

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2020

Meeting held via telepresence using Zoom.com

Officials present: Trustees Susan Wright, Jim Warren, Ron Rabidou, and Steven Anisman, as well as Clerk James Gallen and Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht

Officials absent: Charles Edson

Residents Present: None.

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Approval of minutes.

a. There were no changes to the posted minutes.

B. Ron moved to approve the posted minutes for the November 3rd Trustees meeting. Steven Anisman seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

3. Citizen comments.

a. No comments were made.

4. Reports of commissioners and officers.

a. Road Commissioner.

i. Status of Bank Street Grant.

-No updates

ii. Road Erosion

-Jim has emailed the municipal road coordinator for clarification on whether we need to file if we don't have any hydrological connected roads.

- We have 20 roads that need to be inventoried according to the municipal road coordinator.

- We have until the end of December to complete the inventory.

- The pedestrian crossing sign has been moved and is now visible.

b. Tree Commissioner.

i. October Storm Damage Updates.

-Steven spoke with JC Jerome about trying to get an itemized breakdown of the costs of repairs.

- All the damage from the storm has been repaired at this point.

- Officer Corey notifies Jerome Construction if there are obstructions to the rights of way.

ii. Consideration of Storm Damage Repair Policy.

-The Trustees have proposed a rewording of Chapter 4 #4-401 in its entirety for clarity.

- The proposed revision states,

“Owners of Village property shall keep sidewalks, roadways, and rights-of-way bordering their property clear of dead trees, shrubs, hedges, or other vegetation that may obstruct vision or safe passage on sidewalks or roadways. The Trustees may give notice to owners, in writing, of any breach of this provision, with the expectation that such a breach will be corrected swiftly, for the safety of others. In the event an owner fails to take adequate corrective action following receipt of the Trustees' written notice, the Trustees may have the property put in proper safe condition and charge the cost of the same to the owner.

In the event of an emergency situation where trees or shrubs obstruct safe passage on village roads or sidewalks, the Trustees may arrange to clear such trees or shrubs to the extent necessary to ensure safe passage for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. It will be the responsibility of the owner to clear any remaining debris at their expense.”

- Steven Anisman moves to approve the revision as submitted. Ron seconded the motion. The revision passed with unanimous approval.

iii. Discussion of New State Tree Warden Legislation.

- It has been recommended that we create a shade tree plan.

- Steven Anisman has suggested that we wait for other municipalities to create their plans and then use those as a reference point for our own plan.

- The Trustees agreed to hold off on any action until they had plans from other towns.

c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.

i. Storm Damage Repair.

- Susan Wright has asked Jerome for a breakdown of the costs for the repairs to the sidewalks. This was to get information that needs to be given to GMP in order for GMP to reimburse us for repairs.
- No information has been gained about homeowners insurance.
- Monument Electric was contacted about harvesting parts from the old lamp. It had already been disposed of.
- Someone has proposed 3D printing a replacement lamp head.

ii. Donna's Bench

-The marble has been set properly.

- Susan Wright has been assured that the bench and plaque will be set this week.

- A dedication ceremony was discussed.

- James Gallen recommended recording the dedication and putting it online so that everyone can watch the ceremony.

d. Police Commissioner.

i. No report was given.

e. Treasurer.

i. We received something from VLCT that talks about taxes during Covid. VLCT advises that the village can waive late fees and past due fees during the Covid epidemic.

-We had 9 households who have not paid property taxes as of yet.

- Kathy suspects that the unusually high level of non-payment is due to all of the house sales in the area.

- We have \$8,100 outstanding from this year's property taxes at the moment. Notices have been sent to the households that have not paid.

ii. We have an unusual payment to Les Green. There was a double payment on his property tax and the extra payment was reimbursed.

5. Warrants.

a. Ron moved to approve the warrants. Steven Anisman seconded the motion and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

6. Old business.

a. There was no old business.

7. New business.

a. There was no new business.

8. Adjourn.

a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59.