



# Village of Manchester, Vermont

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## **Regular Meeting**

**Village of Manchester Board of Trustees**

**Monday, October 7, 2019**

**4:30 p.m., at the Village of Manchester Office, 45 Union Street**

**In Attendance: President, Brian Knight; Trustees: Richard Moore, Jim Lewis and Nina Mooney; Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Secretary, Missy Bell-Johnson**

**Public: Anthony MacLaurin, Marian Haines**

**President Knight opened the meeting at 4:30 pm and noted that a quorum was present.**

**Trustee Moore motioned to approve the minutes for the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 9, 2019. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor of approval.**

**Mr. Brodie asked the Board whether a citizen could take marble sidewalks for their own personal use. There was a discussion of what was done in the past. Hope was expressed that the sidewalk on Taconic could be restored. President Knight explained that he spoke with many residents on Taconic about the sidewalk many years ago and that there was a lack of resident support. The sidewalks in this area had been discussed by the BOT fully, and it was determined that restoring the sidewalk on Taconic was going to be too costly. Trustee Moore opined that the Village should not remove what is currently in place, or if it is removed it should be used for Village use. Several Trustees agreed with Trustee Moore's view. The condition of the sidewalk and its history was discussed. Trustee Lewis mentioned that he would like a clear and consistent policy on the sidewalks. Trustee Moore motioned that all marble sidewalks that are within a right-of-way of the Village of Manchester may not be partially or totally removed from the right-of-way except by action of the Village Board of Trustees. In addition, the Board of Trustees encourages homeowners to undertake efforts to make the sidewalks visible and accessible whenever possible. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.**

**Trustee Lewis addressed the proposed 2019/20 Tree Work List. As he had not had time to review the list he asked if the discussion could be tabled until the next meeting. Trustee Moore asked for confirmation on what the list entailed. The process of identifying the trees and forming the list was discussed. It was confirmed that the list will go out to bid when it is finalized. Ms. Haines mentioned that she was glad the Village was removing stumps.**

**The Board then reviewed a letter from Donald Brodie and Audrey Kolloff of the Planning Commission. The letter conveyed the Commissioners requests to have Lu French appointed to the Planning Commission for a two year term. President Knight addressed a concern that the**

recommendation was not provided by entire Planning Commission. Commissioner Brodie explained the process used to obtain a consensus of the Planning Commission for the letter. Trustee Moore asked about the authority to recommend members. President Knight explained the appointment process and offered that with Commissioner Brodie's representation that he spoke with a majority of the Commission, he would like to proceed with the decision. Trustee Mooney motioned to appoint Lu French to the Planning Commission for a two-year term. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Brodie then referred to the portion of the letter that addressed the creation of an Energy Plan for the Village. He explained that the Planning Commission would be working with the Bennington County Regional Commission on the creation of the plan. The Board of Trustees will vote on the plan after it is made available for review at a public hearing.

#### **Updates on Outstanding Issues:**

- Seminary Avenue, West Road and Route 7A; the Bennington County Regional Commission is putting together a proposal for this area.
  - Bennington County Courthouse (B. Knight & N. Mooney); Ms. Mooney updated the Trustees on the first meeting of the task force. The group is working on the costs of maintaining the courthouse and possibilities of future use have been discussed, as were the possibility of grants and the need for ADA compliance.
  - Holiday Lighting (B. Knight); the lamppost retrofit has been completed. Ms. Haines explained the plan for the décor. The wreaths and lights will be purchased from Aubushon Hardware once enough donations are made. The amount needed is currently being calculated.
1. President's Update (B. Knight); None
  2. Reports:
    - a. Roads and Trees (J. Lewis); River Road is scheduled for paving next week (weather permitting) There are areas of Union Street which will be patched at that time. The illegal curb cut on Union Street was discussed and it was agreed that the matter will be addressed at a meeting with Trustee Lewis, the Road Forman and Donald Brodie for Equinox on the Battenkill. All expressed the need to have the matter resolved.
    - b. Treasurer/Tax Collector (J. Arvin); Ms. Arvin did not attend the meeting but President Knight spoke with her earlier in the day. She reported that taxes are still coming in and spending is within the limits proscribed by the budget.
    - c. Administrative Officer (E. Scott) – review of written Zoning Report (on file.)

The meeting ended at 5:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Missy Bell-Johnson