



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

Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 67 • No. 11

November 2022

Council Calls for Non-Binding Referendum on Lowering Voter Age

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

At their meeting on October 3, the Town Council voted to request that the Board of Supervisors of Elections ("the Board") conduct a non-binding referendum on the issue of whether to lower the voting age to 16 to provide guidance as they consider the issue.

At the Council's special meeting on October 17, a further decision was made to add the question to the ballot for the Town's next general election in May, rather than conducting a separate referendum.

The pros and cons of lowering the voting age have been widely debated across the country and Town residents may want to look at the many articles that have been published on the issue.



Town of Somerset Handbook: Resident Information Needed

By John Barry, Member, Communications Committee,
Cumberland Avenue

The indispensable Linda Williams, our Assistant Town Manager, is starting the annual update of the Town's Directory of contact information for all our families. Please help her. Review your copy of the Directory (it will be found in the second part of your Town

Handbook) and look over the details listed for your family. Entries should include names, address, and contact information (including mobile phone numbers and email addresses). Please include as children only those still living at home. The Directory is available only to Town residents. You may decline to be listed. Send any corrections or updates to Linda at town@townofsomerset.com.

IN THIS ISSUE

Town Journal Survey

(See insert)



PAGE
3

Trick or Treat
on Cumberland
Avenue,
October 31,
6:30–9:00 p.m.



PAGE
3

Infrastructure and Street Signs



PAGE
6



ON MY MIND

Advocating for Gun Safety

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

Throughout this year's mid-term election season, the three topics of greatest concern to voters seem to be inflation, climate change and public safety/gun violence. While these might be considered national issues to be addressed by the federal government and Congress, each also has a local angle requiring engagement by Town residents.

Inflation. Rising prices affect all of us but of course they have the greatest impact on families at the lower end of the economic spectrum. Accordingly, it is heartwarming to see so many Somerset households with a philanthropic mission and social conscience who are consistently reaching out to help the less fortunate in our County, most particularly during the pandemic.

Climate change. Our Council and our Environment Committee have made many inroads into saving our planet by recommending and passing policy changes, educating the public and through amazing advocacy. It is especially encouraging that our young people are highly involved.

Gun violence. The recent unfortunate gun incident at our own Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School gave us all a wake-up call that we are not isolated from this problem. But it also made me realize that we can all do much more – especially on the advocacy front. As many residents know, I have long been a proud member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a national organization advocating for life-saving gun safety reforms (mayors.everytown.org). But I need help. If you are interested in such a cause and how the Town might best get involved, please reach out.

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.

CONTACT SOMERSET

MAYOR

Jeffrey Z. Slavin, 5706 Warwick Place
301-654-6767 | Town Hall: 301-657-2229
mayor@townofsomerset.com

TOWN COUNCIL

Steve Surko, Council President
5500 Uppingham Street
301-656-5004
ssurko@townofsomerset.com

Robin Barr
4706 Essex Avenue
301-656-7358
rbarr@townofsomerset.com

Debbie Heller
4803 Falstone Avenue
301-654-5497
dheller@townofsomerset.com

Kabir Kumar
5415 Trent Street
202-830-4905
kkumar@townofsomerset.com

Shannon Rovak
4517 Cumberland Avenue
608-334-2306
Srovak@townofsomerset.com

TOWN MANAGER

Matt Trollinger
301-657-3211
manager@townofsomerset.com

TOWN ARBORIST

Tolbert Feather
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

Leslie Caplan
LeslieCaplan.townjournal@gmail.com

The Town Journal is the official publication of The Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, MD.

If you prefer to receive the Journal via email, please provide your request to manager@townofsomerset.com or call Town Hall at 301-657-3211.

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

POST OFFICE ADDRESS:

4510 Cumberland Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

www.townofsomerset.com



Communications Committee News

In this issue of the Journal, you will find an insert with the Communication Committee's survey regarding the Town Journal, designed to assess how well our monthly Town Journal is meeting the needs of residents. Residents who receive only the print edition of the Journal may mail in their completed hardcopy survey or drop it off at the Town Hall; they may also respond online, using this link: <https://bit.ly/3yN3P2Y>. Those residents who receive the online Journal will be able to respond directly via this link. In addition, the Town will send out the survey link to all residents who receive email from the Town.

The deadline for responses is **November 15, 2022**. Please participate – your voice is important!

