



Village of Manchester, Vermont

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Regular Meeting

Village of Manchester Board of Trustees

Monday, August 7, 2017

4:30 p.m., at the Village Offices, 45 Union Street

In Attendance: President, Brian Knight; Trustees: Tom Deck, Bill Mariano, Jim Lewis; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector, Julia Arvin and Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Secretary, Missy Bell-Johnson

Absent: Trustee, Andrea Ross

Public: Jay Venable, Donald Brodie, Richard Moore, Anthony MacLaurin, Marian Haines

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

Approval of the Minutes:

Jim Lewis then motioned to approve the minutes for the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 10, 2017. Bill Mariano seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Tom Deck motioned to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting held July 10th. Jim Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Trustee Lewis motioned to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting held July 17, 2017. Trustee Deck seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

President's Update:

An update was provided on the Cowles settlement agreement. All parties have agreed on the terms and the next step is to motion for dismissal with prejudice. An approved copy of these minutes from the July 17, 2017 meeting will be sent to the attorney so he can proceed with the motion to dismiss.

Reports:

- a. **Roads and Trees (J. Lewis):** An issue at the Blitz home on West Road has been resolved. The project will be funded primarily by the property owner. The Village will assist with some man hours to reshape the sidewalk in order to facilitate drainage and allow for modifications to the driveway.

The paving of Taconic is scheduled to start this week.

- b. **Treasurer/Tax Collector (J. Arvin):** The tax bills were mailed this morning. We are not accepting postmarks this year. The office will remain open until 5:00 pm on the due date of September 15th. The change was made to solve some long standing problems with receiving timely payments.

A transfer of funds from the Permits and Fees account to the checking account took place last month.

We are very slightly over budget this year due to legal fees and the Taconic paving project.

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

2. Other business:

Marian Haines introduced herself and mentioned the pride she has over the ascetics in the Village. She noted that the sidewalks in front of her house need to be repaired. She also stated that one side of Taconic Road has marble sidewalks that over time have been buried. As this is a historical part of the Village she would like to see the sidewalk in this area brought back into shape.

President Knight agreed that Ms. Haines' concerns were important and he shared his concern on the same subject when he became a trustee in 1997; however, there are challenges to this idea. Some sidewalks are outside of the right-of-way and some of the homeowners on Taconic do not want sidewalks on their property. The budget is also an issue. This year's budget has been set. The Village can address this matter next year but it would be impossible to tackle the whole project in one fiscal year.

Jay Venable asked if a grant would be available to pay for the project. Mr. Knight explained that most grants must be matched by the Village and that has an effect on the budget. We are more careful about grants at this point as we need to have a grasp on what the Village can actually afford.

Donald Brodie mentioned that the Town of Dorset asked the citizens to contribute to their sidewalk project and suggested that this might be a possibility for the Village. The sidewalks and River Road Rock Wall were also mentioned as costly items for the Village. The trustees have been very concerned about raising taxes in the past and with an increase in taxes likely in the future, we need to make sure we keep costs in check. Marian will work on a proposal similar to Dorset's for the Trustees to review.

The Taconic Hotel was brought up as a source of tax revenue. Julia Arvin mentioned the amount billed to the Taconic actually replaced the revenue from five separate properties. Ms. Haines mentioned that the Village needs to somehow direct Homeowner's to replace trees when other are taken down. President Knight mentioned that, as residents, we can comment that we would like these property owners to take action, but in the end, the property owners are allowed to maintain their homes the way they like. Ms. Venable asked if it would be possible for the Village to write a letter to the residents. Tom Deck mentioned that writing a letter could have its challenges. President Knight committed to look into the letter idea.

Richard Moore asked about a tree campaign that happened years ago. Donald Brodie mentioned that he may be referring to the tree inventory that took place several years ago.

President Knight concluded the conversation by saying the concerns voiced were points well taken. Julia Arvin added that the City of Rutland buys trees in bulk and sells them to the residents. Maybe the Garden Club or the Lion's Club could help with something similar.

Jay Venable voiced concern about vehicles speeding on Route 7A. Tom Deck, Julia Arvin and President Knight brought up the attributes of the electronic warning signs the Village will be

purchasing this year and how this plan is designed to slow down drivers. Anthony MacLauren mentioned that police coverage and “speed traps” in the Village have increased.

At 5:12 pm. Brian Knight moved to go into executive session to discuss Planning Commission appointments. Tom Deck seconded the motion and so voted. All public attendees left the meeting

At 5:43 pm the executive session ended and Donald Brodie returned to the meeting.

President Knight moved to reappoint Constance West, Anthony MacLauren and Nina Mooney to the Planning Commission for two year terms and to appoint Marian Haines to the Planning Commission for a one year term to replace the vacancy created when Karen Walla resigned. Tom Deck seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Donald Brodie commented that the recommendation to appoint Orland Campbell and Craig Powers to the Planning Commission was to bring the membership of that group up to eight people. President Knight said he was concerned about members serving on more than one committee and went on to say that currently serving alternates were available to both the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board. It was also mentioned that the Bylaw revision project will be assigned to the Development Review Board and Mr. Campbell’s and Mr. Powers’ knowledge and experience will be needed and appreciated as that project gets underway. A short list of other possible future appointees was mentioned.

Tom Deck was then re-appointed as the Trustee Liaison to the Planning Commission. Andrea Ross was reappointed as Trustee Liaison to the Development Review Board and Bill Mariano was appointed as Alternate Liaison to the Development Review Board. Trustee Lewis was reappointed Road and Tree Warden. Brian Knight mentioned that the reappointment and appointment of members to the various committees is decided by the Board of Trustees for the term mentioned in their respective appointments and not “until their successors are appointed and are qualified.”

Donald Brodie then asked if Marian Haines had submitted her curriculum vite. The Secretary was asked to obtain Ms. Haines’ CV.

Other Business:

A discussion took place regarding the winter maintenance of the sidewalks. The east side of Main Street has been given priority for plowing in the past. This plan will continue this coming winter with other sidewalks being plowed as time permits.

A discussion on business signs currently located in the right-of- way (ROW) commenced. While there is an understanding that the placement of some signs currently in the ROW are “grandfathered”, President Knight urged all concerned to use every opportunity to encourage applicants to relocate signs to be in conformance with the bylaws. Bill Mariano was asked to look into the matter.

There being no further business. Trustee Lewis motioned to end the meeting. Trustee Deck seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The meeting ended at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Missy Bell-Johnson, Secretary to the BOT