

Council Meeting Actions

The following actions were taken by the Somerset Town Council at its monthly meeting, held November 7, 2022.

- **Approved** Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Meredith Wade** (Essex) to serve on the Budget Committee
- **Approved** Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Dario Fuentes** (Cumberland) as chair of Swim Team Committee
- **Approved** Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Kirsten Darling** (Cumberland) to serve on the Equity & Inclusion Committee
- **Approved** a three-year contract with Mulheron Tree Experts, for snow removal services in the Town of Somerset, as recommended by the Town Manager
- **Approved** a tree removal permit, submitted by **Dina Levine**, for the removal of a 56" Southern Red Oak at the property located at 4807 Falstone Avenue, as recommended for removal by the Town Arborist
- **Approved** a tree removal permit, submitted by **Dana Macher**, for the removal of a 42" White Oak at the property located at 4725 Cumberland Avenue, and recommended for removal by the Town Arborist
- **Approved** a six-month permit extension, requested by **Monica Gomez** and **Guillermo Israilevich** for the existing permit for the construction of a side addition at the property located at 4900 Cumberland Avenue.
- **Approved** a permit revision, submitted by **Amy** and **Geoff Buteau**, to construct a front stoop lattice and roof, for the property located at 5522 Uppingham Street.
- **Denied** 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. The eave of the garage enclosure would be located 24.3 feet from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 6.5 feet is required ($(33.3 - 2.5) - 24.3 = 6.5$)
 2. The front wall of the garage enclosure would be located 25.6 feet from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 7.7 feet is required ($33.3 - 25.6 = 7.7$)
 3. The eave of the front porch addition would be located 30.8' from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 3.5 feet is required ($(33.3 - 2.5) - 27.3 = 3.5$)
 4. The front porch addition would be located 28.3 feet from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 6 feet is required ($33.3 - 27.3 = 6$)
- **Adopted** the following five Town Charter amendments, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections:
 1. 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
 2. 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
 3. 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
 4. 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
 5. 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.
- **Adopted** 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** 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

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Manager's Corner

Roads

This past November, we were able to repair a small portion of Dorset Avenue, which was developing a big pothole, and to improve some concrete areas throughout Town. This was by no means the be-all, end-all! The Town has put out a request for proposals to contract with a firm or individual to create a roadway master plan. Proposals will be due in early January, and the Town will review submissions before a recommendation is made to the Council at the February Council meeting.

This master plan will set a blueprint for the Town to resurface and improve the roads, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks all throughout Town. This will be a major undertaking, and will take several years to complete, but will allow us to systematically improve the roadways street by street and year by year. Although the primary purpose will ultimately be to improve the streets and sidewalks, it is anticipated that this work will probably benefit stormwater management.

Somerset has not undertaken comprehensive roadwork in many years, so this project will be an important one that will have long-lasting impacts. Developing a master plan

will ensure that it is done in a considered and professional way.

December Holidays

December is, of course, a big holiday month. Town Hall will be closed Friday, December 23, as well as the week between Christmas and New Year's. We will monitor to ensure that there are no storms or other developments that need immediate attention, and will check email, though infrequently. Thank you for understanding and allowing our small staff to take a break and spend quality time with our families, who live all around the country — and the world!

Additionally, I would like to draw extra attention to Mayor Slavin's holiday fund message (see page 14). I do not personally participate in the holiday fund, but I encourage all residents to consider contributing. It is the Town's way of giving a "bonus" to Administrative Assistant Linda Williams, the maintenance staff, and some of our dedicated contractor staff. Every year they are very grateful for your generosity.

Happy holidays to any and all who celebrate!

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- **Adopted** 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
- **Adopted** 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
- **Introduced** Ordinance 11-22-1, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to require the installation of house numbers on existing and future houses and to require certification of compliance in connection with a building permit, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee