

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM AND PHONE CALL-IN
MONDAY, APRIL 26 2021

Present:

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

Others: Meredith Dolan, Rosemary Audibert, Tess Milner, Kyle Nuse, Ken Tourangeau, Cal Stanton, Kim Dunkley, Scott Meyer, Shona, Jackie Stanton, Gordy Smith, Rick Aupperlee, Susan Tinker, Lydia Putvain, Joie Lehouillier, Lotty Rozekrans, Eric Osgood, Athena Parke, Shayne Spence, Anne Mullings, Beth Foy, Lynda Hill, Peggy Williams, Tobin Porter-Brown, Margo Warden, Jasmine Yuris, Jared Jasinski, Sophia Berard, Katie Orost, Nadeau, Marla Emery, Greg Tatro, Lydia

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*

Will called the meeting to order at 6:00.

2. *Changes, Additions to Proposed Agenda*

No changes to the agenda were needed.

3. *Interview with Village Trustee Candidates*

Will invited each of the trustees to ask questions of the candidates.

Steve asked Kyle Nuse what made her change her mind and decide to run for the trustee board. Kyle said she had decided not to run for the selectboard with the intention of running for the trustee board. That was always her plan. She has a business on Main Street and lives on Clark Ave. Her entire life is very village based. It made sense for her to come into this position. Steve asked why she did not announce that she was running. Kyle said after she decided not to run for the selectboard and had a few weeks off she questioned whether she had the energy to be on another elected board. She served for 6 years on the selectboard. It takes a lot out of you. But she found she was still attending all the meetings. She wasn't on the ballot but she used the write-in option.

Steve said he has seen that Ken Tourangeau has a picture of an ATV on Zoom. He assumes he is passionate about that. Ken said absolutely. Steve said he noticed on Ken's letter of interest that he said one of his skills would be to help make compromises. There is a good chance ATVs will come to Johnson. There will probably be a lot of push for that. If that comes about, what kind of compromises would he make?

Ken said ATVs are already in Johnson. They have been here for 14 years. The request was to allow them to enter the village on Main Street. That is what the local ATV club, Green Mountain ATV Riders, asked for. Ken was the trail master for that club and he was on the trails committee for VASA. He compromises all the time. The club has dealt with road issues. The club compromises. They have dealt with private landowners and they use some town land. Compromise is about both parties. He thinks if the village would give ATV riders a chance they would show that they can be just as responsible as bikers, walkers, etc. The vote was really about continuing the ATV ordinance. The club has already been to the selectboard and filed all the state paperwork to get a

permit to travel on Main St. The state denied the permit but they are applying again. The state had concerns about getting too close to the 100C intersection. He has tried to do a lot of compromising. He has had the club pushing him and VASA pushing him but he is also a resident of Johnson. As far as him personally compromising, all he can do is listen to both sides. He gave up his position in the club so he would not be in a biased position. ATVs could be good for the town but they might not fit. That is why the club is asking for a trial period. ATVs need state permits to enter the village so as of now they won't be doing that. They will notify the board if they get the permit.

Steve asked Tess if she feels she has time to be on the trustee board on top of all the things she is involved in. Tess said the meetings do work into her current schedule. She feels she has the capacity to give her full effort to the board. She has been considering it for a while.

Diane asked Kyle why she wants to be a village trustee and what qualities she brings to the position. Kyle said she loves serving the community. Serving has been a passion for her since moving back to Johnson in 2013. She has served on the selectboard and on Johnson Works. She lives and works in the Village of Johnson. She is interested in being on the trustee board to advocate for the people of the village and to work to make the village viable and financially sound. The village is where her family has laid roots, invested financially, made friendships and plans to continue to live. She wants to continue to make it the best place for residents, business owners, tourists, students etc. She is able to offer her municipal experience. Being on this board is a logical next step for her.

