

Village of Old Bennington  
Trustees Meeting Minutes  
August 7,2018

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, Peggy Hammond

**1. Opening.**

Ron Rabidou, the presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 7:03.

**2. Approval of Minutes.**

a. Andy moved to approve minutes of the July 3,2018 meeting. Jim seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

b. An amendment to the previously approved June 5, 2018 minutes was moved by Jim.

Susan seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

**3. Citizen Comments.**

a. Megan wanted to address the trees in common islands. She said that a significant amount of money will have to be raised.

-Ron suggested a possible development of a phased plan, like the sidewalks, for planting. Other trustees signaled support.

**4. Reports of commissioners and officers.**

a. Road Commissioner.

i. The proposal/ assessment of roads has not been received as of yet.

ii. No word back on sidewalk grant as of yet.

iii. Andy has started to work on securing salt for the season.

iv. The town of Bennington is sending an invoice for work done on the museum

crosswalk.

v. The Trustees discussed moving the “no through truck” sign from Elm and Monument to western border of village on Walloomsac road. The Trustees also agreed to post “No Through Trucks” signs at each of the Village entrances. Given the lack of space for large trucks to turn around, the Trustees suggested that the Village Police Officer, Andy Corey, issue warnings for first offenses.

b. Trees Commissioner

i. The commissioner plans to remove suckers from tree on Elm.

c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner

i. The commissioner gave an update on the renewal and cleanup of parks.

d. Police Commissioner

i. The commissioner submitted an update on Officer Andy’s monthly report.

e. Treasurer

i. The state noticed a mistake when it comes to paying local municipalities for state land, as part of PILOT. Vermont is sending a check for \$7,500 that will be added to the annual revenue.

ii. North Bennington has been paying for Old Bennington's Bennington Banner advertisements due to an accounting error. They will be sending a bill.

#### **5. Warrants.**

a. Andy moved to approve warrants. Susan Wright seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

#### **6. Old Business.**

a. Transfer of records to James Gallen.

i. The Trustees continue to ask Donna for the records and bylaws. They agreed to postpone any action.

b. Update of Village Bylaws and Ordinances.

i. Ron has presented a proposed reformatted version of the Bylaws and Ordinances

ii. Discussion of language for traffic signs within the bylaws took place.

c. Discussion of Robert's Rules of Order and board meeting protocol.

i. Ron pointed out that we are required to follow Robert's Rules for our Annual Meeting. While we are not required to comply with Robert's Rules for our regular meetings, we generally do so. Since we've received no complaints concerning the conduct of our meetings, he suggested we maintain our current informal police. The Trustees agreed.

ii. Ron pointed out that our recent meeting minutes comply with both Robert's Rules and state laws. Specifically, Ron noted that both Robert's Rules and state laws permit the listing of votes when a motion is not unanimously approved. The Trustees agreed we would continue our current practice with respect to minutes.

d. Recognition of Donna Berry's service to the village.

i. A citation will be completed with calligraphy and then framed.

ii. Spots for a commemorative tree were limited, so an attractive brush was proposed.

e. Appointment of Representative to BCRC.

i. Charlie has asked to stay on as the representative to BCRC.

ii. Jim moved to reappoint Charlie. Andy seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

#### **7. New Business.**

a. Additional funding request from BCRC

i. BCIC has requested \$209.

ii. A copy of the original letter requesting the funds will be distributed to trustees.

iii. Payment will be discussed at the next meeting.

**8. Adjournment.**

Andy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10. Susan seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.