

Alexandria Borough Meeting Minutes Monday, July 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Ken Patterson, Dain Davis

Council Members Present:

Vice President Mike Peters, President Judy Scott, Jane Pilch

Opening

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Prayer**
- **Welcome by President Scott**
- **Roll Call:**
Present: Jane Pilch, Mike Peters (Vice President), Judy Scott (President)
- **Approval of June Minutes:**
Motion to accept the June minutes as amended to correct the last name “Kluck” to “Klock.” Motion by Jane Pilch. Seconded by Mike Peters. All in favor. Motion carries.

Financial Report & Payment of Bills

President Scott asked if there were any questions. None.

MOTION: Jane Pilch made a motion to approve the financial report and authorize payment of the bills. Seconded by VP Peters. All in favor. Motion carries.

Representatives Report

Ken Patterson:

- Mowed grass, cleaned grates, street cleaning near the café (note: inmates ran out of time to finish).
- Noted that residents are blowing grass into the street; shared a photo with Council.
- Jane Pilch requested he check the grate near her house, often covered in mud and grass.
- Discussed the bush at the Scout House—Ken will investigate.

- President Scott stated violations are going out, and the bush and pile at Bridge Street need addressed.
- A Scout House representative asked Mike and Ken to clean up, citing personal time constraints.
- Jane asked if fence rails near the Scout House are included; Ken said that was part of an Eagle Scout project.
- President Scott commended Ken for his hard work especially in the heat.

Sewer Authority Report – VP Peters:

- High flow during rain events; working with the operator to test for improper inflow.
- Budget work ongoing.

Firemen – VP Peters:

- No updates; next meeting will be in a month or two.

Mail Highlights – President Scott:

- Thank you letter received from the American Legion Board of Directors, very appreciative of their kindness.

Solicitor's Report

- Not present.

Ordinance Discussion

Canal Street Park & ACT 13 Funding:

- Jane Pilch said she had not received information on playground equipment; council and representatives noted it's been sent out and discussed on many occasions.
- Dain Davis reported Huntingdon County reimbursed the Borough around \$200 instead of over \$8,000, citing that funding only applied to equipment.
- President Scott disagreed with the commissioners decision, noting documentation didn't state that; mulch is considered safety equipment. All agreed children can't play on equipment and then land on hard ground.

- VP Peters agreed that the Borough's expenditures should qualify under the grant.
- Dain and Lucas requested Council's approval to write a letter appealing the funding decision.

MOTION: VP Peters made a motion to appeal the Commissioners' decision and authorize Dain and Lucas to compose the letter on behalf of the Borough. Seconded by Jane Pilch. All in favor. Motion carries.

President Scott Proposal:

- Suggested donating the \$259 received, plus an additional \$241, to the American Legion in appreciation of their community service.

MOTION: VP Peters made a motion to donate \$500 to the Alexandria American Legion. Seconded by Jane Pilch. All in favor. Motion carries.

Note: Mr. and Mrs. Lane arrived around 7:20 PM.

Huntingdon County Firemen's Convention

- President Scott praised the fire department's efforts, noting how clean the town was by Sunday morning and how well the department worked together despite minor glitches.

Ordinance Violations

- Ken noted grass being mowed into the street.
- President Scott stated over 30 ordinance violation letters are going out, some with five or more violations. Two properties may be declared blighted.
- Council discussed that inhabited properties can still be deemed blighted if ordinance violations persist.
- Reviewed details of ordinance enforcement and fines.

Discussion Points:

- Jane Pilch asked whether 72 hours is realistic for major violations; President Scott said yes, they've had a year's time to make changes.
- Jane questioned what assistance is available for elderly residents. President Scott said help is available.
- President Scott noted ignorance of the ordinances is not a defense for residents.

- Violations trigger a 72-hour compliance period, with additional violations every 24 hours afterward.
- Jane emphasized case-by-case evaluation. President Scott reiterated residents have had over a year to comply.

EADs

- Temporarily tabled.

Ethan Devore Permit

President Scott noted the permit is within parameters and has no issues as long as the paperwork is completed properly.

MOTION: VP Peters made a motion to approve the permit pending proper paperwork. Seconded by Jane Pilch. All in favor. Motion carries.

Tim Klock Tree Carving Project

- Carving fee is under \$3,000. Council discussed logistics of a stone platform and final placement.
- President Scott estimated a fundraising goal of \$7,500 for the project and presented a breakdown of costs and liability coverage.
- Jane Pilch asked for logistical details and suggested waiting until funds are secured.

MOTION: VP Peters made a motion to launch a social fundraiser (e.g., GoFundMe) to cover expenses of moving, carving, and completing the historical tree project, with a goal of \$7,500. Any extra funds will be used for maintenance. If the goal isn't met, the Borough will cover the cost. Seconded by President Scott. VP Peters and President Scott in favor; Jane Pilch opposed. Motion carries.

Lucas Parkes arrived at 7:50 PM.

ACT 13 Funding & Canal Street Park – Lucas Parkes

- Reviewed application and emphasized that mulch should qualify as part of the project.
- Believes the Borough has grounds to appeal based on savings from the slide repair.

- Explained ACT 13 funds are distributed more heavily to counties near well sites, often shortchanging others like Alexandria.

Nature Park Master Plan – Lucas Parkes

- Shared final draft of the Nature Park Master Plan.
- Highlighted the Borough's existing planning efforts (Revitalization Plan, Greenway Trail Plan, etc.).
- Recognized the Lane family for catalyzing the plan with their donation.
- Plan aligns with DCNR guidelines and prepares the Borough for future grant applications.

Family Input:

- Mr. and Mrs. Lane shared family stories and expressed excitement and support for the project honoring Melvin Lane.
- Stephanie Lane, currently traveling, is thrilled with the plan.
- Family emphasized his legacy in education, outdoor life, and the community.

Discussion Highlights:

- Importance of fishing and access to the Juniata River.
- Plan includes bird watching and educational aspects.
- Lucas to provide a digital copy and finalize remaining updates.
- Request for additional photos and input welcomed.

Additional Items

- Jane Pilch requested that agendas be sent sooner.
- Asked to reinstate the website structure from 2023: Agenda | Financial Report | Meeting Minutes.

Adjournment

MOTION: Jane Pilch made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 PM.
Seconded by President Scott.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carries.