

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM AND PHONE CALL-IN  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

**Present:**

Trustees: Steve Hatfield, Diane Lehouiller, Will Jennison, BJ Putvain

Others: Meredith Dolan, Rosemary Audibert, Troy Dolan, Eric Osgood, Mike Dunham, Peter Dodge, Susan Tinker, Athena Parke, Crews, Darlene, Jackie Stanton, Ken Tourangeau, Cal Stanton, Jasmine Yuris, Kyle Nuse, Bobbi Rooney, Jared Jasinski, Scott Meyer, Kim Dunkley, Shona Sladyk, Nadeau, Lynda Hill, Rick Aupperlee, Denise Bernadette, Jennifer Burton, Andrea, Andy, Anne Mullings, Carrie Watson, Bradley Fletcher, Sophia Berard, Tobin Porter-Brown, Peggy Williams, Marla Emery, Margo Warden, Joie Lehouillier, Jennifer Burton, Walter Pomroy, Jared, Gordy Smith, Mark Woodward, Darrell Wescom, Rob Rodriguez, Heather Dunbar, Elizabeth Emmons, Tess Milner, Alan Lehouiller, Greg Tatro

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

Rosemary administered the oath to the newly elected trustees and swore in village president Eric Osgood.

**1. *Call to Order***

Village president Eric Osgood called the meeting to order at 6:02.

**2. *Election of Board of Trustees Chair***

Eric asked for nominations for chair. BJ nominated Will and Steve seconded. The board voted unanimously to elect Will Jennison as chair.

**3. *Changes, Additions to Proposed Agenda***

Meredith added an update from the Covid team as item 7a on the village manager's report.

**4. *Accept Resignation of Andrew Crews***

Steve moved to accept Andrew Crews' resignation from the board, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.

Diane said since Andrew publicly indicated that he wasn't running for trustee, any votes that went to him would be considered spoiled. Whoever gets the majority of valid ballots cast should get the position. She thinks Kyle Nuse should get the trustee position.

Rosemary said she talked to the director of elections at the Secretary of State's office who said the winner is the winner and if Andrew doesn't want to serve he has to resign after the election, which he did. Will said it sounds like according to the state we now have a vacant spot on the trustee board.

Kyle asked, is there no discussion about the motion to elect a chair? Meredith said she doesn't think Eric asked for discussion. She doesn't know if we have to have discussion for that sort of motion. Eric said he waited long enough and no one indicated they wanted further nominations so he went on to the vote. If he were running a selectboard meeting he doesn't think the board would discuss the nomination. He would ask for nominations and after getting them the board would take a vote. If the board had wished they could have had a discussion. Kyle said she thinks it is always good to

ask if there is discussion. Electing the chair is a big thing and she would think the board would want to talk about it.

Will asked board members if they wanted to have discussion on election of the chair. BJ and Steve said they did not have anything they wanted to say. Diane said she did. She didn't realize she should have asked. She would like to ask Will what his style of being chair is going to be.

Will said he wants to do everything according to Vermont state regulations and laws and be open and fair to everyone who shows up to meetings. Having been a trustee before, he had Gordy Smith as a mentor for how to run meetings. He hopes he can do as well as Gordy.

Diane said Eric as chair doesn't state his opinion and doesn't try to sway the board. He doesn't say anything until others have spoken. She asked if Will thinks he will do that. Will said, unlike the selectboard, historically trustees have not followed the tradition of the chair not voting unless there is a tie. His intent would be to run meetings the way trustee board meetings have historically been run.

Diane asked if Will is going to make motions or let other board members make them. Will said mostly he will let others make them. If he sees a need for a motion and it is not made, he will express his opinion and make the motion.

Diane asked if the board is going to get training on Open Meeting Law. Meredith said there was a training last week and she can provide the slides from that. There is also a recording of the meeting that she thinks she could get permission to share. She thinks that would be helpful. We did talk about having our own training from VLCT, which would cost around \$400. If she can get VLCT's permission to share the recording of last week's training board members can see if they feel they have a good handle on the topic after watching it and if people want more we can talk about getting our own training.

Will recommended that Diane find time to visit the utilities. She said she would like to do that. Steve said he hasn't done that yet either. He said he would appreciate training not just about Open Meeting Law but about things in general. It could be pretty informal. Maybe Eric or Gordy or Scott could give him some information. Meredith said she can have Dan and Troy reach out to Diane and Steve about tours.

BJ said since Will has the most experience of the board members he feels it would be a disservice to the board if we stopped him from giving his opinion.

Rick Aupperlee said he is concerned about what might be a conflict of interest. He wonders if Will will recuse himself from votes where the fire department is concerned. Will said he will recuse himself from votes about increasing pay for firefighters because that directly affects him. He will be cognizant of anything he feels is a conflict of interest but he feels that because of his direct experience with the fire department his opinion is very relevant.

Rick said he hopes this board will be forward-looking and that meetings remain open with the public able to engage in discussion.

Kyle read from a Harvard Business Review blog post about what makes a successful chair. A successful chair creates conditions that allow other people to shine, is restrained, non-domineering, leaves room for others and speaks little, with interventions that are focused more on process.

**5. *Review and Approve Minutes of Trustee Meetings***

**Steve moved and BJ seconded to accept the minutes of March 8, March 22, March 29 and March 31, 2021.**

Diane asked if the funding request to Rep. Welch that was discussed on March 29 was submitted by the deadline. Meredith said yes. Brian Story did a lot of the drafting work on it and she got letters of support.

Jackie Stanton said at the March 22 meeting Scott Meyer was referring to previous open meeting law violations and said the trustees wrongly assumed that village residents were the ones that could speak and that the mistake was corrected at the next meeting. Pam Aupperlee corrected him that night and pointed out that village residents also weren't allowed to speak. The violations were not corrected at the next meeting. They went on for four more meetings. She feels that is an important clarification to make for the record.

Will said those were the words Scott spoke. He is not sure how the board would address correcting that. Jackie said the board can just go on record as saying that what Scott said was not correct. Meredith said she thinks this meeting's minutes will reflect what Jackie is saying and accomplish that.

Jackie said at the same meeting Ken Tourangeau said that firefighters were being called racist. A member of the public corrected him and said that didn't happen, but he said it did. He was wrong. She wants that corrected. It is a really inflammatory, harmful thing to say. She wished at that meeting one of the board members or Meredith had stepped in and said that actually never happened. She is asking them to say tonight that that never happened. It is not reflected in any minutes.

Will said he agrees that at no point during the meetings has anyone called the fire department racist. He didn't assume Ken was speaking specifically about a public meeting. He could have been referring to private conversations.