GENERAL PERMITS

HVAC PERMIT

5403 Greystone Street

5820 Surrey Street

- White Oak (20") – Tree is dead

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

4818 Cumberland Avenue

- Tulip Poplar (31") – Tree is hazardous
- Tulip Poplar (22") – Tree is hazardous

4602 Dorset Avenue

- Southern Magnolia (18") – Tree is hazardous

BUILDING PERMIT

5522 Greystone Street
(six-month extension)

4520 Dorset Avenue

- Ash (16") – Tree is dead

NOVEMBER 2022 TOWN CALENDAR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Halloween Trick-or-Treating

6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Cumberland Avenue (between Warwick Place & Devon Lane). Note that this section of Cumberland Avenue will be closed during this time. All other streets will be open during trick-or-treating hours.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Town Hall (in person) and via Zoom *

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Election Day

(County and State-wide elections; in-person voting at Somerset Elementary School)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Communications Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m., Town Hall

*The Town Council has instituted "hybrid" meetings starting in September, to allow residents to attend both in-person at the Town Hall, or to continue to participate via Zoom.

*Login information for Zoom meetings will be sent via email the week prior to the meeting. Residents may also email town@townofsomerset for login and dial-in information.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Town Hall Closed in observance of Veterans Day holiday.

MONDAY, 11/14

Pool Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m., via Zoom

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Street-side leaf vacuuming begins

Town Council Work Session

5:30 p.m., Town Hall (in person) and via Zoom**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 –

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Town Hall Closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday

Back to School Classic–It's a Wrap!

By **Tom TerBush**, Race Director, *Cumberland Avenue*

October 16 was a beautiful fall day for the 35th Somerset Elementary Back-to-School Classic Race. It was wonderful to have so many people from Somerset and surrounding neighborhoods come out to cheer and participate, demonstrating once again what a terrific community we have! A huge thanks to all for supporting this beloved event, which included nearly 1000 people, with more than 650 runners and all the extraordinary volunteers and community members who make this event possible.

Some blazing fast times were seen in the 8K race including notable finishes by many Town residents:

- **Elizabeth Williamson** (Cumberland) – 4th overall and women's overall first place
- **Perry Urken** (Cumberland) – 8th overall and 3rd place for age group
- **Russell Green** (Cumberland) – 16th overall and 2nd place for age group
- **Amy Power** (Uppingham) – 28th overall and 2nd place for age group
- **Delia Vanderzon** (Falstone) – 1st place for age group
- **Avery Mascott** (Surrey) – 1st place for age group
- **Auggie Mascott** (Surrey) – 2nd place for age group
- **Stephanie Altman** (Grantham) – 3rd place for age group
- **Elias Roark** (Dorset) – 3rd place for age group

The 2K race was boisterous and competitive, and, for the first time, every runner was timed. A huge wave of runners at the start line becoming a nonstop stream of smiling faces by the finish. Top finishes by town residents included:

- **Elise Wosinska** (Warwick) – 1st place for 14 & under girls
- **Isabel Finn** (Surrey) – 2nd place for 14 & under girls
- **Jude Altman-Griffin** (Grantham) – 3rd place for 14 & under girls
- **Eli Mascott** (Surrey) – 1st place for 5th grade boys
- **Jude Altman-Griffin** (Grantham) – 1st place for 4th grade girls

We want to thank everyone who helped make this possible including our sponsors and the 75+ volunteers that pitched in to make the event a huge success. Big shout-outs to all, especially:



Photo courtesy of Talah Wafa, Little Palm Photography

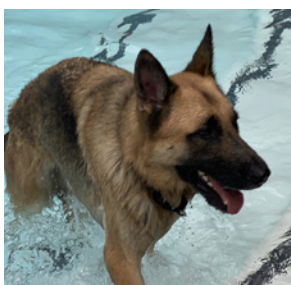
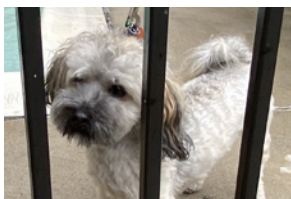
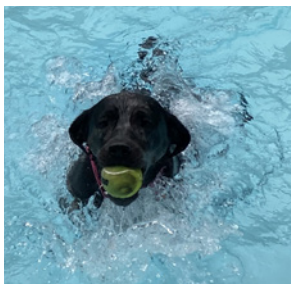
- **Jeff Nussbaum** (Essex) was our institutional memory and provided invaluable guidance and support from beginning to end
- **Gillian Edick** (Warwick) provided nonstop support in every imaginable way and worked with the school to ensure participation by the broader community
- Victoria Levitas helped in many ways especially as the fundraising lead who ensured the event generated significant funding for the PTA to support Somerset Elementary School, despite following on the heels of the May race and a very tight deadline
- **Jackie Quan** (Cumberland) helped keep us organized, on track and pulled off a great after-race snack/brunch
- **Margie Cutler** and **Mark Klapow** (Cumberland) stepped in and did a great job managing on-site packet pickup and registrations
- **Russell Green** (Cumberland) helped out early and often with many of the preparations
- **Mayor Slavin** (Warwick), Matt Trollinger, Linda Williams and all the town staff that provided key logistical support

