

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2022

Meeting was held on Zoom

Officials Present: James Gallen, Jim Warren, Steven Anisman, Ed Woods, Susan Wright
Clerk Jan Buonanno, Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht

Citizens Present: Callie Fishburn (BCRC), Jill Jones, Suzanne Buchsbaum, Bob Bullington ,
Danielle Gallen, Cat Bryers (BCRC)

1. Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:02
2. Minutes: There were no changes to the posted minutes. EW moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. SW seconded. The Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
3. Presentation and Discussion with BCRC about bylaw updates
 - a. Municipal Consultation:
 - Village plan developed 2017 & updated every 8 years covers land use, natural resource, transportation, energy. Zoning bylaws are used to implement the village plan.
 - BCRC also offers energy planning, solid waste, transportation, economic development, emergency management, environmental planning (Old Bennington relies on Bennington for most of these things)
 - Land use planning is the area BCRC has the most to offer villages like Old Bennington
 - b. Diving into the solar issue from February meeting:
 - General solar placement rule: a community can't be any more restrictive for solar placement than for other businesses (example: if parking spots are allowed, solar is allowed) Tricky when there is little or no commercial development.
 - Vermont Act 174 gives some latitude for regulating solar placement & screening, however the community has to have a plan for reaching 90% renewable energy first.
 - Because the entire village is a Design Review District, there is possibly more leeway on regulation, but more research is needed.
 - Decision: JG will add a note to the website that solar bylaws are in flux-contact zoning administrator for more info.
4. Citizen Comment
 - none
6. Reports of Commissioners
 - a. Road commissioner
 - Water still flowing on island
 - b. Tree commissioner

- Jerome will fix up a tree on the island

c. Parks and sidewalks

- New contract from Pembroke for landscaping this year- SW reviewing with KW

d. Police

- Officer Corey: 87 hours, 10 tickets, 51 property watches, \$1677 potential fines
- Waiting for Bennington police budget to pass for body cam/vehicle update

e. Treasurer

- Spending a lot on salt
- Remember to pay rent to Old First Church every year

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

9. Old Business:

- Budget needs to be finalized for the April meeting- Commissioners get numbers to KW by March 15th, please.
- There is extra money for highway work because it didn't get done last year
- Agreement on in-person annual meeting with zoom option, asking unvaccinated people to mask & distance.
- Find someone to run the zoom because it would be too hard for the moderator to do both.
- Publish meeting warning in Banner.
- JG making an annual report, Distributed by May 1.
- List of eligible voters posted in 2 places on website. Send postcard to all voters.
- KW resigning, JB running again, auditor not heard from. Trustees: JW running again, SA open either way.

10. New Business:

- Next month: meeting in person at the barn barring any nasty surprises.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48.