

Old Bennington Village Trustee Meeting

January 2, 2018

Present: Charles Edson, Ron Rabidou, Andrew Buchsbaum, Don Miller, and Kathy Wagenknecht.

Absent: Donna Berry and Susan Wright. Citizens present: Richard Poeton.

Meeting called to order by Chair, Don Miller at 7:05.

Minutes were not available for review.

C Edson offered a brief police report. The number of tickets issued is down. Officer Corey has adjusted his hours, providing additional coverage in the evening.

A Buchsbaum discussed the ongoing negotiations with the state on the Route 9/Monument Avenue crosswalk section of the proposed highway project. On the north side of Main Street, the adjustments appear to be feasible; moving the curbing out into Monument and then sloping the land from there into the existing paving stones and catch basins. On the southside of Main, it appears that the state will not be amenable to making the changes we had discussed, i.e., sloping the sidewalk more gradually, building/extending a retaining wall along the east side of the new sidewalk, and reconfiguring the entrance to the one-way street. A question was raised as to whether a streetlight currently located on the north island could be moved to a more advantageous position with regard to the crosswalk.

R. Rabidou reported “no activity” on trees; he is still trying to contact Dr. Mahler’s handyman.

K. Wagenknecht presented the Treasurer’s report.

The warrants were approved on a motion by R. Rabidou and seconded by A. Buchsbaum.

Truck Ordinance. The truck ordinance was passed as proposed, on a motion by C, Edson and second by A. Buchsbaum. It reads:

Chapter 27. Through Trucks

Through trucks, except for emergency vehicles, shall be prohibited on all streets in the Village of Old Bennington excluding Route 9. Through Trucks shall mean trucks with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 26,001 pounds or more, originating outside the Village and which are not servicing any property within the Village. Appropriate signs shall be posted regarding this ordinance.

Website. Ron read from a letter he had sent on the proposed website, outlining issues and his responses to those issues. He indicated that he had received positive feedback in writing and verbally, with no negative feedback. By consensus, it was decided to put the issue of establishing a Village website on the agenda for the Annual Meeting in May.

Quarterly Newsletter. The Quarterly Newsletter is ready to be distributed. By consensus, it was decided that in the future, the Newsletter would not be called a “Quarterly” but would be published when needed, probably 1) after the Annual Meeting, 2) mid-year, and 3) prior to the Annual Meeting. Further, if the village establishes a website, the Newsletter could be posted there, giving the residents an option to receive a hard copy if they prefer.

Richard Poeton opined that he hoped Trustees would prepare the residents for issues that might come up at the Annual Meeting.

Vacancies. D. Miller reported that he had made half a dozen contacts for the Zoning Administrator position. Two candidates expressed interest, but were inexperienced and looking for a fulltime position.

New business. Under new business, there was a discussion of sidewalks on the west side of Monument Avenue, in part because of issues raised in the social media. Ideas discussed included 1) completing the sidewalk as far as Bank Street, 2) removing any remnants of the sidewalk if and where sidewalk is abandoned, 3) past efforts to both abandon and to extend the sidewalk on the west side, 4) liability, including past efforts to make the remaining sidewalk safe, and 5) procedurally, if the Board could form a consensus and then introduce a plan for consideration at an Annual Meeting, it might help residents make a more informed decision as to which alternatives to pursue.

On motion of R. Rabidou seconded by A. Buchsbaum, adjourned at 8:30.

Next meeting will be February 6, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Miller