

The Bloomsburg Town Council held a meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Town Hall and via teleconference. The public joined by dialing: +1 646 558 8656 U.S. and included the meeting ID: 456-920-3798. The public could also join online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4569203798>.

Mayor Justin Hummel called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., present were Council Members Toni Bell, James Garman, Vince DeMelfi, Nick McGaw and James Huber (via Zoom), Town Manager/ Secretary/ Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Director of Finance Kathy Smith, Director of Public Works John Fritz, Chief of Police Scott Price, Director of Governmental Services Charles Fritz, Director of Code Enforcement Mike Reffeor, Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman, Also present were Corey Kreisler, Davids I-Pad, Barbara Coladonato, MJ Mahon, Mike Sauers, Anthony Stevens, Kathy Johnson, John Evert, Wanda DelGado, Milton DelGado, Doreen Fregor, I-Phone, Bani, Robert Munn, Ralph Magill, Phil Yoder, Monty Hittle, Heidi Kent, Arlene Steinberg, Tami, Dennis, 3- Galaxy S10's, Laurie George, Cathy Muscavage, Carolyn Quinn, Cassie Weaver, Gabby Malencore, Donna's Tab A7, Donna Albertson, Tom, Heather's i-Phone, Tom, Galaxy S7, Marlene, Kylie Stout, Helen Chambers, Deb Zollmann, Kristy DegBrina, Amy Diloretto, Mellisa Vreeland, Ryan Steele, Todd Cole, Andria Smedley, Julye Wemple, Theresa, George's I-pad, Francesca, Debra Heckle, Dawn Moore, Lynn Shaffer, Ally Rockwood, Marina Paterson, Matthew Yurkunas, Sibina Bower, Breanna H., Linda Cromley, Barbara Kressler, A. Tyson, Jerry, Paul M, Savannah, Elise N., Holly Madden, Jake Rickert, Daleny Hittle, Patience Jacobson, Jeff Jacobson, Dave Hung, Candi, Sylvia, Steph's laptop, Sara Brown, Marianne, Susan Hay, Holly Hales, Kristen, Shannon Sutherland, Kendall Mensch, Malanie Gregnon, Mary Ward, Breanna Hawk, Andrew Barton, Colin Barton, Carmella Mataloni, Sene Sosnoski, Carole Woodall, Arlene Steinberg, Brandon Ickeler, Laura, Sonya's iPhone, Melanie, Melanie Gagnon, Bari, 4 public phone numbers, Press Enterprise photographer, WNEP two members (7:12 p.m.), Clarrisa Manahty, Noah Stagliano, iPhone, James Craig, Jillian, Zene Zosnoski, and Lisa Levinson. Absent was Bonnie Crawford.

Council remarks.

Executive sessions- Justin Hummel.

April 11, 2022 from 7:55 p.m.- 8:08 p.m. regarding a Codes personnel matter.

April 11, 2022 from 8:09 p.m.- 8:57 p.m. regarding the pool legal matter, Miller Avenue legal matter, discussion of selling Town property, a Code Enforcement personnel matter and a Public Works personnel matter.

April 12, 2022 from 1:00 p.m.- 2:05 p.m. regarding a federal lawsuit legal matter.

It was announced that the Renaissance Jamboree Event will be held on April 30th from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. along Ft. McClure Boulevard. Due to Ft. McClure Boulevard being closed for the event, the Bloomsburg Compost site will be closed on April 30th.

It was announced that the minutes from 1915 through 2010 are now accessible to the public online. The last project covered 1977-2010.

It was announced that the July 4th event will be held at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds and donations are accepted through the Bloomsburg Foundation.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD.

Cassie Weaver from the Columbia Child Development Program (CCDP) was present to invite Council and the public to the 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held at the Town Park on Sunday, August 14, 2022.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and approved unanimously, Council approved the CCDP event to

take place at the Town Park.

Tami Wiehe was present to request permission to hold the First Annual Memorial Walk on August 13, 2022 at the Bloomsburg Town Park along with holding a Chinese Auction.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and approved unanimously, Council approved the Chinese Auction event to take place at the Town Park.

Mayor Hummel announced that citizens would be limited to three minutes and to start with Town residents. Council member McGaw was not in favor of the three-minute time limit.

Debra Heckel – Spoke in favor of geese management.

Monty Hittle- Must have public oversight of the geese. People could fundraise to help serve the cause.

