

Town of Dorchester Community Association

Meeting Minutes from the public open forum community meeting held on August 12, 2021. Event hosted outdoors at Ray O Sunshine, over 30 people were in attendance with 29 people signing the attendance sheets.

Opening: Norma Thrower

Purpose: Arelthia Cusack

The stated intended purpose of this meeting was to restart community meetings after a year long pause due to pandemic. To gather citizen concerns, listen to ideas, and possibly for moving forward as a town.

Updates: David Provenzano

David discussed how our community becoming a town is not possible. Per state law, due to our proximity to both the towns of Ridgeville and Harleyville, the community of Dorchester would be prohibited from incorporating as we are within the 5 miles of another town's boundary limits. Township was discussed, due to the proximity to the two neighboring towns of Ridgeville and Harleyville it is believed unlikely the Town of Dorchester would be able to incorporate again.

There was favorable discussion related to forming a formal "Dorchester Community Association, LLC" or the equivalent of some legal entity to better address the concerns of the community to be heard at the various local and state levels. In order form such an organization, monies will be needed, whether through a grant or donations, to fund the attorney expenses.

Discussion related to construction and development in areas around Dorchester Community. This including the widening of 78, proposed housing and apartments, school growth, developments in St. George, the general road conditions from heavy trucks, and the non-availability of high-speed internet.

Broadband: Brenda & Stan

Brenda and Stan talked about high-speed internet in our area, difficulties and potential progress. Brends & Stan provided some background on PRTC and recommendations to

help them document the needs of our area (<https://www.prtc.us/>). A petition was passed around the group for signature.

Concerns: Arelthia Cusack

Arelthia shared County Water and Sewer plans and growth. She relayed the county plans to complete water and sewer work near St. George before coming back towards our area. People speculated it may be possible within a year. Discussions related to having or needing to connect to county water and sewer was mixed. It's expected there will be some level of connection fee required from the county to connect.

Taxes were discussed related to surrounding town's receiving monies from the state and county for services improvements including parks and libraries and while our community residences pay in to these taxes we see no benefits.

A desire for a local recreational park was discussed with reference to the Pineland Sand Mine.

Mention was made related to poor cell phone coverage in the area around the town and need for a nearby cell phone tower for improved coverage.

Carol Thompson, our Crime Watch Coordinator, spoke in general about some of the things going on in Dorchester County and offered to help with information resources

Rachel of Ray O Sunshine indicated food trucks would now be at her road-side store every Friday.

Next Steps: Arelthia Cusack, David Provenzano
Schedule routine community meetings approximately every month or two.

Research forming the Dorchester Community Association.

Investigate the possibility of one or both county council representative attending a future meeting.

Closing: Norma Thrower

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