And last but most certainly not least, an enormous thanks to our generous community sponsors including platinum sponsor **Maya Hyman** (Falstone) (Maya & Kate Team at Compass) and our gold sponsor **Matt Zaft** (Dorset) (Zaft/McKinney Group at Morgan Stanley). They have not only helped us pull off the race but have also funded many of the Somerset PTAs wonderful events and programs.

Lastly, if you'd like to view the final standings or race-day photographs, you can find these at www.somersettrace.com; everything should be searchable by name and bib number.

Dog Swim 2022!

Despite the threat of thunderstorms, and repeated changes in date, the annual Somerset Dog Swim took place at the Somerset Pool on Sunday, September 25. Dogs of all breeds, sizes, and colors gathered with their humans for one last fling at the Pool before it closed for the season.





Public Safety Roundup

A MISSING STREET SIGN, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

By Kumar Vaswani, Chair, Public Safety Committee,
Trent Street

A few years ago, “infrastructure week” became a long-standing punchline in Washington politics (<https://wapo.st/3D7arLQ>). But make no mistake: here in Somerset, infrastructure is a serious issue, with real impacts on our health and safety. **Residents have complained to the Public Safety Committee (PSC) about sidewalk tripping hazards, inadequate lighting on streets and sidewalks (including streetlights that are broken, dim, or obscured by foliage), rumble strips that are worn down, and missing house numbers.** The need to oversee storm water infiltration and storage devices (soon to be mandated by our Town Code) also looms large.

As the Brookings Institution recently noted, “[O]verall, the evidence remains clear: By strategically investing in infrastructure, local leaders can make their communities safer, healthier, and more equitable” (<https://brook.gs/3ESiCgC>).

In many areas, the Town does an excellent job of monitoring and maintaining infrastructure. When late-night intrusions at the pool came to light, the Town staff responded quickly, repairing the damage, and improving security at the pool. The Town has also done yeoman’s work repainting crosswalks and stop lines before they fade.

Unfortunately, our overworked Town staff lacks the time and resources it needs to maintain all of our infrastructure. **Thankfully, our Town Council, Mayor Slavin, and Town Manager Trollinger are exploring a long-term solution: a code enforcement/public safety officer position. Such a position would go a long way toward monitoring the Town’s infrastructure, ensuring that defects are addressed, and enhancing our residents’ safety.**

Street signs as critical infrastructure

Street signs are an example of infrastructure that sometimes does not get the attention it deserves. Some residents (including me) were dismayed that a street name sign at Falstone Avenue and Uppingham Street blew off in a storm in February and went unreplaced for five months.



In addition to being just plain helpful to visitors (and residents), street name signs play an important role in emergency responses. The fire and rescue service responds to about 60 emergencies in Somerset per year, and the police respond several times a year as well. Emergency responders rely on street name signs to confirm that they have turned onto the correct street (GPS systems and smartphones are not 100% reliable).

In keeping with our holistic approach to public safety, the PSC recommended in July that the Town replace the missing street sign, develop a policy for prompt replacement of missing street signs, and inspect all street name signs to ensure that they are securely fastened. At its August meeting, the Town Council approved all of the PSC’s recommendations, and our Town staff rose to the task and replaced the missing sign soon thereafter.

Our Town’s aging infrastructure, the impacts of climate change, residents’ increasing expectations, and evolving standards for accessibility translate into a need to devote more attention to our Town’s infrastructure.

The PSC will continue to monitor aspects of our Town’s infrastructure that affect public safety and plans to make further recommendations to the Council.