Doreen Frega- From New Jersey and is against the geese roundup.

Patience Jacobson- Urged Council to purchase equipment to clean up the waste from the geese.

Dawn Moore – Urged Council to drop the contract for lethal management practices.

Alianne Rockwood & Matt Yurkunas – asked 5 questions, are there other alternatives investigated, what is the actual numbers of geese in the park, what exactly is the plan, aren't there migratory bird laws, and why not leave the geese alone.

Mike Sauers – There are alternatives ways to manage without killing the geese. For example, planting native plants.

Robert Munn- People who go to the Town Park are there for the wildlife.

Melissa Vreeland – this will leave a permanent scar on Bloomsburg and generations to come.

Linda Cromley – Loves the geese and would like the Town to leave them alone.

Lonnie Crawford – This has to be a multi-tiered process; population is getting out of control.

Cathy Muscavage – the Schuylkill Park has had good success utilizing rocks near the water. Possible use of herding dogs.

Lisa Levinson – Supports non-lethal alternatives and would like to help. Possible habitat modification would work. Turf would help and also deter ticks and geese.

Carole Woodall – From Colorado and there is no single species approach for a sustainable ecosystem.

Arlene Steinberg – From the National Goose Coalition and would like to promote the use of birth control for geese.

Heidi Kent – Lives four miles from Bloomsburg in Manville, involved in building of Kidsburg, and supports a non-

lethal approach to the geese management.

It was noted that Carol Guise, Teresa Duttlinger and Tanya Nebroski signed up as citizens to speak and were not present for the meeting.

Mayor Hummel – The Town will continue to work with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and further discuss and look into other geese management practices.

PROCLAMATION FOR EARTH DAY (4/22), RECYCLING CENTER 45 YEARS OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING AND THE TREE EVENT AT THE TOWN PARK SCHEDULED FOR 4/28 AT 3 P.M.

Mayor Hummel presented a proclamation proclaiming April 28th to reflect upon Earth Day (April 22nd) along with Arbor Day (April 29th).

RESOLUTION 04.25.2022.01- GREENWAY, TRAILS AND RECREATION PROGRAM. LETTER INCLUDED. THANK YOU TO CHARLES FRITZ FOR COMPILING THIS SUBMISSION.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 04.25.2022.1 for the Greenway, Trails and Recreation Program.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE 4/11/2022 MEETING.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting, with no corrections or additions.

APPROVAL TO HIRE BRANDEN LONG AS A CODE ENFORCEMENT INTERN WITH AN HOURLY RATE OF \$10. THE DATES OF THE INTERNSHIP WILL BE MAY 16TH THROUGH AUGUST 12TH.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the hiring of Branden Long as an intern in the Code Enforcement Department with an hourly rate of \$10. The dates of this internship will be May 16th through August 12th.

APPROVAL TO APPOINT BRIAN FISK TO THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD WITH A TERM EXPIRING OF 12/31/2022 (LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER).

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the appointment of Brian Fisk to the Historical Architecture Review Board with a term expiring 12/31/2022. Fisk will fill the position of the licensed real estate broker.

APPROVAL OF AN UPDATED QUOTE FROM BACKSTAGE LIBRARY WORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,853.60 FOR DIGITALIZING THE 1977-2010 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES (100% COVERED BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN AND THE ORIGINAL QUOTE WAS FOR 135 LESS PAGES FOR \$3,725.35.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the updated quote from Backstage Library Works in the amount of \$3,853.60 for digitalizing the 1977-2010 Town council minutes (100 % covered by ARP funds).

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING FIRE ESCROW FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,040.55 FOR BRENDA MADARA AT 113 HEMLOCK LANE.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved accepting the fire escrow funds in the amount of \$1,045.55 for Brenda Madara at 113 Hemlock Lane.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO AQUATIC FACILITY DESIGN, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000 FOR THE POOL RENOVATION PROJECT.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Aquatic Facility Design, Inc. in the amount of \$3,000 for the pool renovation project.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT TO BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,370.49 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2022 TO APRIL 2, 2022 FOR THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN HALL STRUCTURAL PROJECT.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted on unanimously, Council approved payment to Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$1,370.49 for professional services from February 27, 2022 to April 2, 2022 for the Bloomsburg Town Hall structural project.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER TWO TO RICHARD E. ANGELO, INC. FOR THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN HALL STRUCTURAL PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$104.50 (NOTE, THE NET AMOUNT IS \$4.50 TO THE TOWN FOR THE BUILDING PERMIT).