Diane said Kyle had mentioned in her letter of interest some ways she has served the Johnson community. She asked if she can mention a few more ways and how that service will enhance her service to the trustee board. Kyle said she was a selectboard member for 6 years. She has been a Johnson works member for 7 years and was president for almost 5 years. She has been on the Beautification Committee for four years and has been its chair for 3 years. She was on the form based code subcommittee. She was on the area wide Brownfields committee. She is a member of the PTO at Johnson Elementary. She is on a sheriff's department citizens group and she is a member of the Lamoille County Progressive Party. She worked hard with other community members to make the annual town meeting and village meeting inclusive, family friendly events with child care, food, music, posters etc. With Johnson Works she helped to bring the Johnson Jubilee back. Johnson Works put up hanging baskets, did a "buy local" campaign to promote local spending, and in conjunction with the post office and NVU did a mass mailing of a business directory. Kyle was involved in developing the website for Johnson Works and organizing harvest and Earth Day festivals. She helped bring food carts to the village green. She has organized food drives and the "save NVU" event last year. She has bailed water out of the library basement. She put hearts on Main Street for Valentine's Day and started a "signs of hope" initiative. She is a weekly pie baker for the Historical Society. She has been involved in Orange Up and Green Up initiatives. She has been a Recreation Committee volunteer. Ninety percent of her community activity is village based. There are at least five unique things she can bring to the board. Her selectboard experience primed her well for being a trustee. It is very common for selectboard members to become trustees or vice versa. Gordy Smith and Mike Dunham are examples. It can be beneficial to understand each other's boards and what it takes to work together. While she was on the selectboard she attended every available town officer education course and went to day long VLCT conferences for municipalities where she learned about Open Meeting law, Robert's Rules, etc. and did a lot of networking. She feels her training put her in a good position to understand how

local government works and if she does not know an answer she has resources and knows who to contact. She has been diligent about attending meetings, reading minutes and watching videos from meetings. That is the best way to stay up to date on issues our town is facing. She still attends most selectboard meetings and most trustee meetings. She has demonstrated collaboration and building consensus among diverse interest groups, focusing on the entire community rather than the needs of a few individuals. She looks forward to continuing to do that.

Diane asked what Kyle knows about this board and its functions. Kyle said it is different from the selectboard because it functions more as a utility than a municipality but it does have a general department that works as a municipality. The trustee board is responsible for three budgets – electric, water and sewer and general department. The general department is mostly funded by the 10 cents on the grand list from the town. The village is responsible for sidewalks and storm drains and co-owns a lot of properties with the town. It has five linemen, one foreman and a village manager. Rosemary is an elected official and Susan is a joint employee. There is one official committee that the village shares with the town: the Racial Justice Committee. The village helps support Johnson Works and beautification and oversees the fire department. She feels like she has a good understanding of what this board is responsible for

Diane asked Ken why he wants to be a trustee and what qualities he would bring to the position. Ken said he ran as a write-in candidate. He decided to get in late. That is why he was not on the ballot. He thinks he could bring the trustees a lot of different things that haven't been on the trustee board. For instance he has a good construction background, familiarity with VOSHA, fire safety ADA and historical building requirements, etc. He works at a restaurant where he deals with a lot of health and safety issues. He is familiar with residential and commercial electric hookups. He had to deal with a municipality and a private contractor to get building sewer pipes fixed. He has been his own contractor for 22 years. He is used to juggling projects, schedules and budgets. He is familiar with water systems and catch basins. He is not familiar with electric rates. He thinks we have an outstanding fire department that does not need much oversight. He thinks he could bring new thought to the trustee board with regard to construction. The village has a lot of construction coming up. He feels being a taxpayer for 30 years, living here and raising three children here he can bring a lot to the board.

Diane asked how he has served the village community in the past and how that will enhance his service to the trustee board. Ken said he doesn't have the resume Kyle has. He is a father and a grandfather and has been with his fiance for a long time. He coached minor league and little league. He doesn't bring a lot of knowledge except general Vermont knowledge. He doesn't think a board member needs to be on many committees. The board should have different minds and not all be like-minded. He can bring an honest opinion and a new look to the board.

Diane asked what he knows about this board and its function. Ken said he could repeat what Kyle said. Anyone can go to the web page and read about each function. The village is responsible for the electric rate, which he complains about, though he knows it has to go up due to increases in the cost of living and the cost of business. The village is in charge of expansion of power and sewer. He thinks this board has been doing a lot of things outside the realm of what they need to do. The board is responsible for power, sewer, water, roadways, drainage systems and the fire department.

Diane asked what he thinks the role of a citizen is in the community. Ken said he would not have all the answers as a board member. He would rely on other board members and Meredith. Last week he watched the board talk about the sidewalk project and listened to Greg Tatro give good advice about possibly sending the project back out to bid. He thinks he could bring that kind of experience. Diane asked again about the role of a citizen. Ken said a citizen's role is to participate in the community with what you can do. Citizens pay taxes and direct the board what to do. They vote board members in. If they don't like what board members are doing they remove them.

