

Wells River Village

15 Creamery Street, Wells River Vt
Phone 757-3401

Wells River Village Trustee Meeting

9/2/2021

Trustee Meetings will be held at 4pm the First and Third Thursday of the Month.

Present were: Brian Emerson, June Griswald, Jean Welch, John Paye, Tony O'Meara, Don Waterman, Richard Roderick, Mary Schilke, John Paye and Brad Vietje

Meeting Called to Order 4pm

• Approval of Agenda

• The minutes of 8/19/2021 were read and motioned to be approved by June Griswald Seconded by June

Public Comments - None

Financial - All is in good shape, Wells River was registered as a vendor to accept Capstone Payments.

Fire Proof safe - Motion made and accepted to purchase a fireproof cabinet.

Motion made to move ARPA Funds to its own Account, Mary Schilke will set one up Friday. Signees will be Trustees and Mary.

Regarding the water fund – Everything is on track and Roger Bergerson of Otter creek has confirmed, Funds will be here in a few days. I will call Crystal and explain we are days away.

Brian put an ad in to invite people on the 16th to discuss ARPA.

Brian read a letter re the Wells River Treatment Center. (See File)

Tony O'Meara spoke re the treatment center. The Town needs to know they have a voice.

Executive Session

At 4:47 the Board voted to go into executive session and invited John Paye to attend to discuss compensation.

The Board came out of executive session at 5:25 and reported they are developing a new job description for the Highway Department. As part of this job description a new way of reporting time and other new requirements are being incorporated.

The Board voted unanimously to increase John's pay from

\$20 per hour to \$23.50 per hour.

The Board voted to adjourn at 5:30

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Schilke, Village Clerk

ngalls Wilder



Joseph Parsons

Mon, Aug 30, 8:20 AM
(3 days ago)

to me, Jean, June,

beaner77

Morning Brian,

As far as I know it's always been referred to as the covered bridges treatment center. I'll shoot an email to Commissioner Brown and ask him if he knows of it being referred to otherwise. I'll let you know what I hear.

-Joe



Joseph Parsons

Tue, Aug 31, 7:15 AM
(2 days ago)

to me, Jean, June,

beaner77

Hello Joe,

The name of the new proposed facility was recently changed by Becket from Covered Bridge Treatment Program to Wells River Treatment Program. They recently learned there is another program in the St. Johnsbury area with a similar name and decided to change it to avoid confusion. I believe they chose the new name based on the river and not the village of Wells River. I have heard from several residents of Wells River who expressed a similar concern that you raised in your email. I am going to speak with the Becket leadership team about renaming the facility once again to avoid confusion with the village of Wells River since the facility is in Newbury. I hope this helps. Thanks for reaching out.

Sean

Wells River Village

15 Creamery Street, Wells River Vt
Phone 757-3401

Wells River Village Trustee Meeting

9/16/2021

Meeting called to order 4:01pm - Present were Brian Emerson, Jean Welch, June Griswold, Mary Schilke, John Paye, June Griswold, Lisa Stepanic, Don Waterman, David Durkee (sp)

*** Approval of Minutes** from September 2nd – Motion made by Brian and Seconded by Jean Welch. (June Griswold arrived late)

* Public Comments

Brian added an executive session to immediately follow close of public meeting to discuss John's job description.

Lisa Stepanic had questions regarding how properties were valued, she was directed to speak to Newbury Listers.

Don Waterman wanted trustees to review minutes from Nov 2018 to see information re grants for town updates/repairs (minutes attached)

Mary Schilke was given permission to pay for and attend the Vermont treasurer Annual Meeting Thursday 9/ 23/2021, to take classes and become member.

The parking on sidewalk south of Tullar Road still is an issue, trustees will take further action .
Financial:

Re Water Bills in Arrears Mary Schilke was directed to send a letter to individuals not keeping up with payments

New Checking account for ARPA Funds has been created

*** Grants Update**- Discussion of use of ARPA \$40,000

Brian Made motion and seconded by Jean that up to \$5000 could be used for new Office Computer and Software.

Don Waterman would like Sidewalks Fixed

Discussed securing open bay doors and fixing it up

John gave info on digital water meter costs to update water infrastructure

Village of Wells River
Creamery Street
PO Box 737
Wells River, VT 05081-0737

Village of Wells River Special Meeting dealing with transportation issues in the Village of Wells River

The Village of Wells River in conjunction with the Wells River Action Program hosted a publicly warned meeting on June 11, 2018. Due to safety and capacity issues, the meeting was held at the Wells River Congregational Church on Main Street. See attached list for attendees. Due to a scheduling conflict, Bill Schilke, Chair of the Trustees was unable to attend. Don opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and due to time constraints, put aside asking each attendee to introduce themselves and their connection with the Village.

Don turned the gavel over to former WRAP President Richard Roderick to chair the meeting. Richard introduced Jon Kaplan and Kristin Driscoll from the State of VT DOT, Kimberly Gilbert from Two Rivers, State Senator Jane Ketchell and local state rep Chip Conquest. It was noted State Senator Joe Benning was invited but unable to join the meeting due to prior commitments. Jon is the VTans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager. Jon oversees the bicycle and pedestrian program at VTans, which encompasses a broad array of policy, design, coordination, grant program and everything involved in ensuring safe access for bicycling and walking in Vermont.

Jon will forward information on this year's bike/pedestrian grant program guide (full materials can be accessed from the bike/ped page link <http://vtans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>). The link includes the pedestrian crossing guide which includes the criteria he looks at for crosswalks on the state system.

Kristin Driscoll is a District 7 Technician for the Agency of Transportation. One of the functions her department provides as a District is to offer technical support to the Towns. District 7 also oversee permits for work within the State highway right-of-way. Moving forward if the goal is to have a scoping study, the District would be involved in the review through Jon Kaplan's group. If the decision is made to do some of the work without a grant, District 7 would be involved in the review of the Permit though VTans' Permitting Service department as well as over sight of the permit once it is issued.

Kimberly Gilbert is a Regional Planner for Two Rivers Ottawaquchee. Kimberly's organization can provide meeting facilitation, grant writing, and map making throughout this process.

Don's notes

An agenda was distributed. Richard opened the discussion by stating the purpose of the meeting has been on the back burner for a long time. The impetus to move forward was triggered by the closing of the local convenience store (Jiffy Mart) in 2016.

Frank Tilghman, CEO of Wells River Savings took aim at the various conditions of the Village sidewalks – condition, layout and placement, stating that “safe” and “welcome” come to mind and gave an example of the sidewalk in front of Tuttle’s Diner. Gary Griswold, owner of Gateway Sports, raised the issue of signage and sidewalks in front of his business on Route 302 (East and West). John Cooper of Wells River Chevrolet voiced similar concerns involving RT 302. Discussions on signage also produced various opinions as to there are either too many or not enough. Richard stated that “our sidewalks are not uniform.”

Richard asked Kimberly if her organization (TRORC) could assist with grant writing and she answered in the affirmative. Jon stated that his agency could help with a program titled “Better Connections” which works in conjunction with the Agency of Commerce. The Village would be the applicant for any of the programs being offered.

Mike Thomas asked about bike lanes. Jon pointed out that road width is a factor in determining if a bike lane is possible. “Bikers prefer additional signage when speed is increased and there is more traffic”. Mike stated that the planners should determine the railroad’s future and plans for continued operation. Gary asked for clarification of subsidies for the VT railway and Amtrak – Senator Kitchel stated that the state railway is not. Mike also mentioned the significance of the Cross-VT Trail which he emphatically declared “that the trail begins in Wells River, not the other side of the state!” Fay felt being the start of the Cross-Vermont Trail is a town asset, or will be, when it’s complete. “It’s a reason tourist would come here, and there are precious few of those. We should have a defined area with signage, parking, a guide to local businesses, and the trail starting right in or very close to town.”

Fay added “it’s only a few weekends in the spring and fall, but we really are a tourist destination for kayakers. We should consider how to promote that. People currently park by the old gravel pit bridge. Chief will be rebuilding that soon, I understand. There should be adequate parking for kayakers, near there, maybe a guide to local businesses, etc.” Fay finished by stating “Wells River really needs someplace to enjoy the Wells River. Currently, you just get a glimpse through guard rails. We need a place people can sit with their ice cream cones and enjoy the water.”

Concern about speed in town seemed near universal. Fay stated that “there is evidence that the flashing speed signs work and suggested one for traffic coming from Woodsville and one on Route 5 North would be ideal”. Kristen said there are policy and guidance requirements, regarding the use of radar speed feedback signs or speed trailers on the state system but Fay felt that shouldn’t deter us. Kristen stated her office could offer technical assistance to help with map making for the flashing signs.

Others voicing concerns regarding handicap compliant, speed and/or signage were Joyce Powers, June Griswold, Frank Tilghman, Lisa Stepancic, and Kelsey Root-Winchester.

Senator Kitchel suggested that the Village create a priority list to determine which grant made the most sense. Based on Angela's comments concerning the lack of trees, she noted that trees can be including in street scaping and are import as a "traffic calming" amenity.

Jon stated that he took a quick tour of the Village prior to the meeting and said he noticed the Village "has a lot of pavement and there are some very long cross walks".

One item Kristen brought up was the idea of the village and/or town taking over a section of Route 5 as what is called a Class 1 town highway. The route retains its state/national numbering, but a portion becomes the village's jurisdiction. This makes it easier to do things like install crosswalks, make changes to curbing, etc. Kristen will forward a white paper on the topic. Richard completed the meeting by noting the "down town" area of the Village has "Village Status" with the state which qualifies for state tax credits. The funds can be used for facade improvements and handicap upgrades.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Signed

Village Trustees

WRVT WRAP DOT TROCRC 06.12.2018.doc

Meeting of the Wells River Charter Review Committee

Thursday September 30, 2021

This was the first meeting of the committee. All committee members -- Brian Emerson, Richard Roderick and Chip Conquest -- were present.

The committee was formed and members appointed by the Wells River Board of Trustees in order to review the village charter and recommend changes where the charter is in conflict with state law or the constitution, and propose other changes the committee deems appropriate.

Meeting called to order at 4:20. Richard Roderick was appointed Chair. Chip Conquest was appointed reporter.

The Committee will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00 in the Village Office. The work of the committee will be publicized and public input solicited.

The committee began a section by section review of the Charter with members proposing changes or noting significant questions. Proposed changes are unanimously agreed upon unless noted. (Charter sections are noted by only the final section number).

Sec. 2 Alteration of boundaries: Village attorney will be asked to clarify understanding of process for altering Village boundaries.

Sec. 5 Annual and special Village meetings: change "Village Hall" to Village Office. Change posting of meeting notice from "four public places" to 3 public places, to comply with current law. Residency requirement of one year in order to vote is unconstitutional and violates state election law. Village attorney will be consulted for proposed language change.

Sec. 6 Village Officers: Brian and Chip propose changing Treasurer and Tax Collector to appointed positions. Richard disagrees. [Can't remember if proposed change after discussion included appointing clerk.] Strike "and a Chief Engineer of the Fire Department". This is now a function of the Town.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting scheduled for Oct 14th, 4:00 PM in the Village Office.