

**Village of Woodstock  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 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, Eric Duffy, Nikki Nourse, Tess Hunter, Linda Smiddy, Karim Houry, Benjamin Pauly, Paul Hansen, David Steele, Steven Bauer, Beth Finlayson, Kevin Geiger, Laura Powell, Frank Horneck, Geoff Martin, Jon Spector, Roger Logan, Wendy Marrinan, Roger Amata, Bill McDonald, Police Chief Joe Swanson, Dave Whitney

**A. Call to order**

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

**B. Finance Committee interview – Renee Herbert – not present.**

**C. Public hearing to review transmittal draft of proposed amendments to the Village Zoning regulations**

1. An overview of Act 47 was presented to the attendees, with a discussion about its implications for housing regulations and the Village's approach to it.
2. A discussion was started regarding the Village's approach to zoning regulations was explained.
3. The presentation discussed the specific changes in dimensional requirements, including square footage per unit and lot frontage.
4. The Village's definition of affordable housing was revised based on State standards, and the importance of finding a middle ground between affordable and market-rate housing was discussed.
5. Mr. Spector emphasized the Finance Committee's efforts to develop a long-term financial model for the Village and mitigate any increases in taxes. He discussed the need to diversify the economy and population of the Village.
6. Mr. McDonald expressed concern about the possibility of more building in the Village. He questioned the room for further construction and potential impact on infrastructure.

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to accept the amendments to the Village zoning regulations as presented.

Seconded: by Mr. Corson.

Vote: 4-0-1, passed. (Chair McIlroy for, Mr. Kahn for, Mr. Corson for, Mr. DeLeon for, Ms. Blakeman abstained)

**D. Citizen comments**

1. Mr. McDonald requested his \$400 fee be abated to fill in his pool.
  - a. The Trustees denied the request.

**E. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda**

1. Addition – Dancing Witches permit
2. Deletion – executive session

**F. Manager's report**

**1. General report**

- a. Mr. Duffy discussed financial matters and updates.

**2. Financial report**

**G. Police Chiefs report**

1. Chief Swanson highlighted that the Village experienced a significant increase in traffic congestion, particularly during a recent event. Chief Swanson mentioned that traffic had reached a level not seen since the 1990s, and the specific event details were discussed.
2. Chief Swanson provided information on the revenue generated from parking meters. It was noted that parking meter revenue had increased substantially during the congested traffic period. Chief Swanson shared insights into the challenges and opportunities related to managing parking in the Village.
3. Chief Swanson emphasized the importance of public safety during events and congested traffic. Chief Swanson also discussed potential solutions to manage traffic and parking effectively during such events.

**H. Permits**

**1. Use of the Green permits**

**a. Bookstock Literary Festival – Bookstock Inc**

Motion: by Chair McIlroy to approve the use of the Green permit for Bookstock Literary Festival for June 21-23, 2024, pending COI.

Seconded: by Mr. Kahn.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

**b. Wassail Woodstock Firefighters Relief Assoc**

- i. The event aims to raise funds to support the firefighters and the Department's needs.
  - ii. Need to discuss location and details with Chamber of Commerce.
- c. Dancing Witches

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to approve the parade permit for Dancing Witches to follow the WES Halloween Parade.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

**I. Old business**

**1. Discussion on use of remaining ARPA funds**

- a. It was explained that approximately \$159,000 in funds needs to be allocated by December 2024.

**J. New business**

**1. Rotary Mount Tom**

- a. A fundraising event was announced for the star on Mount Tom, with a goal to raise funds by March for a project set to begin in late April or early May.

**2. Halloween candy distribution**

- a. Plans were discussed for the upcoming Halloween collection, including distributing letters and collecting candy.

**3. Town police coverage contract**

- a. The contract will need to be reviewed and renewed.

K. Other business – none.

L. ~~Executive session to discuss personnel – deleted.~~

M. Minutes

1. 8/31/23 minutes

2. 9/6/23 minutes

a. Kahn

3. 9/12/23 minutes

4. 9/29/23 special minutes

Motion: by Chair McIlroy to approve the minutes for 8/31/23, 9/6/23, 9/12/23, and 9/29/23 with the one change noted above.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

N. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Kahn to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nikki Nourse*