

**Village of Woodstock
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 8, 2022
6:30 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Jeffrey Kahn, Seton McIlroy, Brenda Blakeman, Bill Corson, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Jill Davies, Ray Bourgeois, Tess Hunter, Police Chief Robbie Blish, Beth Finlayson, Wendy Marrinan, Peggy Fraser, Luke Hanson, Julien Icher, Nico Seldon

A. Call to order

1. Chair Kahn the Trustees Meeting of February 8, 2022, to order at 6:30 pm.

B. Interview for Planning Commission

1. Mr. Seldon stated that he finds the Planning Commission interesting. He has some ideas that he would like to see incorporated. He is a full-time resident here. He shares a similar outlook to what Woodstock can be and should be with a lot of different residents here. There is a need to preserve the way Woodstock is and has been but there is also an overarching theme of making sure that Woodstock is attractive, and not only to our tourism. It would also be helpful to Woodstock's real estate prices. Real estate prices stay high when Woodstock is an important destination town. Woodstock needs more walkable areas, and bicycling paths. He thinks they can do better. He would like to contribute to the Town Plan.

C. Citizen comments – none

D. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda

1. Additions
 - a. Schedule meeting to approve Village Warning
 - b. Budget approval

E. Manager's report

1. General report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that union negotiations are proceeding with the Town employee's union contract. February 28th will be the Joint Meeting with Katie Buckley. She is the ARPA coordinator for the State and she can give them some pointers about where they can hone in on some additional ARPA dollars and what they can use those ARPA dollars for. They have relaxed the loss revenue rule which allows the Village and the Town to put that towards any general government function. That meeting will be at 6:30 pm. The approximate total of the Town and Village will be about \$950,000. He is working with the auditor on the draft budget and finalizing a couple of things on that. Hopefully, Tyler Kimberly can be available to present that at the March meeting.

2. Financial report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that not too much has changed from last month. The real estate tax revenue still needs to be moved over. He is going to talk to the auditor this week to see when that will occur. The interest income is low because of interest rates being where they are right now.

F. Police Chief's report

1. Chief Blish stated that Corporal Donka will be back to work on the 13th of February. They will only be one officer down which will be a relief. They have hired a new part-time officer. He is happy to announce Matt Frates will be joining them as a part-time officer starting on March 1st. He is local. He will start the part-time academy on March 7th. That is a two week academy. He will have some field training. It will probably

be six months or so before he is on his own. He will be a good addition to the new crew. The new cruiser will be finished being upfitted soon. They are waiting on some new equipment for it. The old equipment would not fit into the new cars, so they had to order, and it took longer for the parts to come in. The EMS building is coming along soon. He is hoping the police side will be done by the end of March. Their part-time officer, Officer Neily, moved to Florida. The Woodstock PD participated in the school day Walk to School Day for Woodstock Elementary from the Green.

G. Use of the Green Permit – Puppies & Pooches on Parade – Friends of NWPL

Motion: by Ms. McIlroy to approve the use of the Green permit for Puppies & Pooches on Parade as submitted by Friends of NWPL.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

H. Old business

1. Ballot language for retail cannabis

- a. Ms. McIlroy stated that the official language for the retail cannabis will say, “shall the Village of Woodstock authorize cannabis retailers in the Village pursuant to 7 VSA section 863”.

Motion: by Chair Kahn to approve the language for retail cannabis for the Village ballot.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: Ms. McIlroy stated that they are not allowed to make any special rules for cannabis retailers. They have to be treated the same as any other retailer.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

2. Certified Local Government Ordinance

- a. Chair Kahn stated that they were already present with this at a previous meeting. They have not voted to accept that ordinance.

Motion: by Chair Kahn to approve the Certified Local Government Ordinance.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

3. 1% Local Option Sales & Use Tax

- a. Chair Kahn stated that the Select Board has already voted for putting this on their ballot. He thinks it is a good idea for the Trustees to do the same. They can use those funds for capital expenditures. A capital expenditure is defined as any expenditure for land, land improvements, buildings, building improvements, vehicles, equipment, and any expenditure for infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, wastewater distribution and collection systems.

