

GAVIN BLEVINS, Town Manager
EVA MEYER, Treasurer
TUESDAY POPE, Clerk

P.O. Box 576
208 West Laurel Ave.
Damascus, VA 24236
(P) 276.475.3831



DAMASCUS
CROSSING PATHS

Mayor **KATIE LAMB**
Vice-Mayor **MITCHEL GREER**

Robert Van de Vuurst
Tommy Hayes
Susan Coleman
Beaty Jackson
Tony Doss

July 21, 2021

**NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON
TRANSIENT LODGING IN DAMASCUS**

Dear Damascus Resident:

As you may already know, the Town of Damascus is studying its current zoning ordinances relative to transient and semi-transient lodging establishments in Damascus. Transient and semi-transient lodging establishments are, basically, “bed and breakfast” establishments and other lodging facilities that rent rooms, cabins, or an entire house to tourists and other short-term visitors to our Town. The Town Council has established a Transient Lodging Study Committee that has been reviewing these issues since May, as well as studying what other municipalities in our area are doing on these issues, and in the interim the Town Council agreed to a six-month moratorium on the issuance of any new Conditional Use Permits for transient and semi-transient lodging in residential districts until the study is complete and the Town Council determines what steps to take, if any, with regard to its current zoning ordinances. The Study Committee expects to make recommendations to the Town Council regarding those matters in late September or early October. The members of the Study Committee are: Robert Van de Vuurst (Town Council Member and Chair), Mitchel Greer (Town Council Member), David Atwood (Damascus Board of Zoning Appeals), Anne Maio (Damascus Planning Commission), Gavin Blevins (Town Manager), and Brian Schmidt (Chair, Damascus Planning Commission).

As a Town resident, your opinion on these issues is of paramount importance to the Study Committee, so we will be holding a Town Hall meeting on August 24, 2021, from 6-8 p.m. at Town Hall. If you have opinions regarding transient and semi-transient lodging in Damascus, whether good or bad, and if you think that the Town’s current ordinances need to be changed in any way (or not), we urge you to attend this meeting and make your opinions known to the Committee. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, you may contact Gavin Blevins at gblevins@mrpdc.com, or Robert Van de Vuurst at rvandevuurst@bakerdonelson.com.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall meeting.

“The Strength of a Town Lies in the Confidence and Cooperation of Its People”