The PSC’s street sign recommendations are on page 6 of the Council packet: <https://bit.ly/3MKjohp>.



Donating to Environmental Causes

Living in an affluent region of the country benefits our quality of life by providing stable utilities (most of the time), a clean source of water, access to a variety of foods, excellent schools and medical services, and an abundance of cultural opportunities, among other benefits. All give rise to a long healthy life. In fact, our neighbor Friendship Heights has the longest life expectancy in the U.S. — 96.1 years!

With every Yin comes a Yang, so we must all consider being extra generous by financially supporting other communities around the U.S. and worldwide. There are many relevant charities and organizations, but I list below a few of my favorites, in particular some that are focused on the environment and creating a sustainable future:

350.org (350.org) is a powerhouse of climate activism, founded by Bill McKibben. 350 parts per million is the health limit of CO2 pollution (presently at 413 and climbing).

Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FossilFuelTreaty.org) is focused on a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (like what the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty did). Our Somerset, as well as hundreds of other municipalities, has already signed this treaty. It could be the tipping point of creating a collective focus to stop using fossil fuels.

Climate Reality Project (ClimateRealityProject.org) is former Vice President Al Gore's organization, which trains climate leaders worldwide.

Sierra Club (SierraClub.org) is a longstanding activism-oriented organization that focuses on many environmental and racial justice topics.

One Tree Planted (OneTreePlanted.org) supports reforestation projects in numerous countries around the world.

Fridays for Future (FridaysForFuture.org) is a young people's climate activism campaign begun by Swede Greta Thunberg, with millions marching on Fridays worldwide. President Biden indicated last month that climate strikes were the fuel behind the recently passed climate bill

(Inflation Reduction Act). The Mother Earth Project™ (of which this author is cofounder; **MotherEarthProject.org**) has distributed many hundreds of Parachutes For The Planet® to these young activists worldwide. This organization does not accept donations but encourages and directs you to contact climate strikers in a specific country of interest.

American Red Cross (RedCross.org) is focused on disasters and is a great way to help communities when they are devastated by hurricanes (e.g., Hurricane Ian), forest fires (such as those in California), wars (such as in the Ukraine), and other climate catastrophes.

So Others Might Eat (SOME.org) is a local organization focused on breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness. At the core, environmental causes involve all of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (see graphic below).

Martha's Table (MarthasTable.org) is a local kitchen, which feeds homeless people daily. You can also volunteer to help with food preparation and distribution.

It is time to remember to make tax-deductible charitable contributions, and considering the state of the world, let's consider being more generous than usual this year!



Please let us know if you have any comments or ways that our town can become more sustainable by emailing us at: **tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com**.

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Last month, I was extremely pleased that the Town Council introduced a Charter Amendment to lower the voting age in Somerset to 16. Many municipalities across the nation, and in Maryland, have taken this step to increase participation in elections (e.g., Town of Chevy Chase, Takoma Park, Hyattsville) and I strongly support this change. The Council has also requested that the Town's Board of Elections add a ballot question next May for a non-binding referendum, so that citizens of the Town can express their view on this topic before the Council decides

whether to approve this idea. This is truly democracy at work, and I hope everyone participates.

Many thanks to the staff for their assistance in producing our new hybrid Town Meetings with the latest technology so that we can finally utilize our beautifully renovated Town Hall, while giving residents the opportunity to participate from elsewhere. The technology is sometimes challenging so I do recommend that everyone try to attend in person if possible.

[Editor's Note: for more information regarding this election, see article on page 1.]



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 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.

Continued from page 12

Preliminary Agenda

9:15 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of Ordinance 9-22-2, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify stormwater drainage requirements; to revise the definitions of one-year storm event; to require on-site infiltration rather than storage; and to exempt driveways having a slope of 5% or more from the permeable material requirement.

9:20 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of Ordinance 9-22-3, an Ordinance to amend

the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify stormwater drainage requirements; add definitions; require environmental site design be used before structural practices; and require a drainage plan for construction creating 150 square feet or more of impervious coverage.

9:25 p.m. **Discussion:** Manager Report

9:40 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 or 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) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.



Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

We are truly in the thick of fall, and Town activities will reflect that in November.

