

Village of Old Bennington  
Special Trustees Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2022

Meeting was held on Zoom

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

Citizens Present: Ron Ravidou, Deanna Mallory (Bennington Museum), Martin Mahoney (Bennington Museum)

1. Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:03
2. Discussion of invalid motion made at April Meeting regarding Stopping Stones Monument
  - Violation of open meeting laws- topic was not in the agenda for the April meeting
  - Vote is voided
3. Museum representatives detailed research into Peg's (and others enslaved in Bennington) life: Peg 's life unusually well documented through diary & ledger- was sold from Porter-Phelps farm in MA to owner of Catamount Tavern in 1772 and then sold back.
4. Discussion
  - RR stopping stones project is political and does not belong on village sidewalks. Would prefer context- better suited to museum exhibits.
  - EW & AS see it as historical rather than political
  - Technology issue- Stopping Stones website needs to be better.
  - Museum interested in researching more and telling larger story of People of Color in Bennington/Vermont
  - SA wonders how future monuments will be decided
  - SW- 'abolished slavery' isnt the whole story of Vermont history
  - DM- Plaque subtle and simple on purpose
5. Motion: AS moved to approve the Bennington Museum proposal to install a Stopping Stones 4" x 4" bronze plaque in the sidewalk behind the catamount statue and in front of the residence owned by Elizabeth Warner and Graham Moore and is the original location of the Catamount Tavern. EW seconded. The trustees unanimously approved the motion.
6. Adjournment: AS made a motion to adjourn. EW seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42.