

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017

**Present:**

Trustees: Gordon Smith, Walter Pomroy, David Goddette, Bob Sweetser

Others: Meredith Birkett, Rosemary Audibert, Troy Dolan, Tom Elwood, Rob Moore, Rich Whittemore, Nicole Whittemore, Rick Aupperlee, Will King

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

**1. *Call to Order***

Gordy called the meeting to order at 6:00.

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

Meredith added approval of a change the April 10 joint meeting minutes, Will King answering questions about the Cole project proposal under public appearances, an update on Gulf Hill, and an information item about a system impact study for the Lehouillier project. Gordy added discussion of a barbecue.

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

**Walter moved to approve the minutes of June 12, 2017, Bob seconded and the motion was passed.**

Meredith explained that the selectboard wanted to add a transcript of the vehicle accident discussion to the April 10 joint meeting minutes previously approved by the trustees. Copies of the transcript had been distributed. **Walter moved to approve adding the transcript of the vehicle accident discussion to the minutes of the April 10, 2017 joint selectboard-trustee meeting, Bob seconded and the motion was passed.**

**4. *Treasurer's Report / Review & Approve Bills and Warrants / Action Items***

Rosemary said the village Grand List is down by a couple thousand dollars due to a couple of fires. The tax rate needed to meet the approved budget is 19 cents, a hundredth of a cent higher than the 18.9 cents the trustees told the voters it would be. Walter said that would be an increase of only about \$2 for a \$200K house. Rosemary said with the rebuilding that is going on and the construction of the new Maplefields the tax rate should go down next year.

Walter said he would like to stick with the tax rate the board gave the voters. That would raise only about \$590 less than the amount needed for the budget. He thinks we can find that through the course of the year. Dave agreed. Gordy said we saved money on Main Street striping. Troy said we saved about \$1700 because the state did the striping.

**Walter moved to set the village tax rate at 18.9 cents, Dave seconded and the motion was passed.**

The board reviewed the budget status report. Walter asked how many customers hooked onto the new sewer line. Meredith said just Loeffler. She sent a loan application to another customer who is potentially interested.

##### **5. *Richard Whittemore – Request to Amend Wastewater Permit Conditions***

Meredith said the board previously approved a new connection for the Whittemores' Main Street building. They are turning a building in back of the property into a one bedroom apartment. The village ordinance mandated separate water and sewer connections and that requirement was put into the permit, but putting in separate lines is proving challenging. Tom and Meredith met with the Whittemores and saw the challenges. The board might want to consider amending the permit to allow a shared line, at least for sewer.

Rich Whittemore said the contractor found it would be difficult to put in a separate sewer line, with the water main and electrical conduit there. He would like to hook into the sewer line that comes out of the Murray house. That line is all new PVC. If the village lets him hook into that line he would put in the deed to the Murray house that whoever owns the house would be responsible for the line going to the new apartment, if the two buildings are ever separated. If it had been simple to put in a separate line he would have been willing to do it, but it would not be simple. It may not be possible to get a trench box in there without dismantling the power.

Dave asked if that provision can legally be added to a deed. Rosemary and Meredith said yes. Meredith said we would get an opinion from our attorney that the deed provision was enforceable.

Tom said it is questionable whether a separate line can be safely put in. The issue is that there is no room to put a trench box. If it could be done safely he would say to require a separate line. He thinks the existing 4 inch line can handle the additional property. If they put in a new sewer line there would also be a problem with separation between domestic water and sewer lines, so there would be additional costs.

Gordy said the Whittemores are upgrading a lot of properties and making things better for the community, so if there is a way to allow a shared line he is in favor. Dave said his only concern is whether the proposed addition to the deed is enforceable. Walter said you can put it in the deed, but what if the owner of the property refuses to pay? He asked if the Whittemores have explored putting the line on the other side of the property. Rich said that is not possible. Rich said if they can't use a shared sewer line they will pull the plug on the project. He said there is no flow-related reason not to allow a shared line. Walter said if there is a problem with the line in the future it would be an issue between the two property owners.

Bob said if the village put a main and a manhole in there we wouldn't have any problems. Walter asked if that is possible. Tom said we would run into the same issue with lack of room. Rich said it could be done, but it wouldn't be cheap.

Nicole said the Whittemores own all the buildings in the vicinity.