Leaf Vacuuming

Leaf vacuuming will begin in November – for those who are not aware, or who need reminding, the Town contracts with Wray Brothers Landscaping to do leaf pickups throughout Town. There is no set schedule, to make it as easy as possible for residents to participate. Simply rake your leaves to the curb (Note: **NOT** in the street, or over the sidewalk) and Wray Brothers will make daily trips throughout Town and vacuum them up within a couple of days.

Stormwater Management

One year ago, the Town passed its first stormwater ordinance, requiring new construction projects to contain water onsite. We have learned a lot in the past year and continue to learn. This is a very complicated topic, and the answers are not always easy. The Council is now considering new changes to the Code, giving preference to mitigation practices, and adding a new requirement for additions.

Additionally, the Town is in communication with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for grant assistance for stormwater projects. The Stormwater Study Committee, you may recall, had recommended joint projects to be funded throughout Town at various micro-watersheds. At the time of this writing, the Council will be discussing this potential project at the October Council work session.

Snow Removal

Soon enough, it will not just be leaves falling, but snowflakes. The Town staff is recommending that the Town once again contract with Mulheron Tree Experts for snow removal. In response to the Town's new procurement policy, which states a preference for environmentally

friendly practices, Mulheron has partnered with Rolling Acres to provide a brine solution for the Town. The brine solution will allow us to decrease our salt usage this winter, while still maintaining safe roads and walkways. Although the brine may not be best suited for all circumstances, I believe this is a great step in balancing safety with environmentalism.

Reminders

On Sunday, November 6, don't forget to turn your clocks back, and take advantage of that extra hour of sleep. This may be the last Daylight Saving time we ever "celebrate!"

Please note that the Town Hall has some closures in November in observance of holidays:

On Friday, November 11 the Town Hall is closed in observance of Veterans Day. Thank you to our many veterans in Somerset, including Council Member **Steve Surko** (Uppingham) and Town Building Administrator Doug Lohmeyer.

On Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 the Town Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Personal Note

I am excited to enjoy Thanksgiving with my family this year in Vermont. The things that I love about Thanksgiving – the simplicity of being surrounded by loved ones, friends, and family – are some of the things that I find myself more grateful for, now more important than ever. One takeaway from COVID is that the simple joys of enjoying one another's company is not to be taken for granted.

I hope everyone spends some time with loved ones, enjoys "sweater weather," has a very happy Thanksgiving, and has good health in the penultimate month of 2022.

Oh, and everyone VOTE!

Council Meeting Actions

The following actions were taken by the Somerset Town Council at its monthly meeting, held October 3, 2022.

- **Approved the annual Halloween block party** and closure of Cumberland Avenue between Warwick Place and Devon Lane on Monday, October 31 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- **Approved a Proclamation declaring November Municipal Government Works Month**
- **Approved a six-month permit extension**, submitted by **Miriam Rosenthal**, for permit 2021-10-6-A-REV with original permit expiration date of October 6, 2022, for the completion of construction of an addition to the home at 5522 Greystone Street per the original permit
- **Approved the following Fall Tree Planting List**, as recommended by the Town Arborist and Parks and Natural Resources Committee:
 - 4507 Dorset Avenue – American Beech
 - 4516 Dorset Avenue – Willow Oak
 - 4722 Dorset Avenue – American Beech
 - 4807 Dorset Avenue – Serviceberry (6)
 - 4823 Dorset Avenue – Redbud (4)
 - 4721 Essex Avenue – White Fir (4)
 - 4809 Falstone Avenue – Spanish Oak
 - 4909 Falstone Avenue – Serviceberry
 - 4800 Grantham Avenue – White Oak
 - 4809 Grantham Avenue – Black Gum
 - 5501 Surrey Street – White Fir
 - 5604 Warwick Place – Redbud
 - 5615 Warwick Place – Willow Oak
- **Passed a motion to hold a non-binding town-wide referendum** on whether to lower the voting age in the Town of Somerset to 16
- **Introduced an amendment to Section 83-21 of the Charter** to lower the voting age in the Town of Somerset to 16
- **Introduced Resolution No. 9-22-1**, to amend the Town's Election Rules and Regulations, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
- **Adopted the amended Town Hall Rental Rules**
- **Introduced an amendment to Section 83-21 of the Charter** to add a definition of "resided", as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
- **Introduced an amendment to Section 83-26 of the Charter** to provide that if a resident is registered to vote with the Montgomery County Board of Election, they shall be deemed registered for elections in the Town so long as the resident remains qualified to vote; to provide that voters may be removed from the list if not qualified to vote; and to provide that the removal of voters from the registration list shall comply with the applicable procedures set forth in State law, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections;
- **Introduced an amendment to Section 83-28 of the Charter** to advance the nomination meeting from 4 weeks to 8 weeks prior to the election, and the nomination petition deadline from 21 days before the election to 10 days after the nomination meeting, to allow more time to prepare ballots and administer the election, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
- **Introduced an amendment to Section 83-35 of the Charter** to allow uncontested elections to be canceled, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
- **Introduced an amendment to Section 83-30 of the Charter** to allow elections by mail and other means, and to remove the requirement for incapacitation or absence for absentee voting, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
- **Introduced Ordinance 9-22-1**, an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify existing provisions; to require a wall check survey; to require a maintenance agreement for stormwater drainage systems; and to specify what must accompany a variance application.
- **Introduced Ordinance 9-22-2**, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify stormwater drainage requirements; to revise the definitions of one-year storm event; to require on-site infiltration rather than storage; and to exempt driveways having a slope of 5% or more from the permeable material requirement
- **Introduced Ordinance 9-22-3**, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify stormwater drainage requirements; add definitions; require environmental site design be used before structural practices; and require a drainage plan for construction creating 150 square feet or more of impervious coverage



