**How To Volunteer:** Email [info@DoKindWorks.org](mailto:info@DoKindWorks.org)

### Homes Not Borders [homesnotborders.org](https://homesnotborders.org)

#### Mission

"..To provide the refugee, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and asylum-seeking population of the D.C. area with what they need to thrive and feel at home in the United States."

#### What Volunteers Do

- Participate in apartment setups (e.g., unload trucks, assemble furniture, make beds)

#### How To Volunteer

Sign up via form provided on website:

[homesnotborders.org/volunteer/](https://homesnotborders.org/volunteer/) OR

Sign up through Somerset Volunteers by emailing

Amy Hoang-Wrona at [amyhw1115@gmail.com](mailto:amyhw1115@gmail.com)

### NOVA RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together) [novaraft.org](https://novaraft.org)

**Mission:** "A grassroots coalition of neighbors committed to supporting newly arrived Afghan families as they join our Northern Virginia Community."

#### What Volunteers Do

- Sort inventory
- Set up homes
- Pick up and deliver furniture
- Drive newly settled refugees to appointments

**How To Volunteer:** See instructions at [novaraft.org/volunteer-opportunities/](https://novaraft.org/volunteer-opportunities/)





# Environment Committee Recommends Solar Panels for Somerset

At the January 6, 2022 Environment Committee Meeting, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the Town Council consider installing solar panels on its public spaces. Specifically, there are two areas to be considered: the roof of the pool house and the grass area between the tennis courts and Cumberland Avenue. The impetus for making this recommendation is motivated by the following considerations.

The Town of Somerset is committed to reducing its carbon footprint, as evidenced by several decisions and actions in 2021 (see <https://townofsomerset.com/2360/Environment>). The Town adopted a resolution declaring a Climate Emergency, signed a Sierra Club pledge with a goal for our Town to move to 100% clean, renewable energy, and endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. All of these actions reflect Somerset's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

Using solar panels as a renewable energy source is an excellent way to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Presently, we use approximately 190k KWH of electricity annually, which includes street lighting, the Town Hall, and the Town Pool. Installing solar panels would substantially reduce our Town's electricity bill and would also entitle the Town to earn valuable Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), which are like stock that can be sold. A SREC unit is valued at \$400 in the District of Columbia (DC) and \$80 in Maryland. To make this concrete, a Somerset home with solar panels typically pays \$0 in electricity fees and receives \$900/month if its SRECs are a part of the DC grid.

What might this mean for the Town of Somerset? The DC electrical grid includes Dorset Avenue and the area of Somerset south of Dorset Avenue. The Town could earn SRECs from the energy contributed by Town solar panels



to either the DC or the Maryland grid. Solar panels on the roof of the pool house would be a part of the DC grid, and the Town could thus benefit from DC's valuable SRECS. Solar panels on the north side of the tennis courts (where they would not be visible to tennis players or residents of Cumberland Avenue) might contribute to either the DC or Maryland grid. One option would be to connect the solar panels via a cable to our town meter on Wisconsin Avenue, just north of Dorset Avenue, which apparently is a part of the DC grid. If such a cable weren't feasible, then this project would connect to the Maryland grid via the meter at the Town Hall.

The Environment Committee has already had preliminary conversations with solar panel contractors and the Montgomery County Planning Department about the feasibility of this project and how the process might go forward. The Environment Committee is committed to Somerset's becoming a carbon-neutral town and we look forward to working with the Town Manager to assess the financial feasibility of this project.

If you have ideas on how our town can become more sustainable and carbon free, please reach out to us at: [tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com).

# From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Earlier this month, **Attorney General Brian Frosh** (Grantham) swore in the new Chair of the Town's Public Safety Committee, **Kumar Vaswani** (Trent), and several members of the Committee who were re-appointed. The Council and I will be looking forward to this Committee's future recommendations on policing and fire/rescue services. Comments on these matters from residents are always appreciated and can be sent to me or to the Town Manager.

As most Somerset residents know, the Town has a contract for snow removal services with Mulheron Tree Experts. This year, **Town Manager Matt Trollinger** has again taken the lead on instructing Ed Mulheron and his staff on the complexities of this task. We always need information from the field on particular problem areas during a storm, so I want all residents to know that they should feel free to call or text me at any time on either my cell (202-549-2299) or my home landline (301-654-6767). This includes requests to have driveway aprons cleared!

The recent passing of **David Marblestone** (Trent), an extraordinary resident whom I admired for his commitment to racial justice, and whom I had known before I moved to Somerset, reminded me that the Council, Staff and I are ready to assist residents when they lose family or household members. Among other things, we can help publicize memorial services, contact neighbors and provide space in the Town Journal for obituaries. We are sorry when you have a loss and will assist in lessening burdens wherever possible.