The board agreed Meredith could check with the village's attorney to see if the proposed addition to the deed would be a feasible solution. Meredith asked if the Whittemores would be open to either amending the deed or saying the property can't be subdivided. Rich said yes. He said he doesn't see any issues if all the buildings have the same owner. Walter said if

someone has a backyard shop we don't require a second water or sewer line for that building. He would be more agreeable to a shared line if there were a restriction that the parcels always have to be together. Rich and Nicole said they don't feel it is likely that the parcels would ever be separated.

Tom asked if the Whittemores are still planning to put in a new water line. Rich said yes.  
(*The Whittemores left at 6:34.*)

**6. Rob Moore – Information on Green Mountain Byway**

Meredith said she had invited Rob Moore, a transportation planner with LCPC, to talk about the Green Mountain Byway.

Dave asked what the Green Mountain Byway is. Rob said it is a corridor that allows the entire municipality to take advantage of the state's Department of Tourism and Marketing. For example, they might take out an ad in the Boston Globe that could feature Johnson. About a month ago the magazine Country Living highlighted the Green Mountain Byway, which currently runs from Waterbury to Stowe.

Walter asked what the proposed new route would be. Rob handed out maps and brochures showing the byway in its current form. The Federal Highway Administration has revoked any federal funding, so the Byway is no longer an infrastructure development tool. It is just a tourism and marketing tool. The state can promote all the communities along a byway. The Green Mountain Byway Committee included paid town staff members from Stowe and Waterbury, community members, and representatives from businesses and organizations such as Cabot, the Green Mountain Club, and the Stowe Land Trust. Meredith and Brian have been attending meetings to learn more. The specific route currently is highlighted as Route 100 but everything in participating towns is fair game as far as promotion and marketing. The benefits extend to any business or recreation opportunity in a participating municipality. What Rob envisions and what he thinks the committee is starting to envision is a route that would follow Route 100 to the Morristown border with a side spur going to Hyde Park via Route 108. It would be like a lollipop with a small gap from Hyde Park to Stowe. People would be able to find their way back to 100 from Hyde Park. Morrisville and Morristown sent letters of interest in being part of the byway, but they don't send people to the committee. So the committee is proceeding without them. Hyde Park Village and Town, Cambridge Town and Jefferson Village, and Johnson Village and Town are all interested.  
(*Will King arrived at 6:40.*)

Gordy asked about expenses to us. Rob said mostly it would just be social collateral – collaborating with local business owners, the Conservation Commission, the town Public Works Department, etc.

Walter asked who pays for pamphlets. Rob said they were originally paid for by grant funds which are no longer available. If there is enough interest in expanding the byway there is one formality with the transportation board. They review the proposal for a byway and approve it or not. There is no access to federal or state funding. The Department of Tourism and Marketing provides resources to maintain the website, printed publications and advertising.

Gordy asked where the rail trail would fit in. Rob said he thinks it should be very prominent in this effort.

Walter asked what Rob is looking for from the board tonight. Rob said he just wanted to share information. The committee is planning a social mixer at GMTCC. They would invite trustees and selectboards, representatives from the Department of Tourism and Marketing, Chambers of Commerce, and local prominent business owners so people can learn more about the byway.

Walter said the benefit he sees is putting a pamphlet in the hands of people who are staying in Stowe hotels, with someone else paying for it.

Rob said the Corridor Management Plan for the byway needs to be revised to get approval for the new byway route. He doesn't have the capacity to revise the plan, so the committee is thinking they need to hire a consultant to push the effort through the public process and determine what local folks want on the map. The committee has been wondering how to pay the consultant. One committee member has talked to some business owners and preliminary feedback is that they are willing to pay. The committee is thinking of soliciting private investments and getting a token contribution from each municipality and they feel that would be enough to pay a consultant to rewrite the plan.

Dave asked who we would write the check to. Rob said the committee is thinking the consultant could send invoices to as many different parties as we want. The committee asked for a very rough preliminary estimate. The committee feels that estimate came in at least twice as high as it should be. The worst case scenario is that the total is \$20K. There are 5 towns, so that is \$4K each. Johnson has a town and a village so that would be \$2K each. But it is possible that that amount is twice what we need. So the cost to the village might \$1K. The cost could possibly be spread over 2 fiscal years.