Jackie asked if the board or Meredith will go on record to say that at no time were firefighters called racist in public meetings. Will said he can't speak to every meeting ever. He can say that at meetings he has attended no one has called the fire department members racist. Meredith said she never heard the term racist directed toward a member of the fire department at a meeting. Jackie asked, or toward anyone else? Meredith said she doesn't believe so.

Ken Tourangeau said he did not say that anyone at the meeting said anyone was racist.

**The motion was passed.**

**6. *Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills and Warrants / Budget Status / Action Items***

Will asked if there is anything out of the ordinary regarding budget status. Rosemary said not yet.

Meredith said she has been getting updates on our retail sales from VPPSA throughout the pandemic. We are slightly ahead of where we were in 2020. The first few months of 2020 were relatively normal, so that is encouraging. Hopefully retail sales will be above what we budgeted.

**Diane moved to authorize the chair to sign warrants on behalf of the board until in-person board meetings resume, Steve seconded and the motion was passed.**

**7. *Beautification Committee – Presentation of Village Green Master Plan and Possible Approval to Move Forward with Implementation***

Meredith said the Beautification Committee has been working on a master plan for the village green. Carrie Watson said the Beautification Committee is asking for permission to place an art installation on the village green. Meredith showed a picture of the proposed installation. It would be in the back corner above the wall. There would be brightly colored rectangles with text saying “a river moving in you” and a reflecting mirror after the last words. There would also be colored painted rocks at the base of the flagpole and the inclusivity statement. Carrie said the committee spent months deliberating over this design. It will cost no more than the \$500 budgeted for the Beautification Committee and they are hoping it will be less. The design work has been donated and they plan to work with local people who want to contribute to make it as affordable as possible.

Steve said he would be supportive of the plan. Diane said she really likes it. It catches your eye and makes you want to be there. She asked if the Beautification Committee has future projects they have thought about.

Carrie said they are full of ideas. This art installation would be semi-permanent. Before it gets to the point of deterioration they would hope to replace it with a new installation. It would be great if this one could stay up for 12 months. Hopefully they will have a rotation of different artists and different voices so it stays interesting.

BJ asked what materials are being used. Is it biodegradable? Carrie Watson and Bradley Fletcher said the colored rectangles are going to be painted and installed on poles so they will be strong. They are going to use building materials. Carrie said there is a heavier grade of plywood that is supposed to be able to withstand an extreme amount of moisture. That is what they are planning to use. Steve said if it is painted with good exterior paint it should stand up for a while.

Steve thanked the Beautification Committee for the beautiful sign by the junction of Railroad Street and the rail trail. It looks really nice.

Lynda Hill said she thinks the colors are awesome. They draw your eyes to the back of the village green. She would like to see more bright colors like that throughout the town, for instance on the banners on the light poles. It would be nice to have something like that coming from the rail trail leading into the village. She will be in touch with the Beautification Committee with ideas about how to get the paint to hold up better.

Rick Aupperlee said his concern is who gets to approve the content of the images. How will we acquire the art to go on there and what will it look like? Carrie said as far as the content, this is approved and developed through the committee. That is their directive and their prerogative. They

are always happy to have more committee members but as it stands now this whole process happens within the committee.

Will ask if the squares and rectangles are going to have art or pictures on them. Carrie said no, the installation will look exactly like the picture shown. Will asked Rick to clarify what he was talking about. Rick said there was some discussion about bringing color to the community and Carrie clarified that this project has no agenda behind it but is just about brightening up the community. Will asked, so Rick has no issues with it? Rick said no.

Bobbi Rooney said all the businesses in town bought the flags that are currently on light poles downtown. Bright colors are beautiful but she is sure that all the businesses that donated money for the current flags would just as soon have that money back. If we are going to take the flags down she is sure the businesses would take them back because they bought them.

Meredith said the banners we have on the green light poles are quite expensive. The village doesn't have money in its budget this year for any replacements. She thinks they would cost several hundred dollars each. If we are going to change them that will take planning and probably fundraising.

Diane said an idea she had was to invite NVU and the Studio Center to create art on banners that we could hang up. Will said that is a totally different issue from the village Green issue being discussed. Diane said she will talk to Bobbi about it.

Meredith said the village crew blows snow over that wall in the winter. They don't have a lot of other good options for getting snow out of the way. Hopefully we will have 7 months or so before we have to worry about snow but there is potential for snow to be blown towards that area. She wouldn't want the mirror to be broken. Maybe we should take that part down for winter. Carrie said she thinks that is something the committee can work with.

Meredith said the nighttime picture of the installation shows it being lighted. Is that using solar lights? Carrie said yes. The mirror at the end would be concave so no light would reflect out to traffic to cause a safety hazard.

Will asked if the installation is something that could be removed during winter and reinstalled in spring. Carrie said yes. Will asked if that is something the Beautification Committee is willing to do and has manpower to do. Carrie said yes.

Meredith said Carrie referenced \$500. The trustees did budget \$500 in this fiscal year for beautification efforts. If that is what this committee is counting on using she would want the board to specifically move to fund this project with those dollars.

**Steve moved to approve the concept for the art installation on the village green as pictured and approve expenditure of the \$500 budgeted for beautification for this project, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

Meredith said if poles are going to be put in the ground the Beautification Committee should call Dig Safe. She can provide guidance on that.

### ***8. Tobin Porter-Brown of Front Seat Coffee – Application for Village Green Food Truck Operation***

Tobin Porter-Brown has applied to put a food truck on the village green. Meredith said when the village passed its guidelines for food trucks on the green several years ago we anticipated one food truck there. We talked to the state and they said they would not put up roadblocks if we wanted to have a food truck in a parking space adjacent to the green along Route 15, but we can't run power across the ground to there. The board previously approved the Mudgies food truck and Mudgies made an investment to run power to their spot. Does the board want to amend its guidelines to open up the possibility for a second truck on the green and figure out the mechanics to make that possible?

Tobin said he runs Front Seat Coffee in Hardwick, a coffee shop and bakery that opened in 2019. They are looking at ways to expand and have an outlet for their products. Johnson is an interesting location because they can produce things in their bakery in Hardwick and bring them to Johnson every day. They have an 8x10 ft. trailer being built by a Johnson company. They will outfit it with espresso machines. It would be great to have it plugged into a 50 amp plug but they have the capacity to run it on a generator.

Steve said he would like to go down there and see a plan of how this would fit in with the other food truck. There are some problems with running a generator there and it seems to him a second truck might make the green crowded.

Meredith said Mudgies is already approved to come back May 1. Part of our agreement with them was that they would turn the truck as close as possible to 90 degrees from its placement last year so it will be more perpendicular than parallel to Route 15. We wouldn't want to create a situation where the view into the green was blocked. We would have to look at whether there is a place on the side where second truck could fit.

