

Village of Old Bennington
Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2019

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

Officials absent: Treasurer Kathy Wagenknecht

Residents present: Jill Jones, Megan Schwarzkopf

1. Opening. Ron Rabidou called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
2. Minutes.
 - a. There were no changes.
 - b. Ron Rabidou moved to approve the draft minutes for the August 6, 2019 Trustees Meeting, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
3. Citizen Comments. Jill Jones asked if the agenda will be posted online. It will be posted regularly in the future.
4. Reports of Commissioners.
 - a. Road Commissioner.
 - i. Andy Buchsbaum presented a brief update on the sidewalk grant. We were awarded the grant. The work is likely to be completed in a timeframe similar to last year's work.
 - ii. The road condition report should be finalized and available for review at the next Trustees meeting. Jason Dolnetch hopes to be available to discuss his findings at that meeting.
 - iii. We are awaiting a salt proposal from Jerome for this upcoming winter season.
 - b. Tree Commissioner.
 - i. Jim Warren presented an update on the dead tree at Fairview and Walloomsac. The current owner is planning to sell the property which may delay resolution of the issue.
 - c. Parks and Sidewalks Commissioner.
 - i. Susan Wright presented an update. Rudbeckia (brown-eyed Susans) were planted around the Old First Church Marker located in front of the church on the village green.
 - ii. The parks are being weeded and mowed appropriately.
 - d. Police Commissioner.
 - i. Charles Edson presented the report. Andy worked 96 hours, performed 56 property checks, and issued 23 tickets worth \$3,764 in fines.
 - ii. Dr. Mahler's property, in which police vehicles and equipment have been stored, has been sold. It is unclear if there will still be a place to store the car in the future. Efforts by Charles Edson and Andy to reach the new owners have so far been unsuccessful. Other locations are being considered.
 - e. Treasurer.

- i. Multiple expenses were paid, details are in the Treasurer's Report.
- ii. Kathy Wagenknecht was away. Ron Rabidou 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. Charles Edson spoke with Donna, who would be willing to attend a ceremony if we can coordinate with her. She would prefer a bench rather than a serviceberry bush. Meghan Schwarzkopf noted that the recently selected curved benches are unstable and frequently falling over; alternative styles may be more stable. Susan Wright had images of options, and she will research possibilities. Charles Edson suggested that there may be excess funds in a police reserve account that could be loaned, although other trustees felt it might be preferable if the citizens of Old Bennington supported this privately, as has been done in other cases. It would probably be placed in the Spring, perhaps to coincide with the Annual Meeting.

6. New Business. There was none.

7. Adjournment. Ron Rabidou moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm, Andy Buchsbaum seconded the motion, and the trustees unanimously approved the motion.