

**Village of Woodstock  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 10, 2023  
6:30 pm  
Town Hall & Zoom  
Minutes**

**Draft minutes are subject to approval.**

**Present:** Chair Seton McIlroy, Jeffrey Kahn, Brenda Blakeman, Bill Corson, Gabe DeLeon, Tom Yennerell, Nikki Nourse, Tess Hunter, Sarah Wraight, Kevin Swanson, Police Chief Robbie Blish, Beth Finlayson, Alice Stewart

**A. Call to order**

1. Chair McIlroy called the Village Trustees Meeting of January 10, 2023, to order at 6:30 pm.

**B. Citizen comments – none.**

**C. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda – none.**

**D. Manager’s report**

1. Mr. Yennerell stated that the Select Board finalized their budget today. Interviews have begun for the replacement person in the Highway Department.

**E. Police Chief’s report**

1. Chief Blish stated that they participated in the holiday DUI campaign over the Christmas holiday for Governor Highway Safety. They will fill their vacancy in February. The meter revenue for December was \$14,902.

**F. Permits**

**1. Sidewalk permits**

**a. Sidewalk Sale Days (May) – Chamber of Commerce**

- i. May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

**b. Sidewalk Sale Days (August)**

- i. This will be on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> which is a Friday and Saturday. If it looks like it is going to rain people put a tent out but leave space for people to be able to walk underneath. Mostly the downtown business district participates. It is for people that have sidewalk frontage.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to approve the sidewalk permits for Sidewalk Sale Days in May and August as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed (Mr. DeLeon was not present).

**2. Parade permits**

**a. Wassail Parade & Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides – Chamber of Commerce**

- i. Ms. Finlayson stated that she is requesting the same horse parade as they have had in the past. They are also looking to do wagon rides through the Village Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It was well received last year. It would be the same hours as last year. The horses and the drivers can only do a certain number of hours which is 3-4 hours.

**b. Taste of Woodstock – Chamber of Commerce**

- i. Ms. Finlayson stated that this would be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>. They would like to do the same thing as last year. They are hoping to have bigger and better music. They are also looking for some sponsorship this year so they can hire a small bus and have people park at the high school. It got very challenging last year.
- ii. Mr. Kahn stated that they can also take advantage of the use of the elementary school parking lot. There are about 30 spaces there.
- iii. Ms. Finlayson stated that they have to keep one side of the street open so that an ambulance or fire truck could get down. They generally keep the east side open for that.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to approve the parade permits for the Wassail Parade & Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides and the Taste of Woodstock as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

### **3. Use of the Green Permits**

#### **a. Wassail Weekend – Chamber of Commerce**

- i. Ms. Finlayson stated that they would like to have garland connecting the tents to make it look pretty and more together.
- ii. Ms. Finlayson shared a letter and photos (included in minutes).
- iii. Mr. Kahn stated that they do not know what is going to happen this coming year. There is talk of recession. He would like to table this until next month so they can get more information on things like food vendors.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to table the Use of the Green Permit for Wassail Weekend until February.

Seconded: none.

Motion failed.

Motion: by Chair McIlroy to approve the Use of the Green Permit for Wassail Weekend as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: Mr. Kahn stated that he wants to be clear that out of the 25 booths approved, only 8 can be crafts. He would like it to align with Market on the Green rules which state 20% of vendors can be crafts.

Ms. Blakeman asked why limit it to 8?

Mr. Kahn stated that that Saturday is extremely important to merchants in the Village. The idea is to increase experience, not take sales from businesses.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to amend the motion to state that crafts be limited to 8 booths.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote on amendment: 5-0-0, passed.

Vote on entire motion: 5-0-0, passed.

