

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019

Officials present: Trustees Andy Buchsbaum, Charles Edson, Ron Rabidou, and Jim Warren as well as Acting Clerk James Gallen and Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht.

Officials absent: Trustee Susan Wright

Residents present: Megan Schwarzkopf.

1. Opening.

Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:05.

2. Minutes.

- a. Ron Rabidou suggested several minor changes to the draft minutes for the May 7, 2019 Trustees meeting. Jim Warren moved that the trustees approve the minutes as corrected, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
- b. Andy Buchsbaum moved to approve the draft minutes for the May 14, 2019 Annual Meeting, Charles Edson seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

3. Citizen Comments.

Megan Schwarzkopf said aerial pictures of the trees on the village greens will be ready soon.

4. Appointment of Officials.

- a. Presiding Officer. Jim Warren nominated Ron Rabidou for Presiding Officer, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
- b. Acting Clerk. Andy Buchsbaum moved to appoint James Gallen as Acting Clerk for the meeting, Charles Edson seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
- c. Clerk. Because no clerk was elected at the Annual Meeting, the trustees agreed to appoint a clerk for the remainder of the year. Andy Buchsbaum moved to appoint Steven Anisman as Clerk, Jim Warren seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
- d. Police Commissioner. Andy Buchsbaum moved to appoint Charles Edson as Police Commissioner, Jim Warren seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

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- e. Tree Commissioner. Charles Edson moved to appoint Jim Warren as Tree Commissioner, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
 - f. Road Commissioner. Jim Warren moved to appoint Andy Buchsbaum as Road Commissioner, Charles Edson seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
 - g. Planning Commission. Jim Warren moved to reappoint Mary Pat Mazzola to the Planning Commission for a four-year term ending with the 2023 Annual Meeting, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
 - h. Zoning Board. Ron Rabidou moved to reappoint Pauline van der Linde and Anthony Mazzola and appoint Erica Gallen to the Zoning Board for two-year terms ending with the 2021 Annual Meeting, Charles Edson seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
- 5. Reports of Commissioners.**
- a. Road Commissioner.
 - i. Andy Buchsbaum said that three streetlights needed replacement and that Monument Electric will replace them soon.
 - ii. He said he would meet with Jason Dolmetsch of MSK Engineers about the planned road survey.
 - iii. He also said he's doing some design work for Phase Two of the Monument Avenue sidewalk project as part of the grant application process.
 - b. Tree Commissioner.
 - i. Jim Warren reported Justin Salem contacted him about two dead/diseased trees in the village right of way that he wants to remove. Jim approved his request.
 - ii. Jim said he contacted Sam Kelson about the fountain on the north island of the village green. Jim learned that it would require lifting the fountain off its base to repair the fountain. Andy Buchsbaum said it might be possible for Jerome Construction to assist with the repairs in connection with Phase Two of the sidewalk project.
 - c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner. No report.
 - d. Police Commissioner.
 - i. Charles Edson reported that Officer Corey worked 88 hours, conducted 51 property checks, and wrote 16 tickets for \$2,594 in fines.
 - ii. Charles said the police car was temporarily out of commission for repairs.
 - e. Treasurer.

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- i. Kathy noted that the village saved money by paying Pembroke a flat fee for the spring cleanup.
- ii. Kathy presented the warrant list. Andy Buchsbaum moved to approve the warrant list, Jim Warren seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.

6. **Old Business.** None.

7. **New Business.** Jim Warren suggested we change the way we handle planting trees in the village right of way. Currently, the village plants a certain size (2½ diameter in recent years) and type of tree (usually a maple) in consultation with the property owner. Instead, he suggested that the village pay a flat amount to residents. He said this would enable property owners to plant larger trees at their own additional expense if they desired to do so.

8. **Adjournment.**

Jim Warren moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.