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved change order number two to Richard E. Angelo, Inc. for the Bloomsburg Town Hall structural project in the amount of \$104.50 (note, the net amount is \$4.50 to the Town for the building permit).

APPROVAL TO HIRE STEPHEN PROOF AS A SEASONAL GRASS MOWER AT A RATE OF \$12 PER HOUR STARTING MAY 2, 2022.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the hiring of Stephen Proof as a seasonal grass mower at the rate of \$12 per hour starting May 2, 2022.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE BLOOMSBURG TOWN PARK RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,500 WITH MCTISH, KUNKEL & ASSOCIATES. THIS PROJECT SPANNED OVER TWO YEARS AND HAS BEEN OUT TO BID TWICE.

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the amendment to the Bloomsburg Town Park restoration project in the amount of \$4,500 with McTish, Kunkel & Associates. This project spanned over two years and has been out to bid twice.

APPROVAL OF THE BOONE DAM REMOVAL AGREEMENT (UPDATED LANGUAGE TO REFLECT "VEOLIA WATER PENNSYLVANIA, INC.")

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by V. DeMelfi, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the Boone Dam Removal agreement with updated language to reflect "Veolia Water Pennsylvania, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL APPROVALS FOR THE BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE WITHIN 60 DAYS.

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council granted conditional approve for the Bloomsburg University Honors College with the following conditions.

1. All Plans shall be signed and sealed by the Plan Preparer. The 'Surveyor Certification' and the 'Engineer Certification' provided on sheet C001 shall also be signed, sealed, and dated. Section 22-403.1.A.(2)(o).
2. The 'Certificate of Ownership and Acknowledgement of Application' statement provided on sheet C001 shall be signed and notarized. Section 22-403.1.A.(2)(t).

Citizen to be heard, Corey Kreischer inquired how the past weekend went. Chief Price provided a summary of the event and thanked nearby agencies and Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) for assisting the Bloomsburg Police Department.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by T. Bell, and voted unanimously, Council adjourned into an executive session at 9:16 p.m. and did not reconvene. The executive session lasted until 9:42 p.m. regarding a federal lawsuit: MDPA Civil Case No. 4:20-cv-02090.

Lisa Dooley
Town Manager/Secretary/Treasurer



25 April 2022

Bloomsburg Town Council Meeting

Prepared by: Dr. Carole Woodall, Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Co-founder, Canada Geese Protection Colorado

Member, National Goose Protection Coalition

Thank you, Bloomsburg Town Council, for holding space to listen to community members.

My name is Carole Woodall, and I am a co-founder of Canada Geese Protection Colorado, which is a grassroots, direct action advocacy group, which formed in response to Denver Parks and Recreation's 2019 lethal round-up of 1,662 Canada geese – adults, juveniles, and goslings – without public engagement. After three years, we have a Canada Goose Task Force which is working with Denver Parks and Recreation to work collaboratively with the public, which was in response to public outcry.

I have engaged in a steep learning curve since becoming a Canada Goose advocate. One common refrain that I heard this evening is that the geese are a problem, and that concern needs to be directed toward the ecosystem. However, when you direct attention to a single species approach, you need to account for the impact on the ecosystem at large.

The use of lethal means to engage wildlife in municipal jurisdictions, HOAs, and private individuals deemed as economic stakeholders is a complex one. Actions directed toward Canada Geese, as a state and federally protected native bird, is bound by language. It is attested to by the documents, which include – Cooperative Service Agreements, geese management program documents, Depredation Permits, state-based USDA Environmental Assessment for Bird Damage Management programs, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Annual Reports, National Environmental Policy Act statements, [vendor solicitation presentations], and state-based game commission guides.

The documents can be overwhelming, but the illogical use of such documents becomes apparent. I want to make two incongruencies in the depredation permit: (1) "nuisance" is a common loophole stated in the Depredation permit, which USDA regional directors engage with liberally. "Nuisance" is used to address concerns with geese fecal droppings, and the droppings are also conflated with health and safety concerns in water. The point is that to date there is no scientific evidence that supports the claim that fecal droppings relates to water contamination. It is necessary to consider this equation on a case-by-case approach, and invest in a PCR test.