#### **b. Market on the Green – Chamber of Commerce**

- i. Ms. Finlayson stated that the Market has been happening since 2006. The published dates will be May 31<sup>st</sup> through October 11<sup>th</sup>, but they will

also have it October 18<sup>th</sup> if weather permits. They are asking for up to 40 tents which includes the Chamber booth. They have had additional flower people ask to be there. They are looking for more prepared food to be there. They had 35 vendors last year. It is from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The rules are the same.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to approve the Use of the Green Permit for Market on the Green as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Seconded: by Ms. McIlroy.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed (Mr. Corson left the meeting).

**c. Art Festival – Chamber of Commerce**

- i. Ms. Finlayson stated that this would be on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. It is the weekend after Labor Day. It is from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. They had 25 vendors last year. That includes Rotary and a food booth.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to approve the Use of the Green Permit for the Art Festival as submitted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Seconded: by Mr. DeLeon.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

**G. Old business**

**1. Smoke Free Parks**

- a. Ms. Wraight stated that she works as a senior planner with TRORC. One of the jobs that she does is assist towns with health policy language.
- b. Ms. Stewart stated that she works with the Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership which is housed within the Community Health Department at Mount Ascutney Hospital. She works with regional planning partners to assist towns to create current and comprehensive smoke free and vape free parks. Woodstock's current ordinance did not have vaping or cannabis included. They also added a few parks and the disposal of these products. They can order free signs from the State.

Motion: by Chair McIlroy to approve the Ordinance for Smoke Free Parks with the amendment to take out the word prominent, and remove the Gore and Faulkner Park, and add Met Peg Park (public section).

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

**2. Review of Sidewalk Study**

- a. Mr. Kahn stated that he and Ms. Blakeman walked the sidewalk routes that have been covered in the Sidewalk Study. Mr. Kahn and Ms. Blakeman believe that the study did not focus on areas that are heavily used. Areas that they say are poor but are also heavily traveled should have priority over ones that are poor and not used as much. They created a list. He is recommending waiting to discuss this in detail when they have the new manager here at next month's meeting. They will want to take action early on in order to line up contractors.

b. Tabled.

**3. Town Manager Goals and Objectives**

- a. Mr. DeLeon stated that he and Mr. Corson made the goals more concise and to the point. This way they will be easier to achieve. A lot of what was in the original document was already in the job description.
- b. Mr. Kahn suggested removing the emergency services goal.
- c. Chair McIlroy stated that she will talk to Fire Chief David Green. This will also go to the Select Board.

**H. New business**

**1. Village Meeting Planning**

- a. Chair McIlroy stated that Village Meeting is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. Ballots have to be ready by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Any petitions for special articles are due by February 9<sup>th</sup>. For people wishing to run for office, the deadline is February 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in the conference room.

**2. Village Report**

**a. Cover**

- i. To be decided by Chair McIlroy.

**b. Dedication**

- i. The Village Report will be dedicated to Police Chief Robbie Blish.

**I. Other business – none.**

**J. Adjournment**

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Seconded: by Chair McIlroy.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nikki Nourse*

# WOODY'S

## mercantile

Woody's Mercantile  
7 Central Street  
Woodstock, VT 05091

Dear Woodstock Chamber of Commerce,

I'm writing in support of the Wassail Weekend experience by including artisans on the green as an additional venue for the event. As a merchant in the Town of Woodstock, this is one of the most successful times of the year and I believe we need to expand the festivities in order to accommodate the amount of people attending.

Similar to the Farmer's Market in the summer, this will NOT take away from my business.

The goal is to keep customers coming back year after year and if the weekend becomes too crowded and congested, we won't have repeat attendance. By offering more venues, it will spread everyone out and encourage participation as well as leave them wanting to come again the next year.

My observance of the most recent Wassail is that we could have had more for attendees to do and more for them to eat! They are coming to Vermont to immerse themselves in the area and including local artisans is exactly what is needed for the event.

The more we can leave a lasting, positive memory for the attendees, the more Wassail will grow = more business for everyone.

Thanks for your consideration.

Suzi Curtis, Owner  
Woody's Mercantile



