

Village of Old Bennington  
Trustees Meeting Minutes  
June 5,2018

Officials present: Trustees Andy Buchsbaum, Susan Wright, James Warren, and Ron Rabidou as well as Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht and Clerk James Gallen.

Officials absent: Trustee Charles Edson

Residents present: Megan Schwarzkopf, Jill Jones, Galen Jones, Robin Stromgren, Richard Poeton

**1. Opening.**

Ron Rabidou, acting as the presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 7:10.

**2. Nominations for positions.**

Ron discussed the terms of service for several of the positions on the boards.

**3. Nomination to accept minutes.**

Ron moved that the trustees approve the minutes of the May 1, 2018 meeting and the minutes of the Annual Meeting Minutes from May 8,2018. Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

**4. Citizen Comments.**

- a. Robin Stromgren asked about the progress on the sidewalk renovation project.
- b. Richard Poeton commented on extraneous information in minutes.
- c. Megan Schwarzkopf suggested putting minutes and notices on the official village website. She also suggested to ask the town of Bennington to provide a link to the official village website.
- d. Robin Stromgren suggested creating a link to the Chamber of Commerce website.

**5. Reports of Commissioners.**

- a. Road Commissioner.
  - i. Andy stated that the grant application for sidewalks was being worked on.
    1. The proposed crosswalk at the top of Bank Street would require substantial work. The crosswalk was proving to be too costly and would be removed from the plan.
      2. The estimated cost of Phase I of the sidewalk renovation is \$52,700.
      3. Andy mentioned that an arborist would likely be required to assess the impact of the sidewalk on trees. A concern about the large tree near the Stromgren's home was raised.
    - ii. The visibility of the yield sign near the Old First Church was raised. Discussions of ways to improve the confusion at the intersection occurred.
  - b. Tree Commissioner.
    - i. The residents of 3 Monument Circle have sought permits to remove two trees in their front yard. Dennis has approved removal of both trees.

1. Permit fees were discussed by the trustees and citizens in attendance. Concerns about the need for permit fees were raised. Ron proposed adding permit fees to next agenda.

c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner

i. The commissioner looked into aesthetics of sidewalks and the cost of different materials, but she found alternative materials, like marble, to be prohibitively expensive.

ii. A donation from Lucy Baldwin was made to re-erect the monument in front of the Old First Church.

iii. Discussions about repairing gardens that have fallen into disrepair took place.

1. Megan Schwarzkopf volunteered to help renew some gardens.

iv. There was a damaged light in Monument Circle, and it has since been repaired.

d. Police Commissioner

i. Charles continues to meet with Andy.

e. Treasurer

i. Park cleanup and mowing was a bit more costly than expected.

ii. A copy of the approved budget was presented.

**6. Warrants.**

i. Ron moved to approve warrants. Susan Wright seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

**7. Old Business.**

a. Reappointment of members of Planning Board

i. Ron moved for the appointment of members of commissions and boards as listed. Andy seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

b. Website

i. Links to include on the website were discussed. A discussion took place on whether public comments, in the form of a forum, should be included with the website. Concerns about moderation of the forum were raised. The trustees seemed to agree to keep the website informative and useful for citizens and visitors alike.

c. Transfer of records from Donna Berry to James Gallen

i. A letter to Donna Berry was proposed by Ron.

ii. A discussion of the acquisition and storage of village documents took place.

d. Plans to honor Donna Berry

i. Ideas for some type of plaque or garden in her honor were raised.

e. Bylaws and ordinance enforcement

i. Megan raised a concern about potential inequality in how ordinances and bylaws were enforced

**8. New Business.**

a. Ron proposed looking into developing a plan to determine the condition of the roads and costs associated with their maintenance and repair.

i. Richard Poeton proposed hiring something to do the roads assessment.

b. A letter was received by the village form Lodie Colvin in regards to 25 Monument Avenue.

i. The trustees and citizens raised concerns about the subdivision of the land and the possibility of a large development in the land that is being sold.

c. Richard Poeton proposed a fund for Old Bennington

#### 9. Adjournment.

Ron moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39, Susan seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

Addendum: Proposed Terms for Appointed Officers is located below.

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>TERM</b>
<b>PLANNING COMMISSION</b>	
Bob Bullington	2018-2022
Suzanne Buchsbaum	2018-2022
Nancy Coseo	2018-2021
Galen Jones	2018-2020
Mary Pat Mazzola	2018-2019
<b>ZONING BOARD</b>	
David Silver	2018-2020
Priscilla Bradshaw	2018-2020
Polly van der Linde	2018-2019
Anthony Mazzola	2018-2019
TBD	2018-2020
<b>REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION</b>	
Charles Edson	2018-2021
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</b>	
Dennis McCarthy	2018-2021