Dave asked who owns the Green Mountain Byway. Rob said it is a grassroots organization of volunteers and municipal paid staff, facilitated and administered by the regional planning commissions. Dave asked if it is a corporation. Rob said no; it is a grassroots group of people. Dave asked who holds the liability. Rob said there is no liability as far as he can see. If someone got lost following the map and wanted to blame someone he doesn't think that is a liability situation. There is the question of whether there could be liability for mismarketing. Dave asked who is in charge of connecting with promotional outlets such as magazines. Rob said the Department of Tourism and Marketing. Walter said we would provide information for the state to distribute. Rob said that is correct.

Gordy asked how this coincides with the joint marketing grant with the town. Meredith said she thinks they could be complementary. They are different. The grant is to support our branding effort. We could roll that into the information we give the state about us.

Dave said his only concern is the consultant. It sounds like we can't move forward without a consultant. Rob said we can't move forward without putting a written plan in front of the transportation board. That would take a lot of his time and he doesn't have specific funding

payable to his time to cover this. He is an LCPC employee who has an annual contract with VTrans to coordinate transportation-related work in the county. The Green Mountain Byway is one task in a 30-40 page contract.

Dave asked if the committee has a budget or a treasurer. Rob said they have no funds now. They talked about whether they should become an LLC and decided against it. The consultant could send each municipality an invoice. There would be a memorandum of understanding naming the partners and their share of the cost.

Dave asked when the committee's next meeting is. Rob said Thursday, July 20. Dave asked if the meetings are open to anyone. Rob said yes. The meeting is at the Stowe Town Hall at 4:30.

Walter asked if it would be possible for him to have some hours freed up if the village leaned on his boss, Tasha Wallis. Rob said no. The resources just aren't there.

Rob said he asks that Meredith continue to attend meetings and brainstorm on how to evolve the process. The committee will keep the board posted if they need money. (*Rob left at 7:04.*)

#### **7. Will King – Cole Solar Project**

Will King said he had sent Meredith a revised proposal for the Cole solar project, based on feedback from TJ Poor and Meredith. It reflects the need for the village to have the RECs from day one. It reduces what the village would pay for power to 10.17 cents. The agreement would go for 25 years, with a 1% escalator after 11 years. At the end of year 7 there would be an option to purchase the installation at fair market value. That would bring down the cost per kilowatt-hour. It would be an option, not an obligation. Based on conversations with TJ and Meredith this proposal gets close to what the village would want. To make final tweaks they need real numbers, not estimates. One big figure they need is the interconnect cost. That cost would come from a system impact study. SolarSense would pay for the study but it would require village time. SolarSense would probably ask for a letter of intent. They like to have some sense there is a real project before spending their money. The letter of intent would not obligate the village to anything.

Meredith said the revised proposal has a cost of 10.17 cents with a 1% escalator starting with year 11. The value of the RECs we are getting is \$30. The net cost to us vs. buying market power would be \$173K. There has been a lot of movement since we said the previous proposal was not a good deal for us. She would want TJ to look at the models. SolarSense may have closed the gap enough to move forward with a system impact study.

Walter said this is really big for us. The village has state renewable energy obligations to meet and this project would allow us to meet them. But solar power is getting cheaper. Are we better off doing a small project, waiting 5 years and doing another small project, then waiting 5 more years and doing another small project, rather than doing a big project now? Will said the downside to a lot of smaller projects is that it makes it more expensive for the developer due to fixed costs for each project. He would have a hard time envisioning getting to the same aggressive cost numbers with a smaller project. There is a trade case now about a tariff on panels. If that happens, business is done. Will solar power keep getting cheaper or

will that stop? He doesn't know. Maybe it won't keep getting cheaper and the village could miss the boat. He thinks the village should consider going with this project for more than 25 years because it brings the cost down.

Gordy asked what percentage of our total load this is. Meredith and Will said they think it is about 25%. Will said he recognizes that is a lot from a single source.

Troy said upgrades for the project will cost a lot more than \$200K. That estimate isn't even close. Walter said if the improvements have to be done someday we would be incurring a cost that we would eventually incur anyway. Meredith said there would be some benefit to us from the upgrades. Gordy said it might encourage some development.