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	Ann Kelly Bolten (Cumberland)	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, November 7, 2022
- Monday, December 5, 2022

WORK SESSIONS

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

- Monday, November 14, 2022
- Monday, December 19, 2022

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/38DGIz>

- 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>

VIDEO RECORDINGS OF 2022 TOWN MEETINGS

All Town Council and Work Session meetings are available for viewing on the Town of Somerset YouTube channel:

<https://bit.ly/3Uq7Tz4>

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 November 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will hold a "hybrid meeting," both in-person at the Town Hall and simultaneously cast via Zoom on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda and updates are posted on the Town website: www.townofsomerset.com

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3TyODOy> 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

7:05 p.m. **Motion:** To consider approval of agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

7:15 p.m. **Motion:** To approve of the following items without discussions:

- Mayor Slavin's nomination of Meredith Wade (Essex Avenue) to serve on the Budget Committee.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

7:15 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a three-year contract with Mulheron Tree Experts, for snow removal services in the Town of Somerset.

7:25 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a permit application, submitted by Amy and Geoff Buteau, to construct a front stoop lattice and roof, for the property located at 5522 Uppingham Street.

7:35 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of four variance applications, submitted by James Alpi, representing Rockledge Capital, LLC, for the property located at 4806 Grantham Avenue. The applicant is seeking variances from Section 112-14.C(1)(c) of the Town Code. The following variances are being requested:

1. An enclosed carport to be located 25.6 feet from the front property line (a variance of 7.7 ft.)
2. A carport eave located 23.6 feet from the front property line (a variance of 7.2 feet)
3. A front porch located 27.3 feet from the front property line (a variance of 6 ft.)
4. A front porch eave located 26.3 feet from the front property line (a variance of 4.5 ft.)

8:35 p.m. **Discussion:** Building Administrator's Report

8:40 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider Adoption of Resolution No. 9-22-1, to amend the Town's Election Rules and Regulations, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.

8:45 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of an amendment to Section 83-21 of the Charter to add a definition of "resided," as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.

8:50 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of an amendment to Section 83-26 of the Charter to provide that if a resident is registered to vote with the Montgomery County Board of Election, they shall be deemed registered for elections in the Town so long as the resident remains qualified to vote; to provide that voters may be removed from the list if not qualified to vote; and to provide that the removal of voters from the registration list shall comply with the applicable procedures set forth in State law, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.

8:55 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of an amendment to Section 83-28 of the Charter to advance the nomination meeting from 4 weeks to 8 weeks prior to the election, and the nomination petition deadline from 21 days before the election to 10 days after the nomination meeting, to allow more time to prepare ballots and administer the election, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.

9:00 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of an amendment to Section 83-35 of the Charter to allow uncontested elections to be canceled, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.

9:05 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of an amendment to Section 83-30 of the Charter to allow elections by mail and other means, and to remove the requirement for incapacitation or absence for absentee voting, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.

9:10 p.m. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of Ordinance 9-22-1, an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify existing provisions; to require a wall check survey; to require a maintenance agreement for stormwater drainage systems; and to specify what must accompany a variance application.