Diane asked Tess why she wants to be a trustee and what she would bring to the position. Tess said she has been interested in becoming more involved with Johnson. She lives here and her kids go to school here. What happens here is important to her. She would bring an unbiased different perspective to the board. She is the executive director of the Lamoille Chamber of Commerce. She also works for other nonprofit organizations. She is an advocate for the Clarina Howard Nichols center and does marketing for the North Central Vermont Recovery Center. Something she does on the side that she is well known for is facilitating healthy relationships. People come to her for advice all the time. She has a good relationship with LEDC. She advocates for organizations and for the whole community. A huge part of her job is connecting people and organizations with resources. She is also part of the Lamoille Area Health and Human Services Command Center and the Working Communities Challenge and she is on a couple of boards including Copley House.

Diane asked how Tess has served the Johnson community in the past and how that will enhance her service to the trustee board. Tess said she has been involved with Lamoille Housing Partnership. They are trying to develop affordable housing projects in Johnson. She has more recently been involved with the recovery center and Jenna's Promise. She is the treasurer for the Johnson Works board. They are looking to coordinate with the bike company that just moved here on a yearly bike charity event.

Diane asked what Tess knows about this board and its functions. Tess said not as much as Kyle, but she knows that the trustees help make decisions about water, light, and electric service, roads and various buildings and the fire department.

BJ asked for clarification on a question Steve had asked Kyle. She said she decided not to continue on the selectboard in order to run as a trustee, then when Steve asked why she did not have her name put on the ballot she said she didn't know if she had the energy. If she knew she was running, why did she not put her name on the ballot and almost guarantee herself the position? Kyle said some of that is very personal and she is not going to talk about it. She is not sure it is an appropriate question. An elected position takes an incredible amount of time and energy. It was a family decision and then she found herself still very dedicated to the community and issues and decided to go for it but it was too late to be on the ballot.

BJ asked all the candidates to describe their two biggest strengths and their two biggest weaknesses if they become trustees.

Kyle said one of her strengths is her experience being an elected official with the selectboard. Knowing how a board is run and knowing about rules and laws is very important. This is a young board and she feels it could use someone with that municipal government experience. Training and experience are her two strengths. One weakness is that sometimes she gives everything and can

feel little depleted. She needs to pace herself and make sure to keep herself healthy and vibrant. Another weakness might be that being in a position of leadership like this comes with a lot of backlash sometimes and it can be challenging not taking things quite as personally, which she is learning every day how to do more. Being vulnerable but staying in her power is something she is constantly working on.

Ken said his strengths would be his construction experience, having up to seven employees working under him, being an employer dealing with state regulations a lot and his experience with VASA using Robert's Rules and following Open Meeting Law. One of his weaknesses is probably his hatred for the electric rate. Another one is caring so much about Johnson. He moved here from Eden Mills and raised three kids here. Johnson thrived when it was a family community.

Tess said one of her strengths is servant leadership. That is something she strives to practice. It means always listening and being unbiased. She communicates well with people. Another one is making difficult decisions. That is something she is known for. She is able to help people and organizations with that. One of her weaknesses is public speaking. She doesn't feel good at that. Another is lack of experience on a municipal board. She only has experience with non-profit organizations but is interested in learning more about municipal boards.

BJ asked Kyle what the biggest issue is that she would like to address as a trustee. Kyle said she thinks there are ten pressing things on the trustees' plate. The village garage remediation and reconstruction is high on the list. The River Road pump station needs to be completed. The Pearl Street/Clay Hill sidewalk reconstruction project needs to be done. The sewer and water rate study, cupola removal and municipal building repairs all need to happen. The powerhouse site cleanup and redevelopment needs to be finished. And there is continuation of the merger study talks. With town and village voting to continue those talks she assumes both boards probably will start a subcommittee. The electric department and its financial vitality is a huge issue. Something she is always advocating for as a business owner is uplifting and supporting the businesses we have and attracting new ones. Without Main Street businesses we have no village. And keeping the survival of NVU at the forefront of our minds is important.

BJ asked what is the most important thing to her personally. Kyle said when you are part of a board it is not really about what you personally feel, it is what the board feels is the top priority, taking into account recommendations of the village manager. For her personally, working with the Main Street business community and working on sidewalks to make this a walkable, pleasant place to live, work and play is important, but of course that needs to be balanced with other infrastructure issues. There is currently a massive mold issue for employees that must be dealt with. The pump stations are important. As a board member she would have to juggle and weigh all those things with other board members and work on multiple things simultaneously.

