

Village of Manchester

Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting: October 4, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Village of Manchester Offices, 45 Union Street, Manchester

In Attendance: President Orland Campbell, Trustees: Jim Lewis, Bill Mariano, Nina Mooney and Brian Maggiotto; Clerk/Treasurer and Tax Collector Donald Brodie; Assistant Clerk/Treasurer and Office Administrator Missy Johnson

Public: Marian Haines, Keld Alstrup, Catherine Bryars/BCRC, Callie Fishburn/BCRC, Kim Weiss Levit, Melissa Levis, Albert Levis and Ted Shiffman

President Campbell opened the meeting at 4:27 pm.

Trustee Maggiotto moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 6, 2021 as written. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Ms. Johnson provided an administrative update.

The Board reviewed the paving problems on Union Street and Equinox on the Battenkill (EOB) and considered a request for reimbursement for repair of same. President Campbell mentioned that he had met with the road foreman after reviewing the letter received from EOB and he considered the amount of money requested a bit high. He mentioned that a couple of the locations listed did not need much work. It was mentioned that the Village road crew could have repaired the problems which would have saved on labor. The cost of paving materials was discussed. Mr. Brodie was asked if would like to speak on behalf of EOB and he declined. It was questioned why the paving company was not asked to fix the problem when it was discovered. Some other curb cuts on Union have been repaired by the road crew without involving a paving company.

The Board prepared to vote on the request for reimbursement from EOB. Ms. Johnson mentioned that it had been previously noted by a Village resident that this meeting of the BOT had not been properly warned. It appears that the service that posts warnings to the Village website was not available. President Campbell

asked Ms. Johnson to confirm the state statute on warnings of regular meeting and she complied.

Although no vote could be taken, it was generally agreed that the Village would reimburse Equinox on the Battenkill for \$2,000.00 of expenses related to re-paving the main access to the complex. Other access points were deemed to be in acceptable condition.

Kim Levit introduced herself and discussed the challenges people encounter in walking on Ways Lane and asked if something could be done to make walking in this area safer. She suggested the placement of signs to slow drivers down. President Campbell stated that signs were possible and mentioned that several Town of Manchester police officers had given notice of pending resignation so that enforcing any new signage could be a more of a challenge than normal. The type of signs and placement was discussed. Ms. Bryars provided some ideas and suggested that Mark Anders from BCRC be consulted. Trustee Mooney suggested a pedestrian sidewalk. Trustee Maggiotto mentioned his history in this area and stated that he felt it was not a safe place to walk. He also questioned what could be done that would also work with state requirements. The road foreman will be consulted and this matter will be followed up on at the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of the BOT.

The Board then reviewed the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development's funding to support municipal bylaw modernization. Ms. Bryars spoke about the opportunity. Questions were posed and answered. A deadline of November 15th was provided. It was confirmed that what would be developed under this grant would be subject to BOT approval. Whether ARPA could be used to supplement the cost was discussed and tabled. Ms. Bryars requested a resolution be passed by the Trustees. Trustee Maggiotto moved to pass the resolution provided by the BCRC (attached). Trustee Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

It was mentioned that there was no update on the Village Post Office parking signs.

President Campbell provided a brief reasoning behind a proposal of a possible merger between the Village of Manchester and the Town of Manchester and possible approval of a trustee meeting with the Town of Manchester Selectboard

to discuss same. It was mentioned that this plan would consist of a multi-layered approval should the Village and the Board decide to move forward. The trustees were polled on their opinions. Mr. Brodie questioned the fate of the Village Post Office should the merger happen. Discussion ensued and the subject was then tabled.

The Board then briefly discussed ARPA funding. Some ideas for allocation of the funds were provided by Mr. Brodie.

Mr. Brodie then asked if the Trustees would move to pass a resolution to open a special bank account with Bank of Bennington for deposit and distribution of the ARPA funds. Trustee Mariano moved to open the new account for the ARPA deposit and distribution. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The Board then reviewed and discussed the State of Vermont Attorney General's notification of Opioid Settlement and possible resolution to participate in the settlement. President Campbell mentioned that he did not think the Village was a good fit for receiving funds from this settlement and that it was likely the Village did not qualify. There were no questions or comments.

Discussion moved on to planting of trees. Trustee Mooney indicated that 3 trees would be planted this fall and that she would be looking at sites with the road foreman and Tree Commissioner Lewis. An update will be provided at the next meeting. It was generally felt it was not too late in the season to plant the trees.

Trustee/Road Commissioner and Tree Warden Lewis reported that this year's sidewalk project is almost finished. It was commented that the sidewalk looked great. It was also mentioned that a streetlight in the area of the new sidewalk was moved and refurbished. Discussion ensued regarding the striping of the roads. There is a shortage of paint, so supplies, including signs, are backordered.

President Campbell then asked for public comment:

Ted Shiffman introduced himself and provided a lengthy description of a problem he is experiencing with a neighbor. The neighbor has been playing music at a high volume both day and night. The police were called more than once when the

amplified sound continued passed 1:30 am. Additionally, spot lights at this home are shining onto other properties which is also causing issues. The home is being rented on a short-term basis some of the time, and may be marketed as a “party house.”

Possible solutions to the problem were discussed. Mr. Shiffman requested that the Village look into passing a noise ordinance. Trustee Maggiotto mentioned effort being made on the state level to track short term rental. Mr. Shiffman offered to write a formal letter to the Board and attend the next regular meeting to continue the discussion.

Keld Alstrup followed up on the repairs to the River Road Rock Walls. He commented on the deteriorating state of the walls and mentioned that those living in the area feel like second class citizens as nothing is being done. He continued by saying that this was the third year he has requested an answer and that the Board has failed, so far, to provide an adequate reason for the problem. Both President Campbell and Trustee Lewis opined that the Village of Manchester does not own the rock walls.

Discussion then turned back to the merging of the Village of Manchester with the Town of Manchester. President Campbell questioned whether the Village would gain anything from such a merger. Marian Haines asked where the idea originated from.

Trustee Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 pm. Trustee Mooney seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The next Regular Meeting of the Village of Manchester Board of Trustees will be held on November 1, 2021 at 4:30 at the Village of Manchester Office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Johnson, Office Administrator