In the past year I have again stepped up use of my Twitter account and many of the issues I write about are relevant to Somerset. I encourage all of the "tweeters" in Town to follow me at [@jzslavin](https://twitter.com/jzslavin). I will be happy to follow you back. I also make use of my Facebook page. Furthermore, it is still my intention to set up an official Mayor's page on Facebook during 2022. I will be getting professional advice for this task.

## GENERAL PERMITS

### TREE REMOVALS

#### 4702 Falstone Avenue

- Flowering Cherry (public tree)—22"
- The tree is in decline.
- Only 50% of expected canopy alive.

#### 4722 Dorset Avenue

- 12 dead and dying hollies
- Varying diameters:
  - Near street curb west of driveway—8", 10", 8", 7", 9", 8", 6", 7"
  - Area west of driveway—5", 5"
  - Front yard—5"
  - Back yard—twin trunk, 25" at base

- The following trees are proposed as a reforestation plan:
  - Option 1: 12 evergreen trees
  - Option 2: Allow credit for 3 evergreen trees for each canopy tree, such as oak, maple, black gum

#### 4712 Falstone Avenue

- Hemlock twin trunk—20"
- The tree is failing with sparse foliage.
- The tree is hazardous.





# Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, Town Manager

## Budget

March is budget season for the Town of Somerset. In March, the Mayor, Council, Budget Committee, and Town Staff will hold a set of work sessions to review a draft of the FY2023 budget line-by-line, discussing proposals, and giving an opportunity to Council members to pitch new items.

If there are proposals that you would like the Town to consider, please feel free to reach out to me at the Town Hall, or to the Council or Mayor directly.

At the April Council meeting, the Mayor will introduce the budget, and during the following month, residents will have the opportunity to make their voices heard. We will post the draft budget on the Town website, and resident comments can be submitted to the Town Hall leading up to the vote on adoption of the budget at the May meeting (residents can also reach out to their elected officials, such as the Mayor and Council). At the May meeting, the Mayor will also present his five-year fiscal plan, which gives a rough estimate of what the Town finances should look like over the next five years, including any major infrastructure projects that might take place.

*[EDITOR'S NOTE: Dates for upcoming Council Meetings and Work Sessions are provided on page 10 of this issue of the Town Journal.]*

## Election

Town Staff and the Board of Supervisors of Elections have worked together with the Town Attorney on election procedures for the Council to consider at the March meeting. The previous mail-in election was a great success, and we hope to build on that this year. The Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 for two Council seats and the position of Mayor. Nominations will take place at the April Council meeting, on April 4. Additional information will be sent out via Town email blasts and in the April and May editions of the Journal.

*[EDITOR'S NOTE: See also the article on the upcoming elections on page 1 of this issue of the Journal.]*

## Taxes

I want to once again remind everyone that revenues received through our resident tax payers' income taxes are a main source of Town revenues. The Town needs your help to ensure that all income tax revenue due to the Town arrives here. In order for the State of Maryland to return this revenue, your political subdivision needs to be entered in the appropriate field on Maryland Form 502.

Maryland Form 502 now requests a 4-digit Political Subdivision Code as well as the Maryland Political Subdivision. The 4-digit Political Subdivision Code for the Town of Somerset is **1610**. If filing electronically, there is a character limit for Maryland Political Subdivision; therefore, you may have to enter simply "Somerset", not "Town of Somerset".

**REQUIRED:** Maryland Physical address of taxing area as of December 31, 2020 or last day of the taxable year for fiscal year taxpayers. **See Instruction 6. Part-year residents see Instruction 26.**

1610

4 Digit Political Subdivision Code (See Instruction 6)

Town of Somerset

Maryland Political Subdivision (See Instruction 6)

Maryland Physical Address Line 1 (Street No. and Street Name) (No PO Box)

Maryland Physical Address Line 2 (Apt No., Suite No., Floor No.) (No PO Box)