Will asked what Tobin's time frame is as far as wanting to get into the green. Tobin said the truck will be finished in early May and ready to move in the middle to end of May. It would be great to be able to use the green at the end of May.

Steve suggested Walter Pomroy might want to say something about the generator next to his house. Walter said he has an issue with a generator on the village green. It would be loud. It would echo. It would be outside his window for 6 to 10 hours, which would not be conducive to a good life atmosphere and, more importantly, the wind would blow the carbon monoxide into his building. It would be a health and safety issue, especially for his building.

Meredith said she knew a generator would be pretty much a non-starter so she had Troy look at the electrical connections at the green. Another customer would have to be metered. Troy believes it would be doable to run a wire to another stub next to the current box where we could put a socket that might be able to take two meters. The cost would be about \$750 and it would take two staff members a full day to do that work. There would be cost to Tobin to run power from that meter to the food truck, similar to what the Mudgetts did. She believes they spent about \$1,100.

Jennifer Burton said she has been delivering donuts from Front Seat Coffee to a group of people she knows in town so Tobin has already started to establish a clientele here. She thinks it would be great if he could expand that by having a food truck on the village green. She supports it.

Peggy Williams said she thinks the food truck is a great idea. She hopes it can work either at the village green or somewhere else. We really need something like this in town.

Carrie Watson said she spends a lot of money on really good coffee and was overjoyed to hear we could have really good coffee in our town. She strongly encourages the trustees to allow this food truck if it is feasible. It will be an amazing opportunity for our town and another reason for people to stop and spend money here and develop a deeper appreciation for Johnson. Her only suggestion would be to have the food trucks flanking each side of the green as much as possible so people can see into the green and see the art piece.

Bobbi Rooney asked if this falls in line with form based code. Meredith said that is a good question. She doesn't think form based code speaks to mobile units but she will double check.

Lynda Hill asked if Tobin knows what his hours will be. She is very happy he is coming to town. Tobin said his intention is to have it open at least from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 6 days a week. He might start earlier depending on how much early morning commuting there is. And in all likelihood it will be open 7 days a week.

Kyle said Tobin's cafe in Hardwick is awesome. His product is fantastic. As a business owner on the village green she has had many people ask where they can get a cup of coffee, a pastry, etc. She currently has no answers for them. She thinks there is a huge need for this. It is very exciting to be able to capture the tourist economy coming off the rail trail that would hopefully use other businesses too.

Tobin said he would really like to be connected to town electricity. He would be more than happy to pay for that connection.

Will suggested that board members, either together or separately, as well as anyone from the Beautification Committee who wants to could look at the site and the footprint of the two food trucks and see if it makes sense to add a second one. It sounds like if the board decides next month whether to give permission for Tobin's truck that would fit his timeline. Meredith said she thinks he will need time to line up an electrician, which could take several weeks. A brief special meeting later this month is an option as well. Will said he thinks it is worth meeting in 2 weeks. It is important if a business is interested in coming to our community. The board agreed to plan a special meeting for 2 weeks from now and meet before that at the site. Diane asked if letting Tobin know in 2 weeks works for him. He said yes.

Kyle said she feels like the Mudgies food truck is much bigger than Tobin's. She asked if Meredith could get its dimensions and send them to the trustees. Tobin said he has a drawing he can send so people can have an idea what his truck looks like. It is on a trailer and can be dropped off the trailer so it can stand closer to the ground. It just needs to be located in a place where it is possible to drop it off the trailer. Will asked if the serving area will be on the 10 ft side. Tobin said yes. Meredith

suggested it would be helpful if he can indicate on the design where the power comes in and where the window is.

Cal Stanton asked how much rent these food trucks provide. Meredith said they pay \$10 for each day they are open.

Kyle said something to think about when looking at the green and placement of trucks is that Mudgies had a big truck for wastewater. That needs to have a proper place. Meredith said the owner of Mudgies is working on having a tank that fits under the trailer to improve that situation.

#### **9. Water/Wastewater Report and Action Items**

Meredith said Dan is on vacation. She read his report. The E-DMR and Wr-43 were submitted for review. There were 2 callouts for the wastewater plant. Both were for influent wet well alarms. The level transmitter was reading incorrectly. Staff cleaned the transducer and debris in the wet well and it is working properly. Leo's Welding repaired the influent bar rack that had deteriorated. It was more cost effective to repair than replace with a new one. Laramie Water Resources performed the bi-annual inspection and certification of the backflow preventers at the plant. Staff started spring clean up of the grounds around the plants, worked with Jim Pease from VT DEC on completing the sewer main maps that the state has on file, and tested the early flood notification system to verify it is working properly. They installed the flood gates on March 26 per the flood warning issued by The National Weather Service and removed the gates on March 29.

Coliform results were negative. Staff installed new back up batteries for the alarm systems at the water plant and Clay Hill booster station and troubleshooted an alarm at Clay Hill. They had to reprogram the set points in the alarm system. Dan did not have water sales numbers to compute water loss.

Meredith said Champlain Associates is doing six events around Vermont for people to learn about their products. They are hoping to use our wastewater treatment facility parking lot on May 4, 5 or 6. She brought the idea up to the Covid team to get their thoughts. She and Dan were not crazy about the idea, even given the governor's loosening restrictions that will start May 1. Covid cases are still quite high in Lamoille County and this is not really a community event that residents of Johnson will benefit from. The Covid team did not feel like they would recommend it. Unless this board has a desire to approve the request Meredith is going to tell them this is not the right time. Board members agreed with that.

#### **10. Foreman Report and Action Items**

Troy said during the last month, we had three outages. The first was on March 27 and was due to ice coming off a roof and tearing the service lines off a house on Stearns Street. Power was restored within two hours. The second was an individual outage off of Sinclair Road on April 3 related to an overloaded transformer. Power was restored within an hour and half. The second was a line outage due to a tree falling on the line on April 9 that involved Gould Hill Road and affected approximately 25 customers. Power was restored within an hour. On April 12, we received a report of a floating wire that had come untied from the pole on Clay Hill. This was re-attached with no outage. On April 1, the village crew provided mutual aid service to Hyde Park Electric to change out a broken pole on their system. We provided our digger truck and one lineman. We installed a new 200 amp service to the new units on Railroad Street across from the former Parker & Stearns. We also repaired multiple street lights throughout the village and completed monthly meter reading, high/low checks, and Dig Safes.

We had one report of a leaking water meter and the crew is scheduled to enter the property on Tuesday to determine the problem. The crew installed the spring banners. The snow removal equipment was moved into storage and we have started servicing the summer equipment in anticipation of sidewalk and parking lot sweeping.

