



# Village of Manchester, Vermont

PO Box 482  
Manchester, Vermont 05254-0482  
(802) 362-1515  
villageofmanchester.com

## **Regular Meeting**

**Village of Manchester Board of Trustees**

**Monday, January 4, 2016**

**4:30 p.m., Village Offices**

**45 Union Street**

**Present:** President, Brian Knight, Trustees: Tom Dyett, Jim Lewis and Andrea Ross; Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector, Julia Arvin; Zoning & Planning Administrative Officer, Eric Scott

**Absent:** Trustee, Tom Deck

**Visitors/Guests:** Donald Brodie, Bob McCafferty (Southern Vermont Art Center [SVAC]), Michael T. Bailey (SolarFest), Laurie Dunham (SolarFest), Patricia G. Murphy, Charles (Chic) Murphy, Naomi Bindman

**President Knight called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.**

**Trustee Lewis motioned to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 7, 2015. Trustee Dyett seconded and so voted.**

**There was nothing to report under the President's Update.**

**There was review of the Special Events Permit for SolarFest and a presentation was made by Michael Bailey of SolarFest outlining the event currently scheduled for July 15-17, 2016 at the Southern Vermont Art Center.**

**President Knight indicated that the Special Events Application was well completed, that he had received phone calls and emails in support of the event but that some residents and board members had various questions and concerns. In general, there is concern is about the size of the event, the traffic it will produce, policing, control of the overnight situation, and how these matters will be handled by SolarFest and SVAC.**

**President of SVAC, Bob McCafferty spoke giving a general overview of SolarFest and pledged his support of the event.**

**Mike Bailey from SolarFest provided a written overview of Solar Fest. Two handouts were provided that explained what the event is about and provided statistical information on past SolarFests. The general premise of the event is education on renewable energy in a fun and artistic atmosphere. A short history of the event was also provided.**

**Additionally, the reasons for the need to move the event from Tinmouth were mentioned and the reason for choosing Manchester and, in particular, SVAC were covered. Mr. Bailey went on to explain that the group was very aware of, and sensitive to, the potential impact on SVAC's neighbors. He indicated that the total number of anticipated attendees who would be camping on site was likely to drop from 2014's count of 500, but the group did expect an increase in day visitors (up from 698-802). SolarFest has the ability to limit the number of tickets available if needed. Mr. Bailey also discussed the event's "quiet camping" policy.**

**Patricia and Charles Murphy voiced concern about fire danger. Chief Bourn has not been contacted about an emergency plan to date; however, Mr. Bailey indicated that public safety is paramount and the group does plan to talk with Chief Bourn in the future.**

**Donald Brodie voiced concern about the event in general and quoted the Village of Manchester Municipal Plan. He stated that the Special Event Permit should be denied.**

**President Knight expressed appreciation for Mr. Brodie's views and mentioned that the Village Municipal Plan pertains to permanent business in the Village and not to temporary special events permits.**

**Although absent, Trustee Deck provided some written questions which were read. Some concerns were determined to have been previously addressed. His desire that the event have a minimal adverse effect was communicated to the group.**

**At this point in the meeting it was apparent that additional information needed to be obtained by the SolarFest group. Further definition in the following areas is necessary: fire/emergency concerns, the number of parking spaces (enough for the traffic); overall traffic control; and clearly defined boundary markers. President Knight requested Mr. Baily's return to address these concerns.**

**Trustee Ross motioned to issue SolarFest a provisional Special Events Permit subject to an adequate response and follow-through to the above mentioned concerns. Jim Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

**Reports were then submitted as follows:**

- a. Roads and Trees (J. Lewis):**
  - i. First snowstorm- new snow machine works well. Not much salt used to date.**
  - ii. Two trees are scheduled to come down. An amount of \$725.00 over the previous quote will likely be needed.**
  - iii. The Village is embarking on a project of looking at every tree in the Village right-of-ways. A request to bid for tree removal will be going out in late February.**
  - iv. The Union Street Bridge project is fully completed. The grant reimbursement request has been submitted.**
  - v. Upcoming road projects have been identified as: Union Street and Rte. 7 in front of the Taconic Hotel. It is possible that construction vehicles caused some road damage in front of the Taconic but the exact cause will be hard to pinpoint. State grate money is possible and a grant application will be**

completed for potential assistance with the costs of improving these two areas in the next fiscal year.

- vi. Mr. Brodie posed a question on the painted white lines on the outside of the road. The lines seem to end when drivers cross from the Town of Manchester into the Village of Manchester. Trustee Lewis will research this issue to provide an answer to this question.

b. Treasurer/Tax Collector (J. Arvin): written report submitted and on file.

- i. Two more tax payments were received since the last meeting

ii. Twelve tax payments are outstanding as of January 4, 2016.

c. Administrative Officer (E. Scott) – Written Zoning Report submitted and on file.

- i. DRB meeting was cancelled – quiet month with nothing coming up at this time.

d. Legal: None

**2. Other business:**

- i. The Taconic Hotel submitted an Outside Consumption Liquor Permit. Trustee Ross motioned to approve the permit and Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

There being no further business and no need to go into Executive Session, Trustee Ross motioned to end the meeting. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted accordingly. The meeting ended at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Missy Bell-Johnson  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
and Assistant Clerk