Rumors have again surfaced about the future of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company Carnival Grounds. It is true that the grounds have been recommended by the Planning Commission in the draft Master Plan for rezoning to community commercial. However, this is in no way a sign that the grounds are sold or are even in a “for sale” state.

Another indication that the grounds are not for sale is the fact that the fire company constructed new buildings on the grounds for an investment of $30,000 and spent over $10,000 to repair sewer lines and install a grease collection trap to comply with town regulations. The MAYAA also constructed a permanent batting cage. The carnival grounds provide the backbone for the fundraising activities of the fire company through hall and ground rentals and our annual carnival.

Why request rezoning to a “commercial” category? The fire company desires to bring the zoning into conformance with surrounding properties. We wish to ensure that all fundraising activities conform to the property’s zoning allowances. The need to renovate or expand facilities may bring about changes not currently allowed in residential zoning.

To further support our commitment to maintaining the carnival grounds, we are working with the town to draft a first right of refusal memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the fire company and the town. In the extremely unlikely event that circumstances would require us to sell the grounds to provide the financial means to continue to provide emergency services, the town will have the option to purchase the land.

Some community members are circulating a petition claiming that the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company is planning to sell the grounds to a “big box” developer if it is rezoned. This could not be further from the truth! The originator of the petition has never contacted the fire company to ask of our intentions. The personal agenda of the petition originator is perhaps the sole reason for this effort. Unfortunately, the effort may damage the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company’s ability to provide the highest level of emergency services possible for all the citizens of the area. You trust us with saving your life and property so please trust us to do what is best with our carnival grounds.

Board of Managers

Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company Inc.

Bruce J. Walz, President