Meredith and Troy had a Zoom call with our risk management contact at VLCT to check in on anything we might need. VLCT noted the village's good history in terms of workers' comp and did not have any requested action for us at this time. Troy completed an estimate for the new 200 amp electric service for the new units on Railroad Street across the former Parker & Stearns and an estimate for a new 100 amp underground service to serve Lamoille Valley Bike Tours building on Creamery Road.

Troy has been working on getting pricing from Ford, Chevrolet, and Ram for the pick-up truck replacement. Prices for 2021 models are around \$42-45K but when 2022s come out he expects there will be an \$8-10K increase. He is hoping to move forward as quickly as possible and get the best choice that is currently on a lot so we can save money.

Diane asked if trucks are replaced on a rotating basis. Troy said he has a replacement schedule of every 5 years because after 5 years we will start to see maintenance issues due to rust from salt and brine. He tries to trade trucks when they still have significant value. Our trucks are covered by warranty for the majority of the time we have them. In the past a lot of vehicles were run beyond their useful life and the village spent a lot on repairs.

Diane asked how much we will get for the old truck. Troy said so far he has gotten an estimate of \$20-25K.

Meredith said when we budgeted for this purchase we were thinking the cost of the truck would be about \$55K and we would get about \$20K for the trade-in so the net expenditure would be about \$35K. Troy said he would like approval to spend up to \$35K once he finds the best deal. That price includes a plow and service body on the truck.

Lynda asked who goes out when dig safe is called. Troy said if our utilities are there we go out and the phone company and cable company also go out.

Lynda asked about the new service for Lamoille Valley Bike Tours. Do we charge them for that? Troy said yes. They have a small building off Creamery Road that they want to bring power to. There is a fee for him to put an estimate together for that. If they agree, they pay the estimated amount then we complete the work and do a true-up and if the cost was less than estimated we give the extra amount back and we also give them back the fee for the estimate.

Darrell Wescom asked what the mileage is on the truck Troy wants to replace. Troy said he thinks it is around 25K. We don't go out of the village much but the issue is salt. We wash the trucks every day but salt still causes damage.

**Steve moved to approved spending up to \$35,000 for the best deal Troy can find for a replacement pickup truck, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

Kyle said she would like to see the village plant new grass on the strip between the road and sidewalk on Railroad Street and also reseed grass on the spot where the Mudgies truck was last year. Meredith said she will talk with Troy about that.

#### **11. Determine Plan to Fill Trustee Vacancy**

Will said in the past when there has been a vacancy on the board we have put out a notice for 2 weeks. Would the board like to ask for letters of intent and meet with candidates in 2 weeks? BJ and Steve agreed that would be okay. Diane said Andrew publicly indicated he did not want to accept the trustee position. The votes for him should not be counted. They are like spoiled votes. Her feeling is that we should appoint Kyle. She ran and she got it. Will said he understands, but the state disagrees. He doesn't see how we can overturn what the state informed us we should do. BJ said a few people ran and a few people lost. Everybody that lost should have a chance to come forward and let us know why they want to be a trustee. Steve said if Kyle still wants to be on the trustee board she can submit a letter and the board will vote 2 weeks from now. Diane said appointing Kyle seems to be the ethical and logical thing to do.

Scott Meyer said he wasn't even aware Kyle was running. He didn't see any information anywhere that anyone was running.

Rick said he believes the Secretary of State's response allowed the trustees to go forward with an appointment. It didn't say we have to have a special election. He would like to open this up to more discussion around what the options are for the trustees rather than just go with one decision.

Jackie said BJ had mentioned that a few people ran for this race. It was a write-in race. There were really only two candidates that emerged – Andrew and Kyle. Andrew resigned. If Kyle is willing to serve it is a logical and ethical next move to appoint someone like Kyle, who is eminently qualified. She served for 6 years on the selectboard and for 7 years on Johnson Works (5 as president.) She is on the Beautification Committee. For Jackie it is a no-brainer. We had two candidates. It was a close race. Andrew won by a mere 7 votes. Opening it up to people who didn't run or who ran for other seats doesn't seem right to her.

Will said in his opinion running means putting your name on the ballot. The state said Andrew won. Andrew declined. At this point Will thinks it would be remiss of the board to appoint anybody without going through the process we have historically gone through when there is a vacant spot – opening it up to anyone who wants to put their name in.

Diane read from a letter she got from the Secretary of State's office. It says that if the winner does not want to serve they need to resign. This creates a vacancy and the trustees must make an appointment. The trustees could consider the person who received the second most votes. The appointment runs until a special or annual election is held unless the village charter has other language about filling the vacancy.

Will said historically we don't just appoint to a vacant spot without giving people a chance to apply.

Steve said he also would like to appoint Kyle tonight but if we have to we will go through the process. He thinks Kyle deserves it the most but he doesn't see how she can be appointed tonight with the way the board sits now. Three people would have to vote in favor for her to be appointed.

**Steve moved and BJ seconded to put out a notice of the vacancy on the trustee board and to interview interested candidates and vote on an appointment in 2 weeks.**

Anne Mullings said the letter Diane read said that the trustees could consider appointing the person who got the second most votes, not that they should consider that. She feels the board is doing the right thing in waiting. She thinks Ken Tourangeau should have a right to run. A lot of people didn't even know Kyle was running. To her it was maybe a little underhanded. She thinks a lot of people take offense to that.

Lynda Hill said when a race is that close it seems ethical that the second place winner would be the person appointed.

Will said someone brought up the point to him that Ken Tourangeau got more votes than Kyle, even though he was running against Diane. If we went by the number of votes we would appoint him tonight.

Darrell Wescom said Ken got a fair amount of votes. He thinks the board should allow him to also approach the board as a candidate.

Jackie said she thinks the board should make a new motion to appoint Kyle for the reasons she stated earlier. Ken's race was a separate race. Anyone had the opportunity to run a campaign, publicly or not. Ken had the same opportunity and chose a different race. We have an eminently qualified candidate. She doesn't understand why the board would not appoint her tonight.

Will said because this is how it has been done historically. He thinks it would be a mistake to alter that.

Margo Warden said she feels the same as Jackie. We have someone who has proven her commitment to the town and village through her actions and hard work over the years. Anyone who has been paying attention knows there has been something of a divide. Where there is discord or people seeing things through a different lens there is a real opportunity when people are all sitting around the table and making decisions together. She would see appointing Kyle as an opportunity to do the good work of bringing different voices together.

Margo asked was she hearing Steve right that if the board voted to appoint Kyle tonight it would be 2-2 so the board should wait two weeks? Is she correct that the same number of people will be voting in two weeks with the same possible outcome?