City

MD  
State

ZIP Code + 4

Maryland County



# For Your Reference

## TOWN OF SOMERSET COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| COMMITTEE                    | CHAIR                             | COMMITTEE                             | CHAIR                      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Audit Committee              | Chuck Edson (Surrey)              | Parks and Natural Resources Committee | Kristen Khanna (Uppingham) |
| Budget Committee             | Phil Young (Greystone)            | Pool Committee                        | Matt Zaft (Dorset)         |
| Communications Committee     | Barbara Marenus (Surrey)          | Public Safety Committee               | Kumar Vaswani (Trent)      |
| Environment Committee        | Barton Rubenstein (Dorset)        | Revenue Committee                     | Nick Fox (Cumberland)      |
| Equity & Inclusion Committee | Atsuko Horiguchi (Essex)          | Stormwater Study Committee            | Ellen Globokar (Dorset)    |
| History & Archives Committee | Paige Whitley (Cumberland)        | Swim Team Committee                   | Jeff Mascott (Surrey)      |
| Newcomers Committee          | Phyllis Wiesenfelder (Cumberland) | 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, January 3, 2022
- Monday, February 7, 2022
- Monday, March 7, 2022
- Monday, April 4, 2022
- Monday, May 2, 2022
- Tuesday, June 7, 2022  
(Note: Shavuot holiday goes through Monday, June 6)
- Tuesday, July 5, 2022  
(Note: Monday, July 4 is a holiday)
- 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)

- Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022
- Monday, February 14, 2022
- Monday, March 14, 2022
- Monday, April 18, 2022

# Council Meeting Actions

The following actions were taken by the Somerset Town Council:

## Town Council Meeting, February 7, 2022

- Approved Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Cindy Chambers** (Greystone) to the Welcoming Committee
- Continued the hearing on a building permit application submitted Chris Conlan of C. M. Conlan Contractors & Builders Inc., for the demolition and construction of a new single-family home at the property located at 5506 Trent Street. The application includes a variance from Section 112-14(C)(3)(a) of the Somerset Code, which provides, in pertinent part, that all new building construction must include a stormwater drainage plan... [that provides for the] storage for all runoff from all rooftop surfaces. The applicant is seeking a variance of 631 c.f. of rooftop runoff, an increase of 92 c.f. from the existing structure. [Note: the Council requested that the applicant amend their application to bring the plans closer to compliance with the Town's stormwater provisions.]
- Approved the removal of a dead Town Tree located at 4702 Falstone Avenue (Cherry), at the recommendation of the Town Arborist.
- Approved an application submitted by **Robin Orseck** for the removal of twelve (12) dead holly trees located on the property located at 4722 Dorset Avenue, and associated tree replacement plan, as recommended by the Town Arborist.

- Deferred Action on a Pickleball pilot program at the basketball court in Capello Park to gather more information and develop a working group to look further into concerns of Town residents.
- Adopted Ordinance 11-21-2, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to clarify exemptions from setbacks for projections.
- Adopted Ordinance 12-21-1, an ordinance to regulate the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
- Approved Mayor Slavin's nomination of **David Kathan** (Dorset) to the History & Archives Committee.

## Council Work Session, February 14, 2022

- Approved an agreement with the Somerset Elementary School PTA to allow Camp Summerset use of the Town Pool and Town Tennis courts in Summer 2022. Use of the pool will be for all three sessions below, from 12:00–2:00 p.m., Monday – Friday Use of the Tennis Court would occur from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. during Session 2, Monday–Friday.
  - Session 1: June 20–July 1
  - Session 2: July 5–July 15
  - Session 3: July 18–July 29

## 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.*



# 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 March 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Somerset Town Council will meet via Zoom on Monday, March 7, 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/36prueg> Meeting ID: 871 5079 1011 Passcode: 414043

### 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

7:11 p.m. **Motion:** To consider approval of the following items without discussion:

- Declaration establishing Friday, April 29 as Arbor Day in the Town of Somerset.

## NON-CONSENT AGENDA

7:12 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider a building permit application submitted Chris Conlan of C. M. Conlan Contractors & Builders Inc., for the demolition and construction of a new single-family home at the property located at 5506 Trent Street. [Note: The applicant has amended the application as previously submitted, and no longer requires a variance from the Somerset Code.]

8:12 p.m. **Discussion:** Building Administrator's Report

8:20 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To approve of the expenditure of \$15,000 for the early opening of the Town Pool, with an opening date of Friday,

May 7, as recommended by the Town Pool Committee.

8:40 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To approve the 2022 Election Procedures, as recommended by the Town's Board of Supervisors of Elections.

8:50 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To Introduce Ordinance 12-21-2, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 182 of the Somerset Code of Ordinances, to amend tree removal application requirements, amend the criteria for permit decisions, and add permit conditions.

8:55 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To approve an edit to the established Procurement Policy, which clarifies Equal Opportunity requirements.

9:00 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To approve the Town of Somerset signing on to the River Road Coalition letter, which opposes River Road being labeled a Growth Corridor in the Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan.

9:15 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of drafting a letter of support for the Farm Women's Market Revitalization Project to be added to the County's FY23 budget.

9:20 p.m. **Discussion:** Manager Report

9:30 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.