

**BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, AUGUST 08, 2016

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Jacobs – Chair; Michael Keane-Vice Chair; Jim Carroll; Jeanne Conner; Jeannie Jenkins; Donald Campbell;

Absent: Justin Corcoran

ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Michael Harrington, Economic & Community Development Director; Keith Whitcomb, Bennington Banner; Linda E. Bermudez – Secretary; (9) Citizens

At 6:00 P.M., **Tom Jacobs** called the meeting to order.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CONSENT AGENDA (A-B)

A) Minutes – July 25, 2016

Jeannie Jenkins wanted to clarify the reason and purpose of Youth Appreciation Day that was discussed at the last Select Board's meeting. Ms. Jenkins submitted the following: "The 2013 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated that only 39% of 10th Graders surveyed (in Bennington) agreed that 'in your community you feel like you matter to people'. This was the fourth lowest response within Vermont. While the numbers of high school students responding in a positive way has increased in the 2015 report, Bennington County is still statistically below the state average".

Ms. Jenkins also wanted it noted Nevin who spoke regarding the Youth Appreciation Day last name was Lessard.

B) Warrants

There were no questions.

MOTION: Donald Campbell motioned and Jim Carroll seconded to accept and approve the minutes of July 25, 2016 with notation as well as the warrants as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously (*Justin Corcoran absent*)

3. CITIZENS

Jeff Grimshaw, Sam Restino and Jeff Fortier stepped forward. The 15th Anniversary of “9/11” is approaching. They would like to form a committee to organize a commemorative service honoring the First Responders and those who were lost. This would take place on September 11th, which is a Sunday this year. He would like to invite First Responders, dignitaries and folks from the surrounding area, as we are the only ones with an actual piece of the World Trade Center in our memorial for many miles.

Quantum Leap is developing a mosaic and would like to present it to the Town on that day as well. Jim Carroll stated he would like to be on this committee

Tom Jacobs asked Mr. Carroll to take the lead on this. Mr. Carroll stated in the current political climate it is important to be reminded of what it means to be an American.

Mr. Grimshaw said anyone could be on this committee; all are invited to join.

Mary Lee Chicote, an employee of the State of Vermont announced that all First Responders on 9/11 would have free admittance to all Vermont Historical Sites.

Additionally, Ms. Chicote stated the Bennington Battle Monument will be 125 years old this year. On August 20, 2016 there will be a “Monumental Birthday Party”. Everyone is invited.

Jennifer and Hans Krijnen stepped forward. They are the owners of 1001 Main Street. They are requesting time restricted parking for the (3) parking spaces in front of their business.

The Manager stated currently the only limited time parking spaces are in the designated downtown area where parking meters used to be.

Tom Jacobs stated he would like to place this on a future agenda for further discussion. This would require a designation/defined area and a change in the ordinance. Donald Campbell agreed he would like further discussion. He believes there is a safety issue/concern as well.

John Likakis stepped forward for a brief update on the Bennington Airport. He stated the most recent fly-in received good reviews regarding service. They are however still looking for some “courtesy cars”. The Manager stated the new Police vehicles are expected at the end of August. Once they have been “de-policed” they can be made available.

Mr. Likakis continued by stating in the meantime they have worked with the Chamber of Commerce to organize shuttles during Garlicfest. The next fly-in is scheduled for this coming weekend (Battle Day weekend). They are expecting 60-70 aircrafts and have scheduled shuttles for between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

Sam Restino stepped forward and expressed concerned for public safety. He would like to see additional visual speed machines in town. Mr. Restino asked the board for ideas on how to resolve these issues. Mr. Jacobs stated he would like to bring the Chief of Police in on the discussion on another date.

Michael Harrington wanted to update the Board on the citizen survey. He handed out a draft of survey and asked the Board to review it. Mr. Harrington asked for feedback/comments by next week. He would like to distribute to the public this fall. Michael Keane stated he appreciates all the work being done on this.

Jackie Kelley wanted to request Green Mountain Bus Stops. Many know of the service but not where they stop. Tom Jacobs stated Green Mountain Express would need to address this.

Bill Wicks, farmer on the west end had a question regarding a flag salute discussion. Mr. Jacobs stated it was not on this evening’s agenda.

There were no other citizen comments this evening.

4. ARTICLE 30 - PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE

Tom Jacobs noted this was the second reading. Michael Harrington reviewed the minor edits that were requested at the last minute. These changes are more clarifying of items.

Donald Campbell thanked Mr. Harrington and the Board for accommodating his last minutes requests.

The Board reviewed and discussed those items.