#### **8. WWTF Chief Operator Report and Action Items**

Tom said the wastewater samples were all good. The E-DMR and WR-43 were filed. Quarterly sludge reports were filed. They were good. There was a callout for a power outage at the wastewater plant on June 16.

There is a windrow turner at the compost facility. The compost facility will be changing to an aerated pile system so the windrow turner won't be needed. The compost facility manager knows someone who might want to buy it. Is the board willing to sell it? The board agreed to pursue selling it. Tom said he will come back to the board with a price.

Tom attended a free class on cyber security for water and wastewater. Walter asked if the water/wastewater system is connected to a network. Tom said there is no reason for the system that runs the plant to be connected to the internet. It is protected by a firewall. Dave asked if it would be beneficial to send an interoffice memo about the things Tom learned from the course. Tom said he could send out the PowerPoint from the course. Walter said most attacks come through emails that appear to be from someone you know. The best thing would be for the computer operating the plant not to be connected to anything else. There should be a computer for emails that is separate from what is operating the plant. Tom said that is pretty close to what we are doing now. The computer running the plant is running XP and there are no more updates for it so it doesn't need to connect to the internet to get updates. It is isolated. At the class he took they talked about how the web-based controls some municipalities use are easy to hack.

There were 3 callouts for siphon backups last month. Hartigan has cleaned it several times since April and it is finally all cleaned out. It was hard white grease that was plugging the line. He is not sure where it is coming from. He thinks we will have to do grease trap inspections. He will open manholes to find where the grease is coming from. The jetter van Hartigan uses to clean the line is not strong enough. Tom has been trying to get Hardwick to come and do it. He has been playing phone tag with them. Tom has asked Hartigan if they can do something for us since they cleaned the line multiple times and didn't get it clean. He is waiting to hear back about that. We usually use Morrisville's jetter but they haven't been returning Tom's calls. Hardwick has done it for us before.

There was a fuel oil spill at a residence on Lower Main where an oil tank was cut up. Fuel oil got into the influent wet well and preact zones. Tom notified Arjay, Meredith and Troy.

Meredith notified the state spill hotline and Tom notified the state ANR watershed management division. Our bugs survived and we are back to normal operations.

Walter asked, the state is not blaming us? Tom said no. He notified them in case we had a violation. Walter asked if they are going after the homeowner. Tom doesn't know. Meredith said the last she heard they were viewing the incident as not intentional and were just going to make the homeowner responsible for a \$250 deductible with the state kicking in the rest of the funds.

Dave asked if we had any significant cost. Tom said other than hours, no. Meredith said we should submit our staff time cost to the state.

Tom said the monthly E. coli water samples were all good. We will collect lead and copper samples this month. That is done every 3 years. There were no callouts for the water plant last month. All hydrants have been flushed except for Katy-Win due to drainage issues.

Bob said someone told him that there were no official orders but the state used to clean out the manhole in the area with the drainage problem. Meredith said the state has been clear that the issue is a homeowner responsibility. They have issued a permit for him to do the work and he has agreed. The sidewalk is cracked around the manhole. Troy said the sidewalk is settled there. Meredith said the curb is sunk. She sent pictures to VTrans, letting them know there may be a problem. The road may be undermined. They said they have a plan to install a catch basin in that area. They will inspect the area tomorrow morning after seeing the pictures. Meredith and Troy wants to meet with them. Walter said the road is probably being undermined if the curb is sinking. Troy agreed.

Gordy said mandatory composting has been delayed until next year because haulers didn't have a way to haul it. It is now voluntary to bring compost in. It costs a dollar at the transfer station. Walter asked, even in Johnson? Gordy said yes. Tom asked if there is an approved host agreement with the town yet. Meredith said she doesn't believe it is done yet.

Tom said he reviewed the Lehouillier project at 37 Lower Main Street and put stipulations in the permit. He thinks the more people we can hook up the better.

