

Cordesville Community Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Melanie Lott at 6:02 p.m. with prayer and the pledge to the flag.

Old Business

1. Melanie shared the Civilian Service Award given by the Berkeley County Sheriff's Dept to the Community for actions within the Cordesville community.
2. The minutes from the previous meeting passed as printed on a motion from Frank McKnight with a second by Jacki Dawson.
3. The treasurer's report passed as presented on a motion from Frank McKnight and a second by Leola Johnson.

New Business

1. Sgt Harris mentioned the award from the Sheriff's Office lauding the community involvement focusing on safety and improving the quality of life. He reported that the traffic team was active, particularly along 402. He identified team COAT as special enforcement, and helping with traffic investigations. He identified the only major issue had been the fire with a fatality last week. He cautioned that with the Christmas season, we need to be extra aware of the proliferation of package thieves, suggesting protecting deliveries be placed on the back porch or otherwise out of sight to help thwart the miscreants.
2. Updates—Melanie reported that in response to road concerns, particularly on Hard Pinch and Umbria, petitions were being sent to Berkeley County Supervisor, SC DOT along with letters received from Larry Grooms and Syleste Davis.
3. JB Borden, our school board member, introduced Mr. Tim Evans, the principal of Timberland High School, who gave the following update:
 - a. The State Report card showed improvement with students that are college/career ready was now 67% up 5%; the graduation rate is now 89.9% which is up 5.9%--the best in 9 years moving the school to the good category; the overall average improved from below average to average—the best in 6 years.
 - b. The school is also celebrating other achievements including the boys cross country team is 14th in the state; the volley ball team won region and had an all-state player; the football team took the region 2A championship; the ROTC drone team is #1 in the region that is comprised of SC, NC and

VA; ROTC rifle team has ranked best of the best in 3 years of competition but the past two years has been #1.

- c. Academically, the school is gearing up for end of class testing (EOC) in English II (writing and reading with the prompt “Majestic Forest”, Biology I and US History
- d. Parents and the community can show students support, encourage and talk to them by keeping an open dialogue, and helping them learn from past mistakes.
- e. He complimented the levels of communication they've experienced from parents and the student successes.
- f. Mr. Evans stated that student safety was a priority with protocols in place to investigate every issue thoroughly, searching with the SRO (student resource officer) and following district guidelines.

4. Cordeville Cares—Frank McKnight reported that projects are done on the second Saturday morning of the month usually ending about noon. He asked if maybe there was an older family that could maybe use help with Christmas decorations.
5. Education—One student has had to reschedule their GED test; Google will be asked to renew our license; once in the new building, we will have a 72" TV with a camera so we can offer/take classes in conjunction with other HUB sites.
6. Building—the door is supposed to be on the building this week; we still need HVAC, lighting and flooring.
7. The Christmas party will be at the barn on 12/13.
8. Fundraising—The t-shirt sale has had a good response XL. Larger sizes are an additional \$2.50
9. Grants—Brian and Tracey reported that they are rolling out grants aiming 3/week. They asked about nonprofit bulk mailing, prioritizing the newsletter with news for Cordesville.
10. The county is helping us by allowing the use of the building w/o overhead which will allow us to focus on programs.
11. Food truck—we still need a commercial kitchen for licensing purposes.

Calendar

Dec 7 the parade is at 3 pm with judging at 2. Frank stated he was going to have a Veteran's float if there was an interest—contact him.

Dec 13 the Christmas party at the barn with a start time of 4. The theme is “sports & tailgating.

Turkey shoot is \$5/shot beginning Saturday at 5 at the Sawmill Fire Station. The shoot starts at 6. We do have a tent and port-a-let. Shoots will continue on Saturdays through December.

Community concerns

1. JB stated that he would put some pressure on the installation of the door.
2. Melanie responded to a concern that we are working on a flag for the fire station.
3. Addressing the staffing at the fire station, we were reminded that we were staffed by volunteers while the other stations are paid firefighters for the same job so people are hesitant to volunteer.
4. It was suggested that EMT, Firefighting, Law enforcement, and Lineman are all available online, but we need a teacher.
5. Santee Cooper and Berkeley Electric both have lineman apprenticeships while Trident Tech offers programs at no cost for qualifying students.
6. Steve Meadows, owner of the Village Store wants to be involved in the community and make the store truly a village community gathering place. He stated all are welcome so long as appropriate behaviors are observed.

Following a moment of silence in memory of the death in the community, members were encouraged to vote for the slate of officers for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Turner, Secretary