Another narrative circulated repeatedly to provide an ethical salve to the forced removal of Canada geese is that the meat is distributed to the food insecure at food banks. Let's look at the language of the depredation permit. Condition N of a depredation permit, and I am drawing up the depredation permit for Colorado, states, "**migratory game birds** that are lethally taken under the permit may also be donated free-of-charge to charitable organizations." "Charitable organizations" are equated to food



banks. It does not state that humans should consume the meat. It states that, "**migratory birds** lethally taken [...] may be donated free-of-charge to **nonprofit animal facilities for animal dietary purposes only.**" The USDA gets around the necessary testing of meat by considering all geese (migratory and non-migratory) as "game migratory," and as such there is ostensibly no need to test the meat.

The failure to test urban resident Canada geese in Denver was the basis of a Friends of Animals lawsuit, filed in July 2019, which disputed the interpretation of the 2019 depredation permit. An Animal Legal Defense Fund lawsuit was also filed in November 2020 which challenged the redaction of the USDA's geese culling contract with the processing facility.

USDA is a profit-driven agency.

Engaging with Canada geese as sentient beings who perceive environments in different ways is a challenge and an opportunity to engage collaboratively with the Bloomsburg public during a time of active extinction.

Engaging with Canada Geese is a discussion taking place nation-wide at local levels. Bloomsburg is now on that national map. Any decision does not resonate in a silo.

Thank you.



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

April 25, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the Bloomsburg Town Council:

I'm Lisa Levinson Campaigns Director for In Defense of Animals an international animal protection organization with 250,000 supporters worldwide. In 2019, we started the National Goose Protection Coalition to provide nonlethal alternatives to communities to foster coexistence with Canada geese.

We want to help you resolve any conflicts in your community over issues with geese. We would like to meet with you to present cutting edge nonlethal alternatives that are successful in other communities.

Killing geese is brutal, cruel, expensive, and wasteful. Goose families are among the most bonded of all birds. During goose "roundups," goose parents are separated from their children, called goslings, while they are most vulnerable in June/July when the molt and can't fly.

Often the babies are killed by cervical dislocation, or breaking their necks. Parents are often gassed to death, a technique that was not designed for geese who hold their breath for prolonged periods under water. The gassing process burns and freezes their lungs for up to 45 minutes, resulting in a very cruel and painful death. Any remaining geese are traumatized as reported by residents of other communities that opt for lethal roundups.

Within a few weeks of the roundup, new geese return to the area since the original attractants are still present - food and water. This migration of new geese into the same area has been documented over and over again. Sadly, this entire process is repeated year after year, wasting taxpayer funds and no reduction in the number of geese killed.

The state of New Jersey has spent millions of dollars killing geese for the past 20 years without reducing goose conflicts. Does the Bloomsburg community want to spend thousands of dollars to kill 40 new resident Canada geese each year?

Nonlethal methods are proven to work over time by addressing the original attractants. Below are some nonlethal methods that involve habitat modification and simple changes in human behavior:

- Draft a Wildlife Coexistence Plan to resolve conflicts with area wildlife and implement humane, nonlethal coexistence strategies
- Host educational meetings to educate homeowners about non-lethal goose management and strategies to coexist peacefully with wild animals



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

- Restore native habitat, plant taller grasses, and/or use Flight Turf (a native seed product that can be mowed short and naturally deters geese and ticks)
- Apply grapeseed oil to the grass to prevent geese from congregating (used successfully in Elkhart, Indiana)
- Discourage residents from feeding geese and other wild animals
- Create a "tolerance zone" for geese away from human activities
- Relocate young resident geese to areas with migratory geese so that they learn to migrate (used successfully in Salt Lake, Utah)
- Purchase sweeper machines or hire employees to remove goose feces with minimal investment (goose feces can be packaged and sold as fertilizer to raise funds)
- Implement an egg-oiling program with resident's cooperation to reduce goose populations over time,
- Combine sonic repellents and trained herd dogs
- Allow local predators to reduce goose populations naturally
- Hire licensed wildlife specialists to disburse OvoControl™ G, a USDA-developed bait that reduces egg production
- Contact the National Goose Protection Coalition at geese@idausa.org for effective nonlethal goose engagement strategies

Sincerely,

Lisa Levinson, 215-620-2130, lisa@idausa.org

Campaigns Director, In Defense of Animals, www.idausa.org

National Goose Protection Coalition, www.stopgooseabuse.org