Rick Aupperlee asked if there is a wellhead protection area in the vicinity of 37 Lower Main Street. There is a driven well in that area so there should be a wellhead protection area behind that house. At Laraway they are not allowed to do certain things because they are near the Osgood well. Is that different because it is a public water supply? Are there no protection areas for private wells? There is a spring in that area. It runs into his yard. His neighbor found a clay tile pipe. He has uncovered several sections of drainage pipe. He never saw anything on his deed about it. Tom said he thinks there are a lot of drainage lines we don't know about that are not mapped. Rick said his problem is runoff. There are no soft surfaces on adjacent properties to absorb water. (*Tom left at 7:49.*)

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

Troy said there was an outage on June 16 on Clay Hill due to a downed tree that was outside our right of way. It damaged the 3-phase pole that feeds JSC's solar array. Repairs took about 4 hours. Seventy-two customers were affected.

The transformers in both the primary and backup subs were tested on June 29. Troy is waiting for results.

Two new 200 amp services were installed at Harvey's mobile home park to feed 5 lots. Gordy asked why there were not 5 new meters. Troy said there will be 5 meters. There are multiple meter sockets.

The streetlight project on St. Johns Street has been completed.

The new line has been energized to feed the solar array on Gould Hill. We still have some transfer work that will need to be completed but currently everything on our end is ready for the interconnection.

We have received the required permits from the state and the boring for Alan Lehouillier's solar project will start tomorrow.

The crew has not been able to paint crosswalks due to rain, but Meredith arranged for VTrans to paint crosswalks on Route 15. That saves us \$1700. Our crew will paint the rest when weather allows.

The village crew picked up the materials and spotted the topsoil needed to repair the green areas along the sidewalk on Railroad Street. Jeff worked with the Boy Scouts and the Fire Department to help finish the project. Dave said it was great. There were a lot of comments from people thanking the people working as they drove by.

Troy said rubber gloves and sleeves were sent out for 3 month testing and rubber blankets were sent out for 6 month testing.

Work zone safety was the topic of this month's NEPPA meeting.

Troy has been working with Anthony Nadeau. We will build a 2-pole line extension on Foote Brook Road to serve his property. Troy has verbal permission from the adjacent property owner to install 2 new anchors and one pole. Meredith has updated our easement form and sent it to our attorney for review. Once the easement has been signed we will begin work.

Troy met with the electrician who will install the service for the new Maplefields. He will put in an underground service. They are hoping to have the service completed by October 1.

Troy has been working with Joe from Johnson Elementary. We will be changing an existing pole and installing a new service there to feed a new maintenance building. We will install a new service at 30 Lower Main West.

Meredith said when Troy did the estimate for the line upgrade for Alan Lehouillier's solar array he let them know there would be a cost for a solar impact study. We estimated that study would cost \$5K. The cost estimate we got is \$10K. We will let Alan know that is the cost. He will reimburse us. Troy said the estimate he gave says any additional cost beyond the estimate is the customer's responsibility.

**10. Village Manager Report and Action Items**

Meredith said Gilles Lehouillier has received state permits for 37 Lower Main Street and is requesting final approval of an allocation of 560 gpd for wastewater and 504 gpd for water.

**Walter moved to sign the final water and wastewater permits for 37 Lower Main Street, Dave seconded and the motion was passed.**

Because several VPPSA members declined to participate in the New England Hydro contract, the amount of power VPPSA is planning to purchase has changed, which will reduce Johnson's allocation to 11.5% of our projected load, rather than the 11.6% previously discussed. We had concerns about over-coverage in the early years of the contract, so this is a small change in the right direction. **Dave moved to approve the revised New England Hydro allocation of 11.5% of our projected load, Walter seconded and the motion was passed.**

Meredith said there was a lengthy email exchange with an attorney at Stitzel Page & Fletcher about our proposed water and sewer damage ordinance. They feel it is not appropriate for the village to dictate what people could claim in terms of liability and that it is going against the public interest to say we will cover cost in some cases when we hadn't determined we were liable. Enforcing it would be difficult. She thinks we are left with dealing with issues on a case by case basis. Walter said that is what we wanted to get away from.

Meredith said they reviewed it for free because it had been so long since we sent it to them. She could go Brian Monaghan and ask if he has any suggestions if the board wanted her to. There would be some cost. We could see if he thinks there is another approach that would be enforceable. Walter suggested forwarding the policy to him and having a quick conversation with him but not incurring cost unless he disagrees with the other attorney's opinion and sees a way forward. Otherwise we will just go on a case by case basis. Meredith agreed to do that.

The sewer extension project is done. One manhole didn't pass its first vacuum test. (*Rick left at 8:06.*) But it passed the second time. After we receive the engineering report we should be able to pay the contractor. Meredith and Troy feel they did a nice job.