Ken said Kyle made a good point that it is not about what a board member personally finds most important. But personally, overall livability of Johnson is important to him. He started working at the talc mill when he was 18 years old and made very good pay. We haven't seen that in Johnson since then. Livability of Johnson involves bringing families here. If there are not families, businesses won't open.

Tess said she agrees with Kyle and Ken. Something that is important to her is revitalization and economic development including repair of sidewalks, roads and buildings in Johnson. She has been advocating for an affordable housing organization to give us funding to continue to build and develop affordable housing but we need to convince them that Johnson is a great place and that the housing will be successful and used here.

Will asked all the candidates how important it is to work within the budget. We have taxpayers supporting the general department and ratepayers supporting water, sewer and electric. Is it a priority to work within the budget?

Kyle said yes, of course. She knows as a business owner and an adult that you have to work within a budget. She had to face some tough decisions on the selectboard as well. She thinks she can offer creative, out of the box thinking on how we can do that. There may be times when there is no wiggle room but sometimes with vision and collaboration and creative thinking we can figure out how to get all needs met while staying within a budget. She looks forward to that challenge.

Ken said he deals with budgets every day. He gives estimates to customers. If the board doesn't stick with the budget it had better have a good answer come voting time. Budget items can usually be moved around and swapped but when you are elected to be on this board you need to stay within the budget.

Tess said she agrees with Kyle and Ken. She is known to be a penny pincher in her job as executive director. She is comfortable with finding new and different ways to find money and thinking of ways to bring in more money. She firmly believes in staying within the budget.

4. *Executive Session Re: Appointment of a Public Officer*

Diane moved and Steve seconded to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of a public officer pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(3),

Kim Dunkley asked if there was going to be any public discussion. Is the public allowed to ask candidates questions? Will said there is currently no motion to have a discussion about. The board will go into executive session and if a motion is to be made afterwards then there will be discussion on that. Kim said she is hearing that village residents do not have any ability to ask any questions before the board makes a decision. Will said there will be discussion. Nothing can be done in executive session. Once the board comes out of executive session a motion may be made and if it is made the public has a right to voice opinions on it. Diane asked, isn't it better to hear public opinion first? Will said he thinks the trustees need to discuss it among themselves first.

The motion was passed and the board entered executive session at 7:04. The board came out of executive session at 7:33.

5. *Vote on Appointment of Interim Trustee*

Will said the executive session can't be discussed outside of executive session. He asked Rosemary to describe the procedure for a public vote to elect a trustee. Rosemary said consent forms have to be in six Mondays before the election, so June 8 is the earliest a vote could be held. If the board wants to send everyone a ballot the postage cost would be \$600 to \$800, depending on whether it is more than 1 oz. or not. Last time ballots were sent out to all village voters, 148 absentee ballots came back out of 650 sent out.

Will asked, volunteers and Rosemary will be at the polls? Rosemary said yes. The polls have to be open from 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the poll workers are paid minimum wage. She likes to have at least two to three people working besides herself. They are paid \$11.75 per hour.

Meredith said tonight's agenda did not include an action item on setting a meeting date. That could be done at a special meeting. Meredith and Rosemary agreed it would probably be a good idea to post something letting people know what to do if they are interested in running.

Meredith said since this agenda item was taking a vote it might be good to give the public an update on what is happening. Will asked if any board member wanted to make a motion. Diane said there is no motion to be made except to have a vote in the future. Will said the board could not come to consensus on a candidate so the only way to proceed is to have a public vote. That wasn't on the agenda so to be in compliance the board will hold a special meeting to authorize a special election for a trustee.

The board agreed to schedule a special meeting for 6:00 p.m. on May 3. Meredith said she will put notices on Front Porch Forum, the website and the Facebook page letting people know they need to get consent forms in by Monday, May 3 if they want to be on the ballot.

6. *Vote on Request for Food Truck Operation at the Village Green – Front Seat Coffee*

Meredith reminded everyone that at the last regular meeting the board discussed a request from Front Seat coffee to come to the village green. Trustees were going to visit the green and think about having two trucks there. She thinks most have gone and looked. There would be some expense to the village for putting in a new panel next to the existing electric box to establish another metered location and there would be an expense for Front Seat Coffee to run electric to the food truck. There is a \$10 per day charge for food trucks to be on the green. She believes the materials cost to do the work would be covered through their payment for the space.

Steve moved and Diane seconded to allow Front Seat Coffee to put a food truck on the village green.

Diane said she went and looked at the space with Steve. They felt the Front Seat Coffee food truck would look best directly opposite the Mudgies truck on the opposite side of the green. It would be a short distance from the electric post and it would leave the rest of the green open to people and picnic tables and would leave the view open to the art on the back wall.