Will said there are four members on the board. Without knowing what other candidates will come in, his mind is not made up. He doesn't think there will be an automatic deadlock in 2 weeks.

Kim Dunkley said as village residents she and Scott appreciate knowing who is running. She is happy to hear from the people running and ask them questions. She appreciates the motion on the floor.

Cal Stanton said he would love to see an appointment tonight. He thinks the most qualified person is Kyle. He wonders if Will has an example from the past where this exact thing has occurred. With all the new people on the board he thinks it is good to have an experienced person like Kyle. He asked if there is anyone here tonight who is interested in running so the board can expedite the process and appoint someone tonight.

Will said he cannot think of examples of something exactly like this in the past. His was referring to times in the past when there has been a vacancy and the board has asked for letters of intent, then interviewed candidates and voted.

Cal asked if it is appropriate to see if people are here tonight who want to run. Will said people can raise their hands and state their intent but he has no intent to ask for candidates.

Shayne Spence asked if making an appointment tonight would run afoul of Open Meeting Law. Meredith said we did not warn this as an appointment. We warned it as determining a plan. So she thinks in terms of Open Meeting Law not appointing tonight is preferable.

Rick said given the fact that Andrew's intention was to resign at this meeting, he thinks the trustees could have warned making an appointment. Will questioned whether talking about what should have been done is relevant because the board can't vote to appoint tonight anyway.

Rick said when people are running for an office, they are running for the office, not against another person. He heard comments about people running against a certain person. That is not how we want to do business in this town. People run for office, not against another person.

Bobbi said she thinks the opening should be put back out for whoever wants to run for this seat. The question is who is going to support everything in this town.

Kyle said she is ready and willing to serve. If the board decides to wait and go through an appointment process she will be submitting a letter of intent. It feels like the way in which this item was warned made the decision for the board that the board cannot appoint tonight. She asked Meredith what her intention was around the way it was warned.

Meredith said she didn't have a chair to work with on the agenda. She couldn't decide for the board how they wanted to move forward. She thought the best thing would be to warn making a plan on how to move forward. She couldn't ask board members via email how they wanted to move forward because that would violate Open Meeting Law. It didn't seem she could put it a different way. The board could decide to have a special meeting tomorrow and appoint someone. The board doesn't have to ask people to submit letters of interest. Kyle said the board was being steered in a certain direction because of the way the meeting was warned.

Jackie said a meeting could be warned for one or two days from now. She will ask if someone will move to do that. The majority of people attending this meeting have pushed for appointing Kyle tonight.

Scott said the trustees directly impact village residents. He is not giving as much weight to town comments as compared to village comments. As far as experience goes, the village has utilities to operate and that takes a lot of knowledge. We also have a lot of construction projects. That should drive good conversations about a person's worth on the trustee board. In the past for better transparency we moved to electing trustees by ballot with a forum for the candidates so the trustees can have a conversation with any of the candidates on their experience and what they can bring to the table. In two weeks he anticipates a candidate forum so we can hear people speak.

Jasmine Yuris said she is wondering what will happen if there is a split vote two weeks from now. Will said his recommendation in that case would be to send it to a public vote, mailing out ballots to all voters in the village. There is no other option he is aware of.

Jasmine said she echoes Margo about appointing Kyle. It would be great to have two women on the board. She understands Scott's point that village voices should in many cases hold more weight but she feels this village is hers as well. Everything that is on the agenda today affects her too. She feels everyone's voice should hold the same weight. She hopes the board will take Margo's point of bringing all voices and mindsets to the table and cutting down on the division in the town. This is the way to do it.

Lynda said Kyle seems like a common sense person to appoint to the position. People who don't live in the village have a stake in the village and their opinions need to be heard. She thinks it would be a nice idea to welcome Kyle to the board. A good way to unify is if everyone is at the table together.

BJ said one thing he has noticed is how people in the community are all about being fair and following the rules. It is a little disheartening that in this situation the same group of people are trying to force an issue instead of being fair.

Jackie said any member of the board could have made a motion to have a special meeting in one or two days for an appointment. That is not breaking any rules. Waiting two weeks is not a hard and fast rule, just something the board is choosing tonight. There are other options.

Meredith said if the motion passes her understanding is that she will post the vacancy and ask for letters of intent with a due date a few days before the meeting so she can send the letters of intent to the trustees before the meeting.

**The motion was passed in a roll call vote with Steve, BJ and Will voting yes and Diane voting no.**

Peggy Williams said the motion makes it sound like the board will appoint someone. She wants to make sure the board is not boxed into a particular action. Will said he thinks the board will vote on an appointment.

## **12. Vote on Acceptance of Pearl Street Sidewalk Construction Bid**

Meredith said Elizabeth Emmons, the engineer for the Pearl Street sidewalk project, helped us through the bidding process. We received a 50% grant from VTrans that will cover half the cost of the project up to a cap of \$42,550. We budgeted \$85,100 for the project. That was the figure we used in the grant application. Elizabeth estimated a project cost of \$78K. The bids were significantly over our estimates. The low bid was \$115,206, about \$30K over what we had anticipated the project would cost.

Elizabeth Emmons said this spring there has been an extreme rise in material costs and the cost of gas has increased significantly. A lot of people are moving into Vermont from other areas and the housing industry is going very strong. That is taking a lot of smaller contractors away from a project this size. Concrete curb is something not every concrete contractor and it was hard to get prices on it.

Meredith said we were going to pull our 50% match from the sidewalk reserve fund, which had about \$112K at the end of 2020. We were anticipating pulling \$42,550 for the match plus about another \$10K for engineering expenses, legal expenses, etc. Now we are looking at pulling out closer to \$80K or \$85K rather than \$55K. She reached out to our VTrans project manager and confirmed that there is no way to amend the grant at this point. Their recommendation was to work with the low bidder to see if there is a way to shave costs or do part of the project now and part later. Given that this is already such a small project she doesn't think it would be helpful to divide it up and make it even smaller and harder to get bids next time. We have the option to rebid but we only got two bids and those bidders might not rebid. And there is no guarantee we would get lower bids. There are high material and labor costs now. Meredith and Elizabeth brainstormed about ways to lower costs. The low bidder, Capitol Earthmoving, is willing to work with us on ways to reduce costs. Troy thought it would be doable to have the village crew do the removal of the existing sidewalk. Elizabeth said that would save about \$2,350. There is some potential to not change a curb stop and save a few thousand dollars but we cannot realistically shave a lot off. Elizabeth said we could probably reduce the total by about \$10K without significantly reducing the size of the sidewalk that goes in.

Meredith said the contractor had suggested maybe eliminating curbing from the project. But we had public meetings to describe the project and she would be hesitant to change the design of the project without going back to the public. Adding curb in one area was very important to the Studio Center. We would also incur engineering costs if we changed the plans. We have to decide if we are comfortable pulling the amount we need out of our sidewalk fund.