Our share of the final cost for the municipal building repair project is only about \$2200 over budget. We had budgeted additional funds for other municipal building projects so Meredith thinks we can cover the whole cost with what was budgeted for this building without taking anything from what was budgeted for work on the old mill house. Maybe we should talk with the selectboard about moving forward with an assessment on the old mill building this year.

Timers have been installed upstairs. We just need to figure out how to set them.

The steering committee for the Railroad Street Area Wide Plan Update project consists of Dave Goddette, Kyle Nuse, Bobbi Rooney, Meredith, and Lea Kilvadyova from LCPC. The steering committee and the consultant team met on July 5. They invited John Mandeville and Sharon Scott from JSC. The main goal of the meeting was to select 3 catalyst sites to get more in depth analysis. The three chosen were the talc mill property, Manchester Lumber and Bob Hoag's property on the corner of Railroad and Main. Meredith gave the board copies of a memo from a member of the consultant team.

Bob asked if there has been any talk about putting in a second driveway to the Vallee property. Dave said that is a different area. This project deals with Railroad Street and Lendway Lane.

Meredith said the committee is starting to talk about how development of those sites connects with the branding of Johnson. There will be a big public component to this project. The committee is aiming to have something for the public at the last Tuesday Night Live.

Dave said even though the Area Wide Plan is focused on Railroad Street a big portion of it is an economic study of most of Johnson. It will give good information on the economics of Johnson. We should think about branding of the community and how we are presenting ourselves to visitors and homeowners.

Walter said one thing he noticed in the consultant's report and Meredith's report was that there were items on each about making Railroad Street safer for bikes and pedestrians. Will something come out of this related to what we will do in front of Parker and Stearns? Meredith said she thinks in the short term we know we should do something easy and quick to make car and bike traffic aware of each other. This will give us ideas for bigger long term projects.

Dave said being on the committee has been great education for him, hearing from business owners and community members.

Dave said he has not yet had a chance to put together a Facebook page for the village with Meredith. He showed the fire department's page as an example of a similar page.

Walter said sometimes it feels like a page like this is just talking to the choir. The people who will look at the page are people we don't need to attract or sell to because they are already here. What are we ultimately trying to do with the village page? Keep the local citizenship informed or use it as a marketing tool?

Dave said 288 people like the fire department page. Any time he posts something, 288 people see it. Those people can share what he posts and then their networks see it. He wants as many people as possible to see what is going on here. We are trying to promote the village. The Facebook page is a great opportunity for us to promote the rail trail. People who view our page could include people from the Studio Center who want to stay connected and their networks. It is a big promotional tool for us to use. It is a great way for us to publicize great things that go on in the community. He wants to promote the village as a great place to live

and promote why people should move here or set up businesses here. Facebook is one way of promoting that.

By the next meeting Dave wants to have a page set up. He plans to make it private at first, with a couple of sample posts to show the board. Walter asked, why wait? He trusts Dave and Meredith. Gordy said a Facebook page has already been tested with the fire department. The board agreed Dave and Meredith should move ahead with creating a page and making it public.

Meredith said she reached out to LCPC about getting Brownfield EPA funding for a Phase 1 assessment of the power house building. She submitted a formal request for funding. Her understanding is that there is funding available. Gordy said Meredith and Troy have done a site visit and Meredith is in contact with Seth at LCPC. Our primary concern is public safety, then environmental safety, then the financial liability for the village electric department. Meredith said if we can't get funding we will need to regroup about the first step.

Walter asked if we have properly posted the building for no trespassing. Troy said it is posted. No new posting has been done. Walter said we should have Rosemary provide proper no trespassing signs. Dave asked if we should put up fencing. Walter said if the proper signs are up, we are legally protected. Troy said posting on the river side could be dangerous.

Meredith said she has been at several meetings where increased bicycle traffic has come up. There is a lack of signage warning motorists or bicycles. She thinks it would be good to invest in signage. She would reach out to VTrans for recommendations. She talked to Brian Story. The town plans to paint sharrows on the roadway this summer to alert motorists to share the road with bikes. She and Brian discussed that maybe the village could purchase signs and the town could install them.