BJ said he was thinking it would be a smaller footprint to have the trailers side by side. With trucks on both sides there is only a little bit of green in the middle.

Steve said he is open to having the Front Seat Coffee truck in either corner. His bigger concern is pushing the Mudgies truck closer to the drive.

Will said he suggests keeping both trucks on the same side of the park. If we put the smaller truck behind the larger truck there would be an increased view of the artwork. He would like both trucks perpendicular to Main Street.

Lynda Hill said she is concerned that with two trucks facing Walter Pomeroy's building, the noise could bother him and his tenants. And then there is the expense of moving the electric service when

there is already electricity on the other side. Will said there isn't electricity on the other side. New electric service will have to be put in for the new truck. He reached out to Walter. The last time he talked to him, Walter said, "Put in four trucks."

Kim Dunkley said she wonders if anyone thought about other locations like the former talc mill property. A lot of people pass by there on the rail trail.

Will said as far as he knows we haven't been approached by anyone to put anything there. It is a jointly owned property. He asked Meredith if anyone has approached her about that location. Meredith said no. She has never put any thought into trying to get people to go into other locations and hasn't gotten requests.

Kim suggested give them the idea and seeing if they would prefer that. Meredith said she hasn't suggested that to people who have requested using the village green. Mudgies has already put an investment into running electricity to their location on the green.

Ken said he thinks it would be best for the trucks to be in the middle of the village. We want people to come into the village. They could put signs up by the bike path. Are these two trucks guaranteed those spots because they are paying for electric service or is it first come first serve?

Will said it is a one-year contract. Meredith said it has been first come first serve. Mudgies was first to put in an application last year and first again this year. We can we reserve the right to say, with a reasonable amount of notice, that they have to leave.

Anne Mullings ask if anyone has thought about how this will affect Greg Tatro's coffee shop. She thinks we all want that to succeed.

Will said he has given it some thought. He thinks they are two different venues for the same thing. He doesn't think Greg will lose too much business over this.

Steve said he sees the cafe as more of a place where people could sit down and maybe have something like a bowl of soup. People would not hang out for a long time at the food truck like they would in the cafe. And in response to Lynda's earlier comment he wants people to know that the trucks won't face Walter's building. Their backs will face Walter's and they will face into the green.

Margo Warden asked if we know the timeline for Greg's coffee shop. Meredith said she thinks there is still a fair amount of construction work to be done on the building but she is not well versed in their timeline.

Lotty Roozekrans said with the trucks side by side they will be a lot less visible. Having them on either side of the green would give them the most road frontage and make it easier for passersby to see them. She would be interested in hearing Tobin Porter-Brown's opinion on visibility and how important that is for him.

Greg Tatro said they will start demolishing the back of the coffee shop later this week and they will start digging the foundation for the addition within the next few weeks. The coffee shop should be open by fall. He is also working with a local banker that wants to use some of the space.

Tobin said he is excited to be coming in. Visibility is really important, especially since this is a new business. If his food truck is tucked behind the Mudgies truck he would hope they could put a sign up near the road. The other location on the other side of the green would be better for people to see them.

Will asked what size sign he would envision. Tobin said probably about 2x2 ft. Something very visible from the road.

Tobin said with regard to the other coffee shop, his food truck will be gone in the fall. They are just a three-season operation. He really supports what Greg is doing and doesn't think the two businesses will overlap a lot. His truck will focus on coffee and baked goods, not sandwiches, soups, etc. And it will be a very quick grab and go experience.

Steve withdrew his motion and made a new motion to give permission to Front Seat Coffee to put a food truck on the village green in the front corner on the opposite side of the green from the Mudgies food truck. Diane seconded. The motion failed in a roll call vote with Steve and Diane voting yes and BJ and Will voting no.

Steve moved and BJ seconded to give permission to Front Seat Coffee to have a food truck on the village green with the truck to be placed behind the Mudgies food truck next to the driveway.

Lynda Hill said she understands where Tobin is coming from. He is new to the location and needs to be seen. She doesn't think having him on the opposite side of the green from Mudgies blocks any part of the green at all. She thinks it frames it. He can't be tucked into a corner or no one knows he is there. Especially if his trailer is smaller than the Mudgies trailer she thinks the trustees would be doing him an injustice by not letting him be where people could see the truck better. What if another food truck wants to come to the village green next year? Eventually trucks will be put on both sides. She doesn't think it would hurt anything for him to be on the front corner opposite Mudgies.

