



TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Cape Charles Civic Center
April 15, 2021
6:30 PM

At approximately 6:30 p.m. Mayor William “Smitty” Dize, having established a quorum, called to order the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. In addition to Mayor Dize, in attendance were Councilmen Buchholz, Follmer and Grossman, and Councilwomen Holloway and O’Brien. Vice Mayor Bennett was not in attendance. Also, in attendance were Town Manager John Hozey, Chief Jim Pruitt, Capital Projects Manager Bob Panek, Public Works Manager John Lockwood, Community Relations Manager Jennifer Lewis, and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were seven members of the public physically in attendance, and 20 viewers on Facebook.

A moment of silence was observed followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dize recognized Ms. Ellen O’Brien as the new Council member and thanked her for offering to serve the Town in this capacity and welcomed her to the team.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS / PRESENTATIONS:

A. *Tree City USA Presentation – Phil Goetkin*

Mr. Goetkin informed Mayor Dize and Council that the Town of Cape Charles achieved Tree City USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation. He read excerpts from the Arbor Day Foundation press release and provided information about the Cape Charles Tree Advisory Board. (Please see attached.)

B. *Arbor Day 2021 Proclamation*

Mayor Dize read Proclamation 20210415 proclaiming April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to adopt Proclamation 20210415 Arbor Day 2021. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Dize presented the proclamation to Mr. Phil Goetkin.

C. *National Building Safety Month Proclamation – May 2021*

Mayor Dize read Proclamation 20210415A designating May 2021 as Building Safety Month.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to adopt Proclamation 20210415A Building Safety Month – May 2021. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

D. *National Police Week Proclamation – May 9-15, 2021*

Mayor Dize read Proclamation 20210415B to Recognize National Peace Officers’ Memorial Day and National Police Week 2021.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to adopt Proclamation 20210415B Recognizing National Peace Officers’ Memorial Day and National Police Week 2021. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Dize presented the proclamation to Chief Jim Pruitt.

E. *National Public Works Week Proclamation – May 16-23, 2021*

Mayor Dize read Proclamation 20210415C National Public Works Week – May 16-23, 2021, “Stronger Together.”

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilman Grossman, to adopt Proclamation 20210415C National Public Works Week, May 16-23, 2021, “Stronger Together.” The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Dize presented the proclamation to Public Works Manager John Lockwood.

F. *Professional Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation – May 2-8, 2021*

Mayor Dize read Proclamation 20210415D 52nd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, May 2-8, 2021.

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilman Grossman, to adopt Proclamation 20210415D 52nd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, May 2-8, 2021. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Dize presented the proclamation to Town Clerk Libby Hume.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mark Marshall, 2198 Stone Road, Cape Charles Brewing Company

Mr. Marshall stated that the Cape Charles Brewing Company was a family business and in 2016, they proposed a production brewery and tasting pub. They built out the property in 2016 and 2017. At that time, they understood that there would be issues with the 55 MPH speed limit that did not drop to 40 MPH until the Town’s wells, then to 25 MPH once in Town. They had been in business for three years and were not a destination site attracting both residents and visitors. In 2017 the Town Council adopted a resolution supporting a speed limit reduction to 25 MPH and in June 2018, VDOT performed a traffic study and determined that the speed reduction was not warranted. In June 2018, the Cape Charles Brewing Company opened with just a tasting room and the restaurant was opened after the traffic study was completed. They have had double-digit increases every year since opening. Twelve to two thousand people visited the brewery every day – the motoring public, bicycles, golf carts, families, pets, etc. The 55 MPH speed limit needed to be addressed. Tragically, a couple of weeks ago, a family dog was hit and killed. The brewery is a great place where people felt safe and enjoyed various activities. He implored Council to adopt another resolution and ask VDOT for a new traffic study. Things had changed over the last few years and there was much more activity there in 2021 than in 2018. There had been too many near misses. It was a danger to the motoring public. It was a danger to visitors to their establishment and affected both residents and visitors. They were continuing to expand and would be adding a special event space. He respectfully asked for a new resolution asking to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH from the Town limit. He was prepared to come and ask all interested parties to ask VDOT to make the change. It was an important step.