Gordy said it would be nice to have a crosswalk at Parker and Stearns. He asked if Meredith could mention that to Brian for the selectboard meeting next week. Meredith said she would.

Dave said there is definitely an issue of speed on Railroad St. It is not our responsibility. But it is connected to pedestrian and bike safety. Walter said visibility is worse for people who are going toward downtown than people going the other way.

Dave said he saw some people with bike helmets at Wicked Wings on July 4. The server told him a lot of people are coming in from the trail to the restaurant. Walter said on July 4 he went to Morrisville to watch the parade. It was amazing how many people were on the rail trail in Morrisville. They used it to get to the parade and then they hung around downtown.

Meredith said she will start pricing out signage. Does the board support spending up to a few hundred dollars?

Gordy said in the Joe's Pond area they put a traffic cone in the middle of the rail trail by road crossings. Troy said he thinks that would be a good idea. Walter said a "silent policeman"

like what is sometimes put on the street in crosswalks might be a good idea for the rail trail crossing on Railroad Street.

The board agreed Meredith should look into signage. Dave asked where the money will come from. Meredith said we just saved \$1700 on crosswalks. The money could come from there.

The Arts Council wants to move ahead with showing movies on the Village Green on Friday nights. They will start July 28. They have to pay for the rights to show the movies so they are looking to partner with a sponsor restaurant or food vendor. They want to make sure the trustees have no philosophical problem with allowing a food vendor. Maybe we could request that they work with someone who already has an established business rather than allowing someone to come in for free and compete with established businesses. Walter said we had food vendors at the farmer's market and no one had a problem with that.

Dave asked about having the vendor prove they have liability insurance. Meredith said we would have the vendor fill out a facility use form.

Meredith said she and Brian think the selectboard and trustees should meet and come to a decision about joint employees. Other topics could be discussed, such as the old mill house and bike/pedestrian safety. She and Brian discussed trying to find a date in late August. Walter said in light of new legislation we need to add a conflict of interest policy. Probably there should be a joint policy on conflict of interest. It was agreed to suggest August 28 or 30 at 6:00.

Meredith reviewed the power bill summary. Our coverage ratio was down to 88.8%. VPPSA's goal is to keep it between 95% and 105% so either something was odd with the load or the forecast was off. We had to go to the market for the additional power above 88%. Walter said that probably saved us money. Meredith said it is risky, however. She needs to ask TJ for a better understanding of what was driving that.

Arthur Hooper let Gordy know the flags outside the municipal building needed replacement. The flags have been replaced.

Gordy asked if Meredith is going to the NEPPA conference. Meredith said she is thinking of it. Gordy said board members can go, too. He thinks if Meredith wants to go she should have the opportunity. The board agreed.

## **11. Other Business**

Gordy offered to put on a barbecue immediately before the next trustee board meeting for those who usually attend board meetings. The board agreed to that. It was agreed to start the barbecue at 5:00.

Walter asked if the tree board knows about construction starting at Maplefields and the need to protect the trees out front. Meredith said probably not. Walter suggested notifying them.

Walter said the Planning Commission is scheduling a public hearing on form based code later this month. He doesn't know to what extent the trustees want to be involved as a board. All board members probably want to read the proposed code.

Dave asked, doesn't the code have to be shared with both the trustees and the selectboard? Walter said it is really up to the town. We are not involved. But since most of it is village-related he thinks we want to put in our voices. He is worried about open meeting law if most trustees start showing up at meetings. Dave said we have the right to speak as a board if we want, as well as showing up as individuals. Walter said we might want to warn the date of the public hearing as a trustee board meeting because there may be a quorum of trustees there. He suggests putting form based code on our agenda for August. Meredith asked if the board wants her to invite the Planning Commission to present form based code to the trustees. Walter suggested going to the public hearing and deciding then if we want David Butler to come to a trustee board meeting.

Gordy said there is a tree that is dead in front of Downtown Pizzeria. And there is another tree that is dying. Meredith said she will talk to Sue Lovering about it.

Dave asked if there is any ceremony for the start of the Maplefields construction. Meredith said not that she has heard of. Village staff hope to meet with their representatives to talk about the process. She will find out if there is going to be something ceremonial.

**12. Adjourn**

**Walter moved and Bob seconded to adjourn at 9:14 and the motion was passed.**

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*