MOTION: Michael Keane motioned and Jim Carroll seconded to adopt the Property Maintenance Ordinance with word changes as discussed this evening. Motion passed unanimously (*Justin Corcoran absent*)

5. BARNEY ROAD PURCHASE

The Manager noted the State of Vermont has made an offer to purchase this area to be used as a “chain-up” area for trucks before heading up Woodford Mountain. The offer is for \$40,000. It has been appraised and reviewed by Town Council. The Town staff recommends the sale. The goal would be to create a parking area and a walking trail to the river as well. However we need to define the area (draft site plan) as such with the following conditions:

MOTION: Donald Campbell motioned and Jim Carroll seconded to accept the State of Vermont’s purchase offer for the Barney Road property as presented with the following conditions: “1) *The sale of the Barney Road property, subject to final approval by the Town staff of the public parking area easement and the site plan (including a written commitment to complete all improvements indicated on the site plan prior to June 2017; and 2) authorization to publish the required public notice. Town Staff also recommends that the Select Board direct that the proceeds of the sale be placed in the pathways reserve fund to help offset match requirements for planned pathways that have received (or will receive) grant funds with local match requirements.*”

Discussion:

Donald Campbell stated as a kid he had always hoped some type of park would be build there. He is very happy to finally see something move forward.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously (*Justin Corcoran absent*)

6. MANAGER’S REPORT

The Manager announced there were openings on Boards and Commissions as follows:

- (2) Seats on the Housing Authority
- (1) Seat on the Design Review Board
- (1) Seat on the Planning Commission

The Manager noted there is one applicant for the Planning Commission already. He will share the application and set up an interview time for the Board.

Tom Jacobs stated that if the public or any Select Board members knew of a recommendation for any of the other open seats please encourage them to apply. These are important seats with important functions in our community.

Michael Keane stated he would like to have these Boards/Commissions do some type of presentation. He would like a dialogue to understand what they do and where they would like to do moving forward.

The Manager also mentioned an additional seat open on the Board of Listers. He will contact these Boards and arrange for their presentations. The Manager asked if they would like to conduct these discussions during regularly scheduled meetings or set them up for a public meeting on a different night. Mr. Jacobs asked the Housing Authority to be scheduled during a regular Select Board meeting. The remaining discussions can be set for a public meeting on a different evening.

Lastly the Manager noted that there are some additional wells with PFOA contamination in the south end of Chapel Road. He asked all those who received the postcard in the mail to make sure they put their return address on the card so he may track your interest properly.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Donald Campbell stated it was a great weekend at the Southern Vermont Arts & Crafts Festival and hoped many also attended the Home Brewfest. Mr. Campbell asked the Town Manager to advise the Highway Department that the Morgan Street wall looks beautiful and was very tastefully done.

Lastly Mr. Campbell would like to propose a hiking trail along Whipstock Hill. The Manager stated he would pass this on to Dan Monks so he may approach the Forest Service.

Jeannie Jenkins stated this past weekend was wonderful. Downtown was great, the event at the Museum, 1st Friday, Arts & Crafts and the Brewfest. All seemed to go very well.

Michael Keane expressed the same. He also reminded the public that the next day is Voting Day in the Primaries.

Mr. Keane stated the Pleasant Street Block party went well. Town Staff did a great job. He is also impressed with the amount of work on the pathway between Bennington College and Hannaford. He asked if the Town does any advertising of the Morgan Spring wetlands area. The Manager stated we do not because it is not finished yet. It is still a work in progress.

Tom Jacobs stated it was a pleasure to be caught in so much traffic this weekend. The events were well done and he thanked everyone involved.

Mr. Jacobs does have a safety concern however regarding bicyclists on the sidewalks. There is an ordinance but it seems to be often ignored. Perhaps more/better education is in order before someone gets hurt.

Lastly, Mr. Jacobs noted that a farmer's sign at the intersection of Silk Road is creating a hazard. The Manager stated the State must deal with this as Route 67A is a State road.

Jim Carroll asked about the new Habitat for Humanities project. The Manager stated this would be a (6) lot subdivision on North Branch Street. Mr. Carroll suggested to memorialize Timothy Corcoran the roadway be called "Corcoran's Way".

Mr. Carroll also advised the public to not open any e-mails they do not recognize. He did so on his phone and it completely froze. The sender requested money to un-freeze his phone. Mr. Carroll stated do not give them the money. He called his phone provider (AT&T) and they were able to walk him through clearing the virus from his phone at no cost.

Tom Jacobs stated there was a need for Executive Session.

Motion: Michael Keane moved and Donald Campbell seconded a motion finding that an Executive Session be held on a contracts and personnel matter and that premature general public knowledge of that matter would place persons involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion passed unanimously (*Justin Corcoran absent*)

8. Executive Session

- A. Contracts**
- B. Personnel**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary