

Village of Old Bennington  
Trustees Meeting Minutes  
August 6, 2019

Officials present: Trustees Andy Buchsbaum, Charles Edson, Susan Wright, Ron Rabidou, and Jim Warren as well as Clerk Steven Anisman and Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht.

Officials absent: none

Residents present: Megan Schwarzkopf

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.
2. Minutes.
  - a. There were no changes.
  - b. Ron Rabidou moved to approve the draft minutes for the July 2, 2019 Trustees Meeting, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
3. Citizen Comments. Megan Schwarzkopf mentioned that a cobblestone in the road on Monument Avenue north of the islands is missing. She has also weeded the area by the fountain.
4. Reports of Commissioners.
  - a. Road Commissioner.
    - i. Andy Buchsbaum presented a brief update on the sidewalk grant. According to the state web site, award notification will happen at the end of August.
    - ii. The road condition assessment is currently in draft form without costs yet assigned. It is quite thorough, although based on visual inspection only (core samples or other advanced analyses could be considered if necessary in various areas). Every road in the Village will need some amount of work - there are recommendations of varying degrees for each road. It will be reviewed by the Board when complete and then likely posted online with a summary for public review. Work will not begin until next fiscal year.
    - iii. Approximately \$1,800 of patching has been completed on the roads of the Village in the last month.
    - iv. Appachee Salt will be providing salt to the village again this season as part of a state-wide contract.
  - b. Tree Commissioner.
    - i. Jim Warren had no report.
    - ii. Megan Schwarzkopf presented an aerial view of the trees on the Village Islands indicating the condition of each tree. There is a good amount of work that needs to be done and many trees that appear to need removal. The islands are relatively over-planted compared to other village greens in other New England localities. The cost of the entire project is very likely to be significantly above the tree budget, even if distributed over many years. A plan should be developed.

- c. **Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.** Susan Wright is planting the garden at the Monument (brown-eyed susans, which are sturdy and long-lasting). The stones in the center of the north island were discussed; they have come into disrepair, possible methods of restoration were considered.
  - d. **Police Commissioner.** Charles Edson presented the report - a significant dollar-value of traffic tickets was issued, but the state has been slow in paying the village its share of fines in recent months.
  - e. **Treasurer.**
    - i. Multiple expenses were paid, details are in the Treasurer's Report.
    - ii. Some overdue taxes have been outstanding for many months despite multiple letters. A registered letter has been sent to confirm receipt with no response. Penalties continue to accrue.
    - iii. Kathy Wagenknecht presented the warrant list. Ron Rabidou moved to approve the warrant list, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.
5. **Old Business.** A gift for Donna Berry had previously been discussed in appreciation for her 50 years' service. A serviceberry bush was decided upon if Donna would be willing to accept the gesture, possibly with a certificate and a plaque. Charles Edson plans to discuss this with her and report back to the Trustees.
6. **New Business.** Ron Rabidou mentioned concerns regarding the safety of the posted notices. The Vermont League of Cities of Towns have confirmed that physical notices do need to be posted. They will be placed in a plastic sleeve to protect them.
7. **Adjournment.** Ron Rabidou moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.