

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2022

Meeting was held at The Barn (internet was out- no zoom)

Officials Present: Trustees Jim Warren, Steven Anisman, Susan Wright, Anne Slattery, Ed Woods Clerk Jan Buonanno Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht

Citizens present: Nancy Caseo, Charles Dewey, Jim Thatch

1. Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

2. Minutes: There was no change to the August 2, 2022 minutes. AS moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting. JW seconded. The Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

3. Guest Speaker – Jonah Spivak, Town of Bennington

- Tally from game camera on right-of-way for April- August
-239 people, 7 bikes, 31 dogs, 1 hunter, lots of wildlife, 12 people “going toward the bushes”
- A camera focused on the monument parking lot requires a state contractor, could be part of upcoming renovations, requires a letter of support from the trustees
- Questions left to answer: number of police incidents on Monument Circle in the last 5 years, how do Old Bennington residents feel about the idea of a path, how to block the intersection with the right-of-way to Bank St, statistics on walking path crime (does making a path change crime?).
- 250th anniversary coming up- assume big celebrations will happen at the Monument

4. Citizen Comments

- JT is in support of the path

5. Fidium

- Utility work was seeded with grass when weather conditions improved.

6. Reports of Commissioners and Officers

a. Road Commissioner: Fairview potholes patched, MSK completed the coring on Bank and Fairview. Fairview traffic count by BCRC completed- counts will determine if road can be changed to Class II

b. Tree Commissioner: Brush and tree clearing at Walloomsac Inn

c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner: nothing to report

d. Police Commissioner:

- 22 hours, 12 property watches, 0 traffic tickets, \$0 in potential fines.
- Commissioner met with Police Chief Ducette- looking for a new officer from within the force after Officer Corey’s retirement.

- Chief Doucette will create a memorandum of understanding regarding the relationship between the village and town.
- Commissioner working toward selling old police cruiser
- Discussion about giving funds allocated to new cruiser purchase to the Town of Bennington, leasing the cruiser back from them.
 - Less responsibility and liability
 - No maintenance and technology upkeep that the village is not qualified to perform.
 - Commissioner will work toward drafting a memorandum of understanding with Chief Doucette that can be voted on

e. Treasurer: taxes coming in, \$6857 ARPA money

F. Acting Administrative officer: AS moved to appoint Nancy Coseo Acting Administrative Officer, EW seconded, the motion passed unanimously. A.O position still open, need to fill the zoning board ASAP.

7. Warrants: AS moved to approve the warrant list. JW seconded. The trustees unanimously approved the motion.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment: AS makes a motion to adjourn, SA seconds. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.