**Steve moved and BJ seconded to accept the low bid for the Pearl Street sidewalk project, to direct Meredith and the engineer to reduce costs as much as possible and to use the sidewalk reserve fund to pay the costs not covered by the grant.**

Diane asked if we have other sidewalk areas that need a lot of work. Meredith said there is a portion of School Street that was not done when the part in front of the elementary school was done. There is a section on Railroad Street that we have talked a lot about over the years. It needs design work, not just simple reconstruction. There has been discussion about wanting sidewalk on both sides of Railroad Street leading to the library. There is no shortage of places we could put money into the system.

Diane asked, do we transfer any money not spent on sidewalks into next year's budget? Meredith said in previous years we were able to budget money each year to put into the sidewalk reserve fund but as things have gotten more expensive and we haven't raised property taxes in the last several years we have not been able to put money into that fund. Will said he thinks the answer to Diane's question is that the money stays in the reserve fund to be used for sidewalks.

Will said in his view we stand to lose \$42,550 from the state if we do not do the project. It is not a surprise that projects are costing more this year. It will cost us an additional \$20-\$30K that was not anticipated but we will lose more than that if we do not move forward with the project.

Greg Tatro said looking at the bid results he is seeing a traffic control cost of \$2,400 and a cost for flaggers of \$10,750. He thinks the village could rent temporary red lights for quite a bit less than that. That might save money. The \$116/yard price for sub base crushed gravel seems pretty steep. That was probably because it is a small amount. Maybe a little could be saved there. Granite curbing is sometimes close to or less than the cost of concrete and it lasts longer. His suggestion would be to put the project back out to bid and see if the village could get more people to bid on it. If nothing else, these two bidders will drop their price. Or the village could try to negotiate with the low bidder. Capitol is a good company.

Elizabeth said, regarding putting it back out to bid, we advertised for a month and she had to call contractors to get them to bid. Capitol put in a bid as something of a favor to her. Greg said she is right. It is a tough market now. Elizabeth said to put it in perspective there are \$5-6 million dollar jobs out to bid now. This won't get that kind of attention. Greg agreed. He said he thinks maybe Capitol can work with the village. He would look at the possibility of using granite curbing and temporary red lights instead of flagging.

Will said he is not sure if we have to have flaggers if there are vehicles in the roadway. Greg said no; either flaggers or red lights can be used. Will ask if Greg still thinks it is a smart idea to put it out to rebid after hearing what the engineer said. Greg said he thinks it depends on how much the village wants to do it. He thinks the motion is a proper motion. He would look at the things he suggested to save money.

Lynda said every contractor she is aware of is booked solid. She would want to know if they could actually get the job done on our timeline. Is there any way because of Covid the village could apply again for another waiver for a delay? Could it get delayed for a year to see what would happen? Meredith said she spoke with the project manager at the state level and he did not offer that option. We already got a one-year extension because of Covid. She doesn't believe we could extend it again. Lynda said we are still in a Covid situation. It might be worth a try. Meredith said she can ask.

Greg said this is an unusual year. Usually March is a great time of year to get bids. This year everyone was loaded with work right from the start. He wonders if fall could actually be a better time, though typically it isn't.

Will asked if Meredith knows how long it would take to get a response from the state about an extension. Meredith said she can reach out easily and she thinks the state contact would get back

quickly. She did not specifically ask about that today but he didn't bring up that option when they were talking about options. But she will ask him. We don't want to push the project too late into the fall because we want the concrete to cure before we start putting salt on it. But if it would work for Capitol to move the project to September and if that would help with pricing, that would be fine.

Kyle said she is passionate about walkable communities and having access to sidewalks. Statistics show that a walkable community increases safety. It also increases property values and helps the local economy. It increases the health of the community. As a taxpayer this is the kind of thing she would want her tax dollars to go toward. She thinks it is important to make sidewalks a priority and think about how the village can start funding the sidewalk reserve fund more robustly.

Elizabeth said, regarding timing of the project, Capitol is ready to move on this right away.

Will asked what the length of the project is from start to finish. Elizabeth said she believes 60 days to substantial and 120 days to completion. That is a little more than they will probably need. Flagging is by the hour. If they got the project done quickly and didn't need the whole 250 hours that cost for that would be less. There's the question of how comfortable the community is with how much flagging they have there. Children walk through there for school. That would be a factor.

In answer to Meredith's question, Rosemary said there is plenty of money in the sidewalk reserve fund to fund this project.

**The motion was passed.**

**13. Corrective Water/Sewer Permits for 72 & 74 and 379 Lower Main West**

Meredith explained that we have a permit process for water and sewer connections. If someone is making a new connection they have to get a permit and they have to get a permit if they are changing use of the property, for instance from single family to multifamily, because their allocation will be different. We have a corrective permit process for properties that were connected before the existence of the formal permit process that have no permit on record. We document current use of the property, record the allocation and then the permit is in the record book and if they want to sell they can say they have all the necessary permits. She doesn't have the exact numbers for these properties. She needs more information and that information might change the allocations slightly. The board can give her approval to issue the permits when she has the final numbers or can wait until a future meeting to approve the permit.

**Diane moved to authorize Meredith to issue corrective water and sewer permits for 72, 74 and 379 Lower Main Street West, Steve seconded and the motion was passed.**

**14. Racial Justice Committee – Update on Committee Recommendations**

Diane said Rick Aupperlee is the chair of the Racial Justice Committee and Portia Foss is the vice chair. So far the committee has gotten a Black Lives Matter flag at the village green and put the anti-racism and inclusivity statements in the village annual report as well as information about the Racial Justice Committee. We need to make sure that the inclusivity and anti-racism statements are placed front and center on the website and in all hiring advertisements. The Racial Justice Committee is asking the community to attend its meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00. Their meetings use the same Zoom numbers as the town and village meetings. They are advertising their meetings with Sue Lovering, in the News & Citizen and on Front Porch Forum.

The committee wanted to recommend putting a pride flag and a Black Lives Matter flag on the municipal building but since the selectboard turned that down even if the village did vote to put those flags up she doesn't think it could happen. But she asked Meredith to show a picture of what the flags would look like just to give the board an idea. She thinks it looks good and people driving and walking by the municipal building would feel really good about having the flags hanging there. Another recommendation of the Racial Justice Committee is to borrow a banner from the Racial Equity Alliance of Lamoille. They have one they would let us borrow that she thinks is 16 feet long. It is a Black Lives Matter banner. The recommendation is to hang it over Route 15. The committee also wants to invite Bor Yang and some other speakers to come to Johnson. They have talked about polling citizens about the Racial Justice Committee and they have talked about a Juneteenth celebration and a walk for unity.