Tobin said his truck is much smaller than the Mudgies truck – 6x10 feet. He wonders if both are on the same side of the green whether the Mudgies truck could be behind his truck.

Will said he thinks if the motion passes the trustees could see if the two trucks are willing to work together to work out which goes in front and which goes in back. Meredith said the board approved Mudgies' request to use the green with the requirement that they move the truck about 90° from its location last year and no other requirement. Telling them they have to switch locations feels a little like pulling the rug out from under them. Will said he is not sure there is enough room in back for the larger trailer but if the two vendors can work out having Mudgies in back he would be open to that. Even though the motion states that Front Seat Coffee is being given permission to be located behind Mudgies he is open to working something out between the two vendors.

Tobin asked, if he is to be in back can he have pre-approval for a sign on the street side? Will said he doesn't see why the board can't approve that

Steve and BJ agreed to a friendly amendment adding that Front Seat Coffee has permission to put up a 2-ft by 2-ft sign between the Mudgies truck and the sidewalk. BJ asked if the motion should state that whichever truck is in the back can put up a sign. Will said the trustees are reasonable and can adjust if the vendors come to an agreement about switching locations.

The motion was passed.

Steve suggested it would be helpful if some trustees, Troy and the two truck owners could meet at the green and measure things. He is willing to do that. Meredith said she will connect Tobin and Pam. She agrees it would be good to set up a meeting with all parties on the village green. Will asked her to loop him in too.

7. *Update on BLM Banner Placement & Permit Application*

Meredith said Diane and Steve looked at possible locations for the Black Lives Matter banner that was proposed to be hung over Route 15 and staff came to the same conclusion they did that the only suitable location is a pair of poles in front of Sterling Market. Some work will need to be done to accommodate the banner. Troy will create an estimate of the cost for that work. We reached out to Consolidated for their sign-off and expect that soon. She showed the trustees a picture of the poles that could be used.

Will said he would hope the trustees could have a cost estimate by the next regular meeting. Meredith said it will be ready by then. BJ asked, the village has a cost for that? The people who put up the banner don't pay for it themselves? Meredith said this would be a village project. BJ asked where the money would come from. Will said the trustees have to talk about that. At the next meeting we will know the cost and then we can determine where the funds can come from.

Jackie Stanton said she thinks it is unsafe and unprofessional for BJ to be driving around in his car while participating in this meeting. She feels he is not focused on the meeting or the roads. BJ said it is hands-free and legal. He can hear and pay attention to the road at the same time. Jackie said she thinks trustees should be present at the meeting.

Ken said it is hands-free and legal so it is okay. He asked if the village is assuming liability while the banner is up. Will said he assumes if the village puts it up the liability is on the village, correct? Meredith said she would say yes, we are taking on a liability if we are putting it up in and attesting to the state that we are putting it up safely and according to their standards. Ken said he thinks something like that should be put to the voters and not just decided by the board. That is a lot of liability to the town.

Kyle said she agrees with Jackie about BJ participating from his car. She can't believe that is acceptable. Whether it is legal or not, it is unprofessional and it is disruptive to the audio every time BJ comes on. Regarding the banner, putting up the banner is the recommendation to the board from the village and town Racial Justice Committee. This is a justified request by a village and town committee.

BJ said he has only been driving for about 15 minutes. The issues he was having that were causing audio disruption were happening before he was driving so it is not due to driving.

Kim said she is happy that there is potential to get the banner up. She was hoping that instead of there being a cost to all taxpayers the Racial Justice Committee would do a fundraiser.

8. *Vote on Marvin Award Nominations*

Meredith said at the last meeting the board voted to nominate Gordy Smith and Scott Meyer for Marvin Awards. There was a question about nominating Lea Kilvadyova. She did receive an award in the past for her work in Johnson. Meredith talked to Tasha Wallis who said she thought Lea could be nominated for something like a lifetime achievement award. She said they would love to see a nomination for Lea as well.

Steve moved to nominate Lea Kilvadyova for a Marvin Award in recognition of all the service she provided throughout her life for the community, Will seconded and the motion was passed.

Diane said she wants to nominate Lois Frey for a Marvin Award. She has been on the Conservation Commission for 16 years and she has done so much for our town. She deserves recognition. **Diane moved to nominate Lois Frey for a Marvin Award, Steve seconded and the motion was passed.**

9. *Adjourn*

Diane moved to adjourn at 8:35 and the motion was seconded and passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths