

**VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

MINUTES  
FOR  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

**Members present:**

Robert Bullington, Chair; Suzanne Buchsbaum; Nancy Coseo; Galen Jones; Mary Pat Mazzola; Dennis McCarthy, Administrative Officer

**Members absent:**

None

**State of Vermont Personal and Contractor Present:**

James P. Duggan | State Historic Sites  
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
Department of Housing & Community Development  
1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Robert F. Kischko, PE  
Senior Electrical Engineer  
Manager Electrical Department  
97 Park Street  
Springfield, Vermont 05156

**Community Members present:**

None

The Village of Old Bennington Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Bullington at 7:03 PM.

The Commission, Mr. Duggan and Mr. Kischko talked about the implications of a battery backup generator and a LP backup generator. Relevant topics are as follows:

- 1) A battery backup generator system would work for the Battle Monument and would operate properly. The battery backup generator system is expected to cost more.
- 2) A LP backup generator would last 30 – 35 years. A battery backup generator would last 12 years and could be twice the cost of the LP backup generator system. However the technical evaluation to size the battery setup required has not been done yet, so no actual calculation of physical size or cost has yet been made.
- 3) The basement of the Battle Monument is wet, small and the entrance is small. In order to use this space for a battery backup generator the entire lower facility would have to be reworked.
- 4) Water issues in the basement and other areas of the Battle Monument will require pointing the masonry. The Agency may have to go to the Legislature and request additional funds for this project.
- 5) The LP system would have a buried tank located behind and to the side as faced from the parking area of the new LP generator.

**VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

MINUTES  
FOR  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

6) The new battery backup generator and the LP generator could be finished in green to blend in to the landscape.

7) Existing battery system is located at the top of the Battle Monument and it is planned to leave them in place.

8) A new LP generator will have a 54db level. You can stand next to it and have a normal conversation without shouting. The specs will be written so this db will be accomplished. The unit would be tested after delivery to be assured that the unit indeed meets this level.

9) Mr. Duggan wants a good working relationship with the Commission and will do all he can on his part to accomplish this.

10) Mr. Duggan and Mr. Kischko will approach GMP to see if they would be available to share the cost of a battery backup generator if such an installation can also provide GMP with power management benefits.

11) The existing battery backup is not adequate enough to handle the load. The elevator either goes to the top of the Battle Monument and stops or it will proceed to the bottom of the Battle Monument and is unable to extract the customers that may have been at the top.

12) A new system will operate only during the Battle Monument season or for routine maintenance. The system can be programmed to turn on and off at set schedules and can be left off for longer periods of time when needed (non-season hours).

13) The Tesla Power Wall would be very expensive to install. The TP is a single phase unit and the service to the facility is three phase. There would need to be three TP units unless the newer powerwall, Powerwall 2, can work, which is something that will be evaluated.

14) Mr. Duggan is looking for a long term solution to the battery backup problem.

15) New battery backup system will not fit in the space located where the existing batteries are located at the top of the Battle Monument.

16) Battle Monument basement has many issues. Mr. Jones asked if the new battery backup system could be installed at the gift shop location. Mr. Duggan and Mr. Kischko said that sounded like a viable option. Mr. Duggan and Mr. Kischko will investigate that option as well as the other ones discussed (outside battery backup – Battle Monument battery backup – Gift Shop battery backup – outside LP generator system).

17) An electrical backup system will not be operated for general use, only for emergency and maintenance use. The LP generator system will operate for emergency use and recycle every other week for maintenance.

18) The operation of the LP backup system would be operable during normal operating hours and off other times. A time clock can be incorporated into the system to control this function.

19) Landscaping was mentioned. Mr. Duggan said that landscaping was a viable solution for concealing a unit that would be outside. If an outside unit is used it needs to have plenty of fresh air to operate. The Planning Commission suggested a picket fence might fit the area.

20) Mr. Duggan said that he would look into bumping the curbing out if it was needed to fit the unit in the designated area. Some type of shrubbery may also be included with the design.

**VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

MINUTES  
FOR  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Mr. Duggan and Mr. Kischko would like to research all the issues and return to the Commission at a later date with the results of their research.

The Commission said that they would recess the hearing until January 13, 2020 and if more time was needed to finish the tasks at hand they would continue the recess to February 10, 2010

**Ms. Mazzola made the motion to recess the hearing to January 13, 2020, and if more time is needed to finish the tasks at hand to continue the recess until February 10, 2020. Mr. Jones seconded the motion; all in favor, unanimous.**

Chair Bullington asked the Commission members to review the ad material for the position of Village Administrative Officer. This will be prepared for the release to the media in the coming days.

**Ms. Coseo made the motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Buchsbaum seconded the motion; all in favor, unanimous.**

**MS. Mazzola moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Coseo seconded the motion; all in favor, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis C. McCarthy  
Administrative Officer  
11/16/2019