**15. Racial Justice Committee Request to Fly BLM Banner Across Route 15**

Diane said the Racial Justice Committee recommends that the village borrow a banner from REAL and hang it over Route 15. There is a process for that to happen. The board needs to give permission. A request needs to be in writing on letterhead and signed by all board members. We need to fill out a permit and make sure the banner is hung properly and safely. The contact person with VTrans is Jim Cota.

Will asked if Jim Cota seemed hopeful that the state would say yes to raising the banner. Diane said he did not indicate either way. He did say he would be happy to help us go through the permit process.

Steve asked, didn't the village of Stowe put a banner across Route 100? Diane said yes. It is the same banner. It can only be kept up for 21 days. We would only be borrowing it.

Meredith said Diane had mentioned that years ago there was a Johnson State banner across the road near the Union Bank. The crew looked at the poles that were used in the past for that banner. She thinks one of them has been replaced since and she was told that it is the most critical pole in our system with multiple electrical lines coming together. The pole across the street from it is owned by Consolidated Communications, not the village. There was a high level of discomfort about putting the banner on that pole, with the possibility of the wind catching it. And we would have to get permission from Consolidated to use the other pole across the road. She hasn't done an inventory of other suitable places but there are concerns about using that former location. If the board supports this recommendation there are some logistical issues.

Will asked if the letter actually needs the signature of every board member. Wouldn't it just be a majority of the board? We just need to show board permission, right? Diane said that is right.

Will said we would have to use our own poles and not someone else's. Meredith said most of the poles are jointly owned by the village and Consolidated. We would most likely run it by Consolidated to get their okay.

**Steve moved and BJ seconded that if hanging of the banner can be done safely and according to guidelines the board sign the letter requesting permission to hang a banner borrowed from REAL over Route 15.**

Bobbi Rooney said she was under the impression that Route 15 is a Class 1 state highway. The road where the banner was hung in Stowe is a Class 2 state highway, which is a different thing. When she was organizing banners for the town, the state said she was not allowed to have anything offensive, political or directed at any one group and they informed her there could be no sign across a Class 1 highway.

Meredith said about 2 years ago the state made an exception to the restriction on banners with words and now banners are allowed for a maximum of 21 days. She doesn't know if there are limits on the content of banners. But they have changed the rules to allow banners with words for short duration events.

Will said to his knowledge the rules for flags on flagpoles on the roadsides haven't changed. Meredith said that is right. Especially if they will be up for more than 21 days.

Rick said as a member of the Racial Justice Committee he would like to support this request. It is important to remember that Jim Cota of VTrans stated he is willing to work with the trustees on this issue. If there is going to be a problem where it isn't going to work Rick thinks he will be clear with the board. The issue of who owns the poles – we have been down this road. He would like that matter to be transparent. He would like to get permission from the state and then go from there.

Will ask Rick to clarify what he meant about the road we have been down before and being transparent about who owns the poles. Rick said in the past the question came up about ownership of the flagpole at the municipal building. The selectboard thought it was the trustees' pole and the trustees thought it was the fire department's but then Gordy said it was up to the trustees to make decisions about that pole. It came up that there are village poles and Consolidated Communication poles. He wants to be clear about who owns what poles if we come to a decision about where we fly this banner. He thinks the first step is working with the state to get permission to put the banner up and then we talk to whoever owns the poles.

Will said he thinks there is transparency in that Meredith let the board know up front that she has already done research and she has presented the fact that some poles are not the best choice because of their function and some are jointly owned.

Sophia Berard said she is happy we are having this conversation. She is newly appointed to the Racial Justice Committee. She fully supports this proposal. In light of the most recent killing of a black man, Daunte Wright, she thinks it is an affirmation that is important to maintain in communities.

Jackie said it sounds like the trustees are on board with this request. She is on board with it. If the trustees are okay with it, the second step would be to figure out how to do it. She asks that village employees be tasked with figuring out by the next meeting which poles would be the best to use to hang the banner. Someone made a reference to offensive or political statements. She wants to clarify that the Black Lives Matter flag or banner may be controversial, but it is not political. That was determined by the federal agency that determines such things. Federal employees can wear a Black Lives Matter t-shirt or have a Black Lives Matter coffee cup but they can't do something political like wear a Biden t-shirt or have a Trump coffee cup. Black Lives Matter is not a political

statement. The Racial Justice Committee is doing good work and she hopes other people will attend its meetings.

Will said one thing Gordy repeatedly said to him is that when you vote on new things you set a precedent. If we approve this, other groups will now know that they can get approval for a banner across Route 15 because we have done it before. Jackie made a good point when she said the Black Lives Matter banner is controversial. He received several calls and a few emails today after the agenda came out and none were in favor of the banner going up. We talked about bringing our town and village together and unifying. He wonders what the board thinks about the divisiveness of this banner. Is that a step in the right direction? It speaks to marginalized people but he is not sure it is the best choice to unify the town and village.

Kyle said she thinks it is important to keep in mind what kind of space these banners and symbols are holding, and for whom.

She thinks it is important to keep in mind what space these banners and symbols are holding and for whom. Let's move this away from the white privilege point of view and remember these are symbols and affirmations for people of color. While it might be controversial for this dominantly white conversation, this is affirming for people of color. What is divisive is acts of racism, bigotry and discrimination. Affirming, saying, "You are safe, we have your back" is unifying. This is an incredible thing to put out there and it is so necessary, especially in light of the latest murder Sophie mentioned. This is how we move forward as a community. As a person who lives, works and plays here, she strongly supports this not just for her but for the people it is affirming. It is important.

Will said it doesn't seem logical to him to say that just because we are white it doesn't matter if we are unified in our community. He is not okay with disregarding the thoughts and feelings of the local community.

Sophie said one part of the 5-point plan for the Racial Justice Committee is public displays of racial justice and equity. This would be a temporary banner up for 21 days but it does show that these conversations are happening in Johnson and that people of color matter here and can feel welcome here. Discord in any community is not a good thing but she thinks it is very different when people are murdered in the streets. It's a very different conversation to be had. People in Johnson are not facing the same discrimination. Driving under a Black Lives Matter flag might be uncomfortable for some. A white person may say they don't agree with it or like seeing it. But it is temporary and it sends a strong message to people of color that their voices matter and that just their being alive is being affirmed. She thinks it is important. The Racial Justice Committee is a town and village committee appointed to do this work. She really supports the recommendation.

