



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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DRAFT MINUTES

**Special Meeting - Wednesday 9/16/20
Village of Manchester Board of Trustees
Bennington County Courthouse
45 Union Street, Manchester**

In Attendance: Trustees - Orland Campbell, Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano, Nina Mooney and Brian Maggiotto; Headmaster of Burr and Burton Academy - Mark Tashjian

Public: Ellen Ogden, Craig Powers, Clark French, Donald Brodie

President Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. He welcomed Mr. Tashjian and asked that he comment on and/or address the issues appearing in the Warning of the Special Meeting: Buses, parking lights, greening, traffic and speed on Seminary Avenue and surrounding roads; and parking issues on West Union Street.

Buses - Mr Tashjian asked for some clarification and was told that the issue was school buses using Dillingham and Franklin Avenues. He indicated that Burr and Burton (BBA) did not control the school buses as they were owned and operated by others. He did say, however, that all responsible for the buses had been told by the school to access the parking/bus area by going up Seminary, turning right and then left into the parking/bus area and not to access via Franklin/Dillingham.

Parking Lights in the new parking area - Mr Tashjian noted that the lights had been left on in error upon the completion of the parking error and apologised for the mistake. He indicated that the lights are now "under control" and that the plan is to use them only when necessary, ie. during the late afternoons during the Winter and when various night events require them, but they would be dimmed as much as possible and would not be on later that 10 pm. He also noted that the street lights in the area were, in his opinion, much brighter than necessary and various residents of the area agreed with him. It was noted that Village personnel are trying to get the problem resolved and that it remains a problem for the Village to address.

Traffic and Speed on Seminary Avenue and the surrounding roads - Mr Tashjian indicated that there was not much that BBA could do on these issues as they were not within the school's

control. President Campbell indicated that he had spoken to the Town Manager and the Manchester Chief of Police about having an increased presence on the roads near and around the school at times when the students were coming from or going to school. Campbell further noted that currently speed is not much of a problem due to construction and resultant congestion on the roads, but indicated that he would follow up with the Chief of Police when normal road conditions returned. Craig Powers suggested speed bumps or dips in the area of Franklin/Dillingham noting that they reduced traffic speed greatly at Manchester Elementary and the Rec Area. Various board members indicated that this was actively under consideration and that speed “dips” would probably be created in the not too distant future. It was also noted that the new Stop signs on Prospect Street at Taconic seems to have had the effect of slowing down traffic on that street. Mr Tashjian indicated that he would welcome increased police presence and speed dips as safety precautions benefiting the school and its students.

Easing Parking on West Union Street - President Campbell indicated that there was a real problem with parking on West Union Street with people accessing the trails on Mt. Equinox. He indicated that the signs allowing parking in BBA’s upper parking lots had been taken down during the early stages of the construction process, and wondered if BBA would have any objection to putting the signs back up and allowing people to park in the upper lots on weekends. He said that the suggestion had been made to cover the signs during the week when the students needed that area. Mr. Tashjian indicated that he would look into it and get back to the board.

Greening - Trustee Mooney expressed concern that BBA had not followed the landscaping plan that was part of its State Act 250 permit. She also expressed a desire for increased screening of the parking area. She was joined in her concerns by Ms. Ogden. Mr. Tashjian indicated that the landscape designer had just inspected the final plantings and indicated that all was in compliance with the plan. He indicated that he would check to make sure that he was correct and that if BBA was not in compliance it would remedy the situation with all due speed. Ms. Ogden expressed a desire to become involved and work with the school to try to develop better screening that would shield the parking area from its neighbors. Mr. Tashjian indicated that he would welcome her input on such a plan and would be happy to work with her. It was noted that ingress and egress to the parking area, as well as limited space might limit the possibilities.

There being no further questions or discussion relative to BBA the Board thanked Mr. Tashjian for his participation and willingness to work with the Board. Mr. Tashjian then departed.

The Board then had a general discussion on how it would operate over the coming year and various possibilities were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm
Respectfully submitted,

Orland Campbell, Jr. - Acting Clerk