

Village of Old Bennington  
Trustees Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2022

Meeting was held at The Barn

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

Citizens present: Leigh Kremer, Jill Jones

1. Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm
2. Minutes: There was no change to the June 7, 2022 minutes. SA moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting. AS seconded. The Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
3. Citizen Comment: None
4. Walloomsac Inn Update (JW)
  - Contacted state historic preservation officer, Laura Trieschmann- office is aware of the project.
5. Contract with Bennington Police Department (AS)
  - No record of existing contract found
  - Commissioner planning a meeting with Chief of Bennington Police to discuss the idea that BPD could own the cruiser, body cam, ect. and the village leases it from BPD. Police equipment involves knowledge out of the scope of Trustees' expertise.
6. Discussion of Old Bennington Roads being Maintained by Town of Bennington
  - Village is diverting tax funds from Bennington & getting behind on the road maintenance. What is the alternative?
  - \$128,000 total taxes per year, \$700,000 immediate road expense (Bank & Fairview), \$300,000 in reserve. Most tax money goes to roads.
  - Possibility of other money available (state & federal) is frequently raised.
  - Bond possibility (VLCT) to save reserve- recessionary conditions on the horizon
  - Is there an opportunity to work with the Town of Bennington on roads? Historically no, but worth asking again.
  - How would the loss of road autonomy affect the citizens of the village?
7. Planning & Zoning discussion
  - Planning board: 2 seats open with each carrying 4 year term 2022-2026
  - Zoning board: 1 seat to finish open 2 year term 2021-2023; 1 seat to finish open 3 year term 2020-2023
  - Bob & Suzanne's terms are up
  - 3 volunteers got in touch after EW posted on Nextdoor, incumbents would also continue.
  - Qualifications for open positions: familiarity with open meeting law, zoning & planning documents, objectivity, willingness to gather information
  - JJ: rules have been enforced capriciously

- LK: process too arbitrary, interested in an open seat
- SA makes a motion that EW proposes bylaws changes related to reporting structure for planning and zoning. AS seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

#### 8. Reports of Commissioners and Officers

##### a. Road Commissioner

- Update on MSK: \$7,000 coring contract, scheduled for this summer
- Fairview: cost of paving without structural repairs: 1 coat \$18,000, 2 coats \$28,000 by Boudoin Paving
- Missing street signs on order
- Striping only on Rt 9 & Elm st in the future.
- Stripping removal option on Monument: could be ground off, leaves a shadow
- EW makes a motion to ask VTrans to remove yellow lines on Monument. AS seconds. EW, AS, SW in favor; JW & SA opposed. Motion passes

##### b. Tree Commissioner.

- Monument Elementary School: Stumps ground, red maples will be re-planted away from power lines.
- 9 Monument: tree contractor hired by property owner.
- Dead tree at the stop sign at the monument will be removed & won't be replaced- it has already been replaced several times.

##### c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.

- none

##### d. Police Commissioner.

- Officer Corey- 82 hours, 36 property watches, 8 tickets, potential \$1437 fines

##### e. Treasurer.

- Quickbooks rate raised rate to \$380 a year- treasurer saved data & moved to Quicken

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

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business. Where are the documents from the past 50 years? Stark St playground storage building. Plan for an inventory of records.

12. Adjournment: SA made a motion to adjourn; SW seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.