Motion: by Chair Kahn to add the 1% local option sales & use tax

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-0-1, passed. (Chair Kahn for, Ms. Blakeman for, Mr. Corson for, Ms. McIlroy abstained)

4. Saint James Church Sidewalk request

- a. Chair Kahn stated that the Church was concerned about being required to clear their sidewalks of snow as everyone must in the Village because some of their sidewalks are in bad shape and it is difficult for them. He has asked Mr. Kerbin to talk to Elijah Lemieux to see if they can when the weather permits improve those two rough areas. However, he would like them to continue clearing the sidewalks.

5. Mask requirement

- a. Chair Kahn stated that the Village mask requirement expires today, and it is up to the Board to decide whether they want to renew it for 30 days.
- b. Mr. Corson stated that he thinks they should continue it. They have been doing well for the last month. People seem to be obeying this requirement. Numbers are not getting any better. They are diving down a bit but not enough.
- c. Ms. Blakeman disagrees. She stated that numbers have dropped drastically. Reports came out this morning that state they are not sure if the masks are really being all that helpful. A lot of states are going to get rid of their mask mandates and let people choose as they please how to conduct their businesses regarding masks. She does not think they need to have a requirement.

Motion: by Mr. Corson to extend the mask requirement for the Village until March 8, 2022.

Seconded: by Ms. McIlroy.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-1-0, passed. (Chair Kahn for, Ms. McIlroy for, Mr. Corson for, Ms. Blakeman against)

I. New business

1. The Lafayette Trail request

- a. Mr. Icher stated that he is the founder of The Lafayette Trail. He is 28 and from France and he created this nonprofit in America. They would like to place a sign on the Green recognizing General Lafayette's Farewell Tour.

Motion: by Chair Kahn to approve the Lafayette Trail request to place a trail marker on the west side of the Green, with the wording approved by the Woodstock History Center.

Seconded: by Mr. Corson.

Discussion: Mr. Corson stated that there could be other things that are as or more important in the history of Woodstock to be celebrated with signs and that we may have a clutter of too many signs.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

2. Banner request – March for Meals

Motion: by Ms. McIlroy to approve the banner request for March for Meals to be placed on the Green.

Seconded: by Chair Kahn.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

J. Other business

1. Schedule meeting to approve the Village Warning

- a. Friday at 8:45 am.

2. Budget approval

Motion: by Chair Kahn to move the tree fund from the special articles into the operating budget and to approve the budget.

Seconded: by Ms. McIlroy.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

3. Woodstock Wheels

- a. Mr. Hanson stated that he had the idea to switch locations for his business to East End Park a few months ago. It is more heavily trafficked. It is easier to get on the road and also have a storefront for his operation as well instead of using the Rec Center's parking lot. The owner of the Freight house building is allowing him to store his bikes in the basement. It has a ramp that leads up and he will have some bike racks there. He is not selling anything except for his e-bike rentals. It is a better location for the e-bikes and easier for people to hop on the routes. They will go down Pleasant and then toward Barnard.

Motion: by Chair Kahn to allow the usage of the Village part of that drive area at the East End Park for the use by Luke Hanson for Woodstock Wheels provided that the Village of Woodstock is listed as co-insured on a sufficient insurance policy and that he check in with Planning & Zoning.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

K. Executive session to discuss appointment

Motion: by Mr. Corson to enter executive session to discuss appointments at 8:15 pm.

Seconded: by Chair Kahn.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

The Village Trustees exited executive session at 8:20 pm.

Motion: by Mr. Corson to appoint Nico Seldon to the Planning Commission.

Seconded: by Chair Kahn.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

L. Approval of minutes

1. 1/11/22 minutes

a. Page 3 – plain

Motion: by Ms. McIlroy to approve the minutes of 1/11/22 with the one change as noted above.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

2. 1/13/22 joint minutes

Motion: by Ms. McIlroy to approve the joint minutes of 1/13/22 as submitted.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

M. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Corson to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Seconded: by Ms. McIlroy.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*