Sarah & Rich Boehling, 219 Tazewell Avenue

Ms. Boehling addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the March 26, 2021 traffic fatality of their pet, Pearl Boehling, on Stone Road. (Please see attached.)

John Coker, Northampton County Board of Supervisors, District 1)

Supervisor Coker addressed the Mayor and Town Council expressing his support of a new resolution and new speed limit. Stone Road was a dangerous road. Everyone knew it. He travelled it all the time. He would be pleased to take the resolution passed by the Town Council to the Northampton County Board of Supervisors to get their votes as well. The County would join Cape Charles to send the request to VDOT. The area was considered part of the County’s Town Edge and we needed to work together to make sure to do the best for all.

Town Clerk Libby Hume read comments submitted in writing from Margaret Van Clief. (Please see attached.)

There were no other comments received in writing prior to the meeting or during the public comment period.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Agenda Format
- B. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. March 13, 2021 Town Council Public Input Session
 - ii. March 18, 2021 Town Council Regular Meeting, Work Session & Executive Session
 - iii. April 6, 2021 Planning Commission & Town Council Joint Public Hearing
- C. Approval of February 28, 2021 Financial Report

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilwoman Holloway, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. *Revisions to Town Code Sections 42-17, 42-71 and 50-192:*

Town Manager John Hozey stated that he met with Chief Jim Pruitt to discuss ways to help alleviate the non-adherence to rules and to increase enforcement of safety issues. It was determined that the best method was to authorize fines which resulted in a few minor changes to the Town Code. Currently, the Town Code stated the violation to traffic laws constituted a class 4 misdemeanor which required going to court and a fine not to exceed \$250. Instead of a class 4 misdemeanor, the Town Code language would be changed to "a fine of not more than \$250." A new violation book would be printed and should a citizen/visitor object to the fine, they could take it to court for the judge to determine the fine, plus court costs. It had been some time since the violation book had been updated. The proposed violation book added enforcement of golf cart issues, including unlicensed golf carts, golf carts on walkways or other prohibited areas, failure to display the golf cart decal, and especially the issue of unlicensed drivers. For unlicensed drivers, tiered fines were recommended with \$100 fine for a first offence and \$250 for a second offense. Staff was open to Council suggestions regarding the proposed fines, whether they were overly punitive or not enough. The most critical aspect was that all needed to agree to adhere to the enforcement process and fines after adoption.

There was discussion as follows: i) Councilman Follmer thanked staff for bringing this forward adding that it was desperately needed. He did not feel the proposed fines were overly punitive and suggested higher fines in some instances; and ii) Mayor Dize felt the fine for parking in the handicapped zone needed to be higher than \$100. Chief Pruitt stated that with the proposed change to the Town Code, the fine could be up to \$250. There was some discussion and several of the Council felt that it should be \$500.

Motion made by Councilman Follmer, seconded by Councilwoman O'Brien, to increase the fine for parking in a handicapped zone to \$500. The motion was approved by majority vote, with Councilman Grossman opposed.

Motion made by Councilman Follmer, seconded by Councilman Grossman, to adopt Ordinance 20210415 Adopting Revisions to Cape Charles Town Code Sections 42-17, 42-71 and 50-192, and the violation book with the amended changes. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Roll call vote: Buchholz, yes; Follmer, yes; Grossman, yes; Holloway, yes; O'Brien, yes.

Councilwoman Holloway commended Chief Pruitt and John Hozey for moving this issue forward and asked that staff ensured proper communication of the changes.

Councilman Follmer suggested a press release.

John Hozey stated that it would also be included in the Gazette and the other typical communication formats. The Mayor would be meeting with the golf cart rental companies and the short-term rental owners. The Town would also get more signage.

Councilwoman Holloway added that the new vacation rental owners' group would be on board. Mayor Dize stated that he would meet with Councilwoman Holloway to make the notifications and transition as smooth as possible.

B. *Conditional Use Permit Application – 1 Fig Street (tax map #83A3-1-534):*

John Hozey stated that this item was straight forward. The applicants were seeking to renovate the second floor into a dwelling unit with one bedroom and two bathrooms with access through the front. A joint public hearing was held with the Planning Commission and Council on April 6, 2021 and no comments were received. The Planning Commission recommended Town Council approval of the conditional use permit (CUP) for a residential dwelling unit above commercial usage with three conditions: "1) The entrance for the residential unit has direct access to the street level and not be through the commercial use space; 2) The applicant applies and obtain Historic District Review Board approval for all exterior improvements, in accordance with the Historic District Overlay and Guidance Documents; and 3) The applicant obtains all required permits and approvals from the Building and Planning Departments for all interior and exterior renovations."

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Follmer, to approve the conditional use permit for 1 Fig Street with the three conditions suggested by the Planning Commission and outlined in the staff report. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

C. *Conditional Use Permit Application – 301 Mason Avenue (tax map #83A3-1-615B):*

John Hozey stated that the applicants were seeking to remodel/renovate the second floor of the existing structure to create two apartment suites. The joint public hearing was held on April 6, 2021 with no comments received. The Planning Commission recommended Council approval of the CUP with three conditions: "1) The entrance for the residential unit has direct access to the street level and not be through the commercial space; 2) The applicant applies and obtain Historic District Review Board approval for all exterior improvements, in accordance with the Historic District Overlay and Guidance Documents; and 3) The applicant obtains all required permits and approvals from the Building and Planning Department for all interior and exterior renovations."

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilwoman Holloway, to approve the conditional use permit for 301 Mason Avenue with the three conditions outlined in the staff report. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

D. *Cape Charles Community Trail, Phase 4:*

Capital Projects Manager Bob Panek stated that a grant had been approved for Phase 4 of the community trail for some time. The execution of Phase 4 was delayed due to a series of unfortunate events. Phase 2 was delayed due to issues with the contractor. Phase 3 was delayed due to the abnormally high bids that were received. Once a grant was awarded, the construction had to occur within four years. VDOT headquarters was pressuring the Hampton Roads District to get this project executed or the funding would be reallocated for other projects. The Phase 4 project was included in the Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) but not scheduled to commence until fiscal year (FY) 2023. To avoid deallocation of the grant funding, VDOT was requiring that the Town execute a project agreement to commence engineering in FY 2022. If the funds were deallocated, the Town would need to submit a new grant application which was due October 1, 2021, and if approved, the funds would be available in October 2022.

John Hozey stated that with this issue as an example, he realized that the CAMP needed some tweaking to add some consideration in scoring regarding leveraged funds. Another point to consider would be compliance with the strategic plan. Some changes to the CAMP might be

proposed during the budget process. The Town would always have more projects in the “want” category than what we could afford. In looking at the approved CAMP schedule, we currently had over \$780K of needed projects in FY 2022, and as of tonight, no funding had been identified for them. Adding another project that scored below those was, in his opinion, irresponsible. He could not recommend moving forward with Phase 4 of the community trail, even though we would be giving up the grant funding. It was not a critical project. It would be nice to have and there might be an opportunity to continue with it in the future. He did not believe there was any reason to apply for the grant funding in October since we did not have the money for the match. It was premature for the Town to commit to this project, but he would abide by the Council’s decision.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Follmer, to not move forward with Phase 4 of the community trail project. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Councilman Grossman reiterated what John Hozey said about the CAMP. It was a good tool and possibly needed some adjustments.

Councilman Follmer thanked staff for an excellent report that balanced the pros and cons of moving forward or not moving forward. He knew the amount of time staff had invested in the trail project. Council went through the process to adopt the CAMP and did not need to break the rules at the first opportunity. He hated to see the Town lose the grant funding but concurred with John Hozey’s comments.

Bob Panek asked for clarification that the Town would not be submitting an application in this grant cycle. He added that the application was due by October 1, 2021, and the Town should receive an answer within a few months. The money would be appropriated in October 2022. The Town would have to sign an agreement and submit our share of the engineering money for VDOT to start the project. The rules had changed since many localities had difficulty in funding their match.

John Hozey stated that a lot of effort and time went into drafting the grant application for submittal and he did not want to waste the time if the Town could not fund the project.