Rick said tonight Rosemary administered an oath to the board members to do equal justice under the law. He believes the Black Lives Matter statement is an affirmation of equal justice under the law. Everyone who took the oath did swear to equal justice. He thinks it is up to board members to consider their oath and consider this proposal. Controversy doesn't have to be a negative thing. Tonight's process could be an indicator of equal justice.

Lynda Hill said the banner is a 21-day thing. It will not be up for a long period of time. You are not going to please everybody. That has been clear lately. She rents to several people of color and one told her the other day that he did not dare go to his mailbox at night because of what people might think of a black man they don't know on the streets of Johnson looking into a mailbox. He has rented from her for a year and still has that feeling. He has been pulled over twice in Lamoille County for no real reason. The banner is not a Black Lives Matter banner, it is a REAL banner. It is kind of a compromise. She doesn't think it would hurt anyone to have it up. Everyone should give and take a little. It's not all one way.

Will said he agrees about compromise. There have been compromises. There is a Black Lives Matter flag on the village green.

Lynda said even when she looks for the Black Lives Matter flag there she can't see it. It is set on the back side of the village green. But all the people who were pushing for a Black Lives Matter flag settled for that.

Jackie said it sounds like Will has concerns about setting precedent. There is nothing wrong with setting precedent. What is wrong with that?

Will said the board should just be aware of setting a precedent. We have to think about where that can go. He wanted to impart to the newer trustees to be aware of that.

Jackie said it is not really setting precedent because we have had banners over the road in the past. If there is concern about what kind of banners people might request, the board will cross those bridges when they come with dialogue and discussion and votes. She would say the board should not be frightened of that.

BJ said he took it personally when someone said that in order for him to follow his oath he would vote yes on this. It almost makes him want to vote no. We have set precedents already. We have a Black Lives Matter flag up and literature on our website. He understands what Will is saying. He likes having him as chair as a guide on these things. If it was something different he might not be for it, but this is for 21 days so he does not have a problem with it.

Meredith read an email she got today from Ken and Pam Locke that they had suggested she read at the meeting. They feel all lives matter and if anyone wants a sign expressing their opinion they should put it on their personal property, not on public property.

Will asked if we want to submit the application to the state before we find out if there is a place to hang the banner. Steve said he wanted to keep his motion as originally stated.

**The motion was passed in a roll call vote with Diane, BJ, and Steve voting yes and Will voting no.**

Rick clarified that the Racial Justice Committee has no authority to apply for the permit to hang the banner. The village trustees will need to apply to VTrans for permission. Meredith said we will have to include in the application where the banner will be and how it will be affixed. She doesn't think they will consider the application until we have it sorted out where the banner will be hung.

Sophie thanked Meredith and the trustees for taking the recommendation of the Racial Justice Committee. She feels it shows the trustees value the work the committee is doing.

Jackie asked if everything needed for the application will be together by the next meeting in 2 weeks. Meredith said she is not sure that is possible. She is going to see her mother and will be gone for a week. Jackie said she meant that the village employees would have figured out what poles could be used. Will said he is sure the board will at least have an update in 2 weeks.

**16. *Request for Board Work Session on Xusana Davis Lecture***

Meredith said Kyle Nuse suggested that the board schedule a work session to watch the recording of the recent Xusana Davis lecture at NVU and discuss her points. It was mentioned that the Racial Justice Committee has been thinking about bringing someone in for lectures so it sounds like there may be other options coming up as well.

BJ said he already watched the Xusana Davis lecture.

**Diane moved that the board set a time to watch the Xusana Davis lecture and then discuss it.**

She said she thinks this is part of what the trustee should be doing. This would allow her to get to know board members better and allow them to get to know her better.

BJ said he has 3 hours of racial equity training at work every week. He doesn't have time to watch the lecture again. Will said he also does not have the time. He signed up to do the business of the village, not go to lectures.

**Steve seconded.**

Kyle said she also made this request to the selectboard. A few selectboard members had seen it but they did not see it as a group. The point of watching and discussing it together is that when you discuss something together you bring out different ideas and think about things in a way you might not as an individual. She thinks this lecture is key for this board because Davis speaks specifically about how the Vermont demographic is changing and evolving and how it is important that we change and evolve with it as municipalities so we support the people we are going to be serving now and in the future. She spoke about municipalities, local policing and institutions like NVU. This is very pertinent and important. She strongly recommends it. It is less than an hour long. It is very engaging, with great statistics and great questions from NVU students.

**The motion failed in a roll call vote with Steve and Diane voting yes and BJ and Will voting no.**

**17. *Request to Maintain Scott Meyer's Municipal Email Account***

Meredith said Scott Meyer is no longer a trustee but he has agreed to stay on the Covid team. He is an invaluable resource on that committee. He has asked if he can keep his municipal email account so he will not have to use his personal email. The Covid team is in support of the request. It is not a huge expense. It costs under \$100 for a year. Normally when a board member leaves, their email is archived and their account is switched to a new name. We normally keep five trustee accounts so there will be an additional expense if we keep an additional one.

Will said he thinks the work Scott does with Covid planning is worth much more than \$100. **Steve moved to allow Scott Meyer to keep his municipal email account, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

**18. Marvin Award Nominations**

Meredith said the Marvin Awards are annual awards given out by LCPC. People can be nominated for community service or projects can be nominated. Nominations are due April 30. She is looking for trustee input on nominations. She got a suggestion to nominate Scott Meyer, given his role on the board and his service on the Covid-19 team in the last year.

Diane said she would like a little more time to think about who would meet the criteria. Will said it is his understanding that the board can nominate more than one person. Meredith said that is correct. **BJ moved and Steve seconded to nominate Scott Meyer for a Marvin Award and to leave open the possibility of nominating other people later.**

Kyle asked if the person nominated can be someone who passed away. Meredith said she doesn't know. Kyle said she would recommend nominating Lea Kilvadyova if that meets the criteria.

Scott said he wants to make sure everyone realizes that everything that has happened with Covid response has been a team effort with everyone on the emergency management team, including Lisa Crews and Rosemary.

**The motion was passed.**

Meredith said the Covid team met this morning. The governor came out on Friday with a phased plan for loosening restrictions. The team decided for the time being not to make any changes to practices or staffing. Case numbers are still high in Lamoille County.

Andrea suggested in chat nominating Gordy Smith for a Marvin Award. **BJ moved and Will seconded to nominate Gordy Smith for a Marvin Award.** Will said it was Gordy's request to nominate Scott but he is very much in favor of nominating Gordy as well.

Gordy said he received a Marvin Award 8 or 10 years ago so he can happily withdraw his name.

**The motion was passed.**

**19. Electric Bucket Truck Grant Agreement**

Meredith said she did not get the grant agreement from the state yet. We can move this to a future meeting.

**20. Adjourn**

**Steve moved to adjourn at 10:26, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*