

**Village of Woodstock
Board of Trustees
Informational Meeting
March 9, 2021
7:00 pm
Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Jeffrey Kahn, Seton McIlroy, Daphne Lowe, Brenda Blakeman, Bill Corson, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Peggy Fraser, Jon Spector, Jennifer Falvey, Police Chief Robbie Blish, Mary Riley, Jill Davies, Todd Ulman, Greg Camp, Don Wheeler, Janet English, Alison Clarkson, Fire Chief David Green, Edgar Smith, Neil Allen, Gareth Henderson, Jack Rossi, Karen Copenhaver, William Colson, Antonia Richie, Sarah Adams, Jay Flaster, Alita Wilson, Barbara Barry

A. Call to order

1. Chair Kahn called the Trustees Informational Meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

B. Greg Camp – Reading of Warning

1. Mr. Camp, the Village Moderator, read the Village Warning (attached to the minutes).

2. Candidate statements

- a. Chair Kahn stated that he is running for another three-year term for Village Trustee. His motivation is to give back to the Village that has given him so much.
- b. Mr. Corson is running for the two-year term for Village Trustee. He stated that he has lived in Woodstock for a few years. He was appointed to Village Trustee last September. He has a great attention to detail. He is very active with other boards and attends to know more about what is going on in Woodstock.
- c. Ms. Blakeman is running for the one-year term for Village Trustee. She stated that she wants what is best for the community. She has been a business owner in Woodstock for 35 years. She has a love for the Village and the people who reside there.

3. William Kerbin – Budget presentation

- a. Mr. Kerbin shared a PowerPoint presentation which is included in the minutes.
- b. Mr. Spector asked if the Village has any assets that will need to be replaced or repaired.
- c. Mr. Kerbin stated that this will be addressed in the Capital Plan. Sidewalks come out of the Select Board budget.
- d. Mr. Spector encouraged the Trustees to set aside some amounts of money, so that when assets fail there will not be a huge cost to taxpayers.
- e. Ms. Marrinan asked if there are any structures that the Village is responsible for that the Town is not.
 - i. Mr. Kerbin replied no.
- f. Chair Kahn stated that a few years ago the village decided to not have its own Highway Department. Once the merger happened the maintenance of sidewalks

and roads now falls on the Select Board. The Trustees manage what people can do on top of the sidewalks.

C. Jeffrey Kahn Presentation

1. Mask Ordinance

a. Chair Kahn stated that Woodstock had the very first mask ordinance in the state of Vermont. They are proud to have done so. The ordinance worked very well to keep our community and visitors safe.

2. Short Term Rental Ordinance

a. Chair Kahn stated that the Short-Term Rental Ordinance went into effect last year for the first time. They did not have many Village homes registering to have a short-term rental in their home last year. This may be due to Covid. He reminded everyone that it is necessary to register before the end of April. Registering requires an inspection by Chief Green. The fines for not doing so are substantial.

3. Cannabis Committee

a. Chair Kahn stated that at their last meeting they put together a Committee to gather information possible dispensaries of Cannabis in Woodstock in 2022. Towns have to opt in if they want to have a dispensary. The committee consists of Karim Houry, Seton McIlroy, Keri Cole, PJ Eames, Melanie Sheehan, Kimberly Gilbert, and Chief Blish will offer advice to the Committee.

4. Overlength trucks

a. Chair Kahn stated that there is currently a move in Montpelier to remove the permit needed for overlength trucks to go through Woodstock. He, Chief Blish, and Mr. Vandenburg met with the Transportation Committee to explain why they think it needs to remain in place. They can expect an additional 15,000 trucks to come through the Village. The Senate of the Transportation Committee believes that trucks should not have to travel the extra 5 miles to get to their destination. There may be a chance for a joint committee from the Senate and the House to form to discuss this further.

D. Seton McIlroy Presentation – Police Union Contract

1. Ms. McIlroy stated that last spring the Police Department voted to unionize. They negotiated over a few months. There was really good conversation back and forth. Both sides had needs. It is a good contract.

E. Bill Corson Presentation – Parks

1. Mr. Corson stated that there are seven parks in Woodstock. The grand gem this year is the East End Park. The park got its momentum from Sustainable Woodstock. It was vacant land owned by the Village and used as a now dump. This is a great improvement. They have an amphitheater, labyrinth, beautiful lawn, and river access. The Garden Club spent a lot of time on this. Adjacent to the park is the Ottauquechee River Trail. The park is for rent. The fees are nominal. Money that comes from the fees goes to the maintenance of the park. This spring lines will be painted on the new tennis courts in Vail Field. Faulkner Park has been a big topic of discussion this year. The Trust does not feel it can manage the physical aspect of the park. Some people feel it would be a great gift to the Town. One concern is that the \$850,000 that the Trust is proposing to give

with the park will not be enough to take of the park long term. Marianne Faulkner's Will is also of concern. Some people believe giving the park to the Town goes against her Will. The Faulkner Park Committee looked at both sides of it. The Select Board will make the ultimate decision. If the Select Board approves, the proposal will go to the courts where they will have to approve it.

2. Ms. Richie stated that the Trustees should try to consider allowing people on certain days or certain times of the day to allow dogs to be off leash in the parks. Dog people do not have a place to allow them to get the exercise they need. She may get a petition together so the Trustees can see how much interest there is in this topic.

F. Brenda Blakeman Presentation – Parking meters & kiosks

1. Ms. Blakeman stated that in December, she started removing all of the old parking meters around the Village. They replaced them with 49 new meters and 4 kiosks. They still accept coins, as well as credit cards. You can also use the Park Mobile App. It is \$1.35 for an hour for the mobile app. The app will alert you when your time is running out. You can then add more time from the app. It is a unique system. They need to educate the people about the three options. It is easy and simple. The kiosks are really great. In the future if they are well received, they could use more kiosks.
2. Chief Blish stated that they only enforce parking for six hours per day. People can buy as much time as they want on the app.

G. Daphne Lowe Presentation – Route 4 paving project

1. Ms. Lowe stated that there was an Informational Meeting on March 3rd with VTrans. Paving is going to begin in late April or early May. The exact start date is going to be decided by the contractor. It is a Class I paving project. The grading is going to take about 14 days. All of Route 4 in the Village will be paved. There will be a lot of traffic. VTrans is going to be as considerate as they can.
2. Chair Kahn stated that part of this contract allows for night work. The first month or so will be the worst disruption. He is hopeful it will start in April but there is no guarantee. The September 24th end date is firm and must be done by then unless there was significant delay due to weather.

H. Village Report & voting information

1. Chair Kahn stated that hard copies of the Village Report are available in the Town Hall lobby, the post office, People's United Bank, Rec Center, Gillingham's, Elevation Clothing, and the Unicorn. There is also a full copy available online on the Town website. This year it was dedicated to the East End Park

I. Adjournment

1. This part of the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm and was followed by the regular Trustees Meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*