Councilman Follmer agreed adding that it was understandable to lose the grant funding one time, but not twice.

E. *Request to VDOT for Speed Limit Reduction on Route 184/Stone Road:*

John Hozey stated that there had been a lot of discussion about this issue, and we had several speakers and comments this evening. He expressed his agreement with the speakers in that the Town was different now than in 2018. A critical point in the VDOT traffic study was the research of accidents, etc. in the area. In 2018, all showed zero, but he felt the numbers would be different now. While he supported submittal of the resolution requesting a speed limit reduction and recommended approval, he cautioned Council not to take the easy way with just the installation of a 25 MPH sign without having any physical cues. Language was added to the proposed resolution, that just east of the 25 MPH zone, rumble strips be installed alerting drivers of the change and to slow down.

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilman Grossman, to adopt Resolution 20210415 Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Modify the Speed Limit on a Portion of Route 184/Stone Road. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Roll call vote: Buchholz, yes; Follmer, yes; Grossman, yes; Holloway, yes; O’Brien, yes.

Mayor Dize stated that the VDOT study might show one thing, but common sense, etc. showed something different. Something needed to be done for the safety of our citizens and guests, or

someone would be killed there. The Town needed the assistance of Northampton County, as offered by Supervisor Coker.

Councilman Buchholz suggested forwarding the resolution with requests to Senator Lynwood Lewis and Delegate Robert Bloxom.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilwoman Holloway, to forward adopted Resolution 20210415 to the Northampton County Board of Supervisors and the state representatives requesting their assistance in obtaining VDOT approval. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS

John Hozey commented on the following:

- 1) He was contacted by Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) regarding their projects planned on the Eastern Shore. The Mayor and Vice Mayor participated in the meeting with HRSD, and he reviewed the video of the meeting and had spoken to their representatives. He would be participating in a follow-up meeting next week with Bob Panek. HRSD was looking to conduct a study of what the southern portion of the regional wastewater system might look like. HRSD was aware that the Town was currently evaluating proposals to potentially sell the utilities. It would be in the best interest of all to have everyone at the table. HRSD was asking for the support of the Towns to participate in the study. There was no commitment for anything else. He would bring forward a resolution approving the study and the Town's cooperation by providing data. The study would begin after all the Towns had adopted the resolution. HRSD was aware of the Town's timeline regarding evaluating the unsolicited proposals. He suggested to HRSD to submit two proposals since Cape Charles might not join and possibly include a request that would make it reasonable for the Town to join. HRSD typically did not purchase the facilities but they covered the debt in Onancock.
- 2) The Clerk recently participated in a webinar regarding the recent changes at the state level and the affect on the Town. One of the changes involved local elections which were all moved to November. In our case, the next election would be in November 2022. The Town now had an option of holding the elections in even or odd years. To be in sync with the state elections, the Town would have to move the elections to odd years which would mean shortening the current terms by six months to move the next election to November 2021. Aligning our elections with the state could result in a better turnout of voters and save the Town in election costs. More research would be done, and the matter would be brought forward to Council at the next meeting.
- 3) Another change made by the state regarded electronic participation in meetings. Other than during a declaration of emergency, the current law permitted Council members to participate in two meetings via electronic communication for illness and personal matters. The change would also allow family medical issues and potentially increased the number of meetings up to 25 % in a calendar year. A new resolution would have to be adopted.
- 4) Another VDOT issue regarding the median on Monroe Avenue and all the growth there made it very difficult to get by with vehicles, especially boats or RVs, parked along the street. It was a safety issue since emergency vehicles could not get through. VDOT proposed to reduce the width of the median to make the road passable. The shrubbery and trees planted on the edges would be removed. Although this was not the Town's decision, VDOT was asking for our blessing before proceeding with the work.

Councilwoman O'Brien stated that she lived in the 600 block of Monroe and would prefer to see the boats removed versus cutting into the median.

John Lockwood stated that if looking down along Monroe Avenue, you could see where people were driving into the median about two feet to get by the parked vehicles. Cars and trucks were

getting bigger. VDOT planned to cut into the median about two to three feet on each side. The plantings in the center would remain. It would make the road much more passable for everyone.

Councilman Buchholz stated that there was a similar problem on Peach Street to which Councilwoman Holloway agreed.

Councilwoman Holloway went on to state that she had brought the Peach Street issue up to John Hozey. With the wider median, people were driving through and there were divots of about one and a half to two feet. If we could get a consensus of the property owners along that area of Peach Street, the Town could put in a request to have the width of the median reduced, but she would hate to move forward with such a project without consulting with the owners.

Councilman Follmer agreed that the residents needed to be informed.

John Hozey responded that he did not have the capacity to consult with each resident. Councilwoman Holloway offered to reach out to the residents of Peach Street, but he could not do so with each resident along Monroe Avenue.

Mayor Dize stated that last year, the Town submitted a request to the General Assembly for permission to regulate parking. Nothing had been done regarding the issue, but we needed to get back on the topic, especially regarding access by emergency vehicles.

Councilman Follmer added that he had received complaints asking about what happened to that discussion.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmen Buchholz, Follmer and Grossman, and Councilwoman O'Brien did not have any additional comments.

Councilwoman Holloway commented as follows: i) The Merchants' Sidewalk Sale was scheduled for this weekend, from April 16 through 18. A town-wide yard sale would be held on Saturday, April 17, with quite a few houses signed up. Ads had been placed in the Eastern Shore Post, on social media and in the Cape Charles Gazette. She also asked Joan Natali to issue a special Cape Charles Happenings Flash; ii) As the Cape Charles representative to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission, she wanted to announce the hiring of a new executive director, Robert Sabbatini. Once he had settled in, she would have him come introduce himself to the Town Council; iii) As a Virginia Main Street Community, the Town received specialized services and the Cape Charles Main Street (CCMS) board met monthly with specialists. The topic next month was designing streetscapes. CCMS would be working with business owners regarding grants, etc. She invited John Hozey to attend the meeting; and iv) She and her husband, Jim, celebrated 10 years in their house. As a former event planner, seeing the things that happened during the concerts in Central Park made her so nervous. Emergency vehicles could not get into the park. The people coordinating the events needed to take ownership and manage things. She hoped this issue could be addressed.

Mayor Dize asked Community Relations Manager Jen Lewis to speak regarding Blessing of the Fleet and Cape Charles Day.

Jen Lewis informed Council of the following: i) The Blessing of the Fleet was scheduled for April 30. A special welcome speaker was lined up, but she was not at liberty at this time to reveal their identity. Things were coming together with three clergy confirmed. The Coast Guard Auxiliary might not be available to participate this year due to the pandemic. Coast Guard Station Cape Charles offered to assist if the auxiliary could not participate; ii) Not a lot of planning had been done yet regarding Cape Charles Day which would be held on June 12. The shredder truck was scheduled to be here. She would be reaching out to various organizations to join us. The felt that attendance would be higher this year due to the event being in June and since people were looking to get out after the past year; iii) This year, Clean the Bay Day would be a week-long event. On June 5, the Town was joining with

the Rosenwald School Initiative to help clean up their property. The weight of collections would be reported. They also had a category for the strangest item found. After the clean-up, the Rosenwald School Initiative would be holding an event to make some announcements. She was hopeful to have a guest speaker for their event as well; and iv) People were outside doing things. Event requests are coming in like crazy. Everything had been on hold for a year, and she was hopeful that things would work out. It would be a very busy summer.

Mayor Dize thanked Supervisor Coker for his attendance this evening and for his offer to assist the Town with the request to VDOT for the speed limit reduction. The Town would take him up on his offer. He also thanked the staff for all they did for the Town. He appreciated everyone.

Mayor Dize read the announcements.

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Councilman Follmer, to adjourn the Town Council Regular Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Dize

Town Clerk

Comments & Information Provided in Writing April 15, 2021 Town Council Regular Meeting

Phil Goetkin, Tree City USA Presentation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arbor Day Foundation Names Cape Charles Tree City USA®

Lincoln, Neb. Cape Charles, Virginia, was named a 2020 Tree City USA® by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Cape Charles achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and cared for by Cape Charles are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy to a better quality of life.

If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, energy use, and protection from extreme heat and flooding.

With Tree City USA recognition, Cape Charles has demonstrated a commitment to effective urban forest management and doing its part to help address these challenges for Cape Charles residents now and in the future.

Tree Advisory Board Talking Points for April 15 Town Council Meeting

Who We Are:

- In 2019, six Cape Charles residents formed the Tree Advisory Board. We drafted a charter and presented our idea of the advisory board to the Town Council at that time. Cape Charles resident and former Tree Advisory Board member, Marita Patterson, provided the initial impetus to move this group forward
- Our current members are Christine Williams, current chair of the group, Phil Goetkin, Jane McKinley, Joe Fehr, and Barbara O'Hare.
- Our primary purpose is to assist the town in maintaining and improving the town's tree canopy.
- The benefits of a healthy tree canopy are many – from reducing energy costs and managing storm runoff to improving the quality of the air we breath and the beauty of our properties.

What We've Accomplished:

- Reviewed and provided 7 recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Department for tree removals/plantings
- Provided tree consultations for 2 residents
- Completed inventory of Cape Charles town at risk trees. Provided list to Public Works.
- Developed a document on Native Tree Recommendations for Cape Charles. It is included with TAB recommendations for requests for tree removal/planting.
- Published articles on trees in Gazette and Mirror
- Assisted Public Works by pruning the 40 willow oaks on Washington Avenue

Upcoming Arbor Day Celebration

- Our celebration on April 30 will be held on Strawberry Plaza will include information on native trees, advise on planting and pruning trees, and games for the kids, including a town-wide guided scavenger hunt.

Sarah & Rich Boehling, 219 Tazewell Avenue

Good evening. My name is Sarah Boehling. I am here tonight with my husband, Rich. We have been property owners here in Cape Charles at 219 Tazewell Avenue since 2003. I have been coming to the Eastern Shore all my life as my mom was from Cape Charles and my dad was from Painter. I have watched the Eastern Shore (Cape Charles, in particular) grow and change over many, many years.

The reason I am before you today involves an incident that occurred on Friday, March 26, 2021. Sadly, out 2-year-old chocolate lab names Pearl, was hit by a car in front of the Cape Charles Brewery on Stone Road right around dusk.

Although we are saddened by the loss of our family member, this accident could have been far worse. Pearl weighed approximately the same weight as a 10-year-old child. Had the circumstances been slightly different, we could potentially be discussing the needless death of a child who perhaps may have been enjoying a family evening at the brewery.

Currently the speed limit is posted at 55 MPH in front of the brewery. At this rate of speed, according to AAA, a pedestrian being struck by a car is 9 times more likely to die as compared to an impact at 25 MPH.

It is in the best interest of the community and its public safety to seek a sound resolution for all. The posted speed limit of 55 MPH should be reduced to 25 MPH.

A 2018 VDOT study about this particular topic concluded that the 55 MPH speed limit was appropriate at that time. This is, frankly, quite surprising.

Life in Cape Charles has changed. There is an increased population particularly in the warmer months, new businesses have opened and pedestrian foot traffic as well as golf cart traffic has exploded.

Our recommendation is to appeal to our elected officials at the state level to demand a reassessment of VDOT's 2018 decision. Our belief is that it would be appropriate to extend the 25 MPH speed limit zone from its current position east to the town limits.

While we remain deeply saddened by the untimely loss of our "brown dog," Pearl, we recognize a much larger safety risk that requires immediate attention by the town and VDOT.

Margaret Van Clief

I'm writing to lend my support to the notion that the speed limit should be lowered east of town on Stone Road. Foot, bicycle, and golf cart traffic has increased significantly on parts of the road that are marked 40 and 55 mph, and it seems dangerous. I would propose that, at minimum, the speed limit near the Cape Charles Brewing Company be reduced to 40 mph and that it drop to 25 where it is currently marked as 40 mph.

Thanks very much for your time. Have a lovely evening!

Best,

Margaret Van Clief

Cape Charles