

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

Present:

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

Others: Sandy Miller (Interim Manager), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk), Troy Dolan, Tom Elwood, Meredith Birkett, Tim Sargent, Kim Marble, Seth Jensen

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Gordy called the meeting to order at 6:05.

2. Changes, Additions to Proposed Agenda

Sandy said items 14 and 15 (related to excess water applications) can be deleted as he has received no indication the citizens concerned are coming to the meeting. He added discussion of the solid waste district's grant application for a composting facility.

3. Review and Approve Minutes

Walter moved to approve the minutes of May 9 and May 18, 2016, Bob seconded and the motion was passed.

4. Treasurer's Report / Review and Approve Bills and Warrant / Budget Status Report / Action Items

Rosemary said we received insurance reimbursement in the amount of \$2900 for damage to the tree and electrical pole near Merchants Bank. (*Scott arrived at 6:08.*) Sandy said he informed Sue Lovering of the reimbursement and she said she would allocate the grant funds she had received to other locations. The board agreed to ask her to include a tree to replace the damaged one with her order of trees to be purchased with grant funds.

We received a workers comp refund of \$1146, split between all the departments. Sandy explained that we pay based on estimated payroll and then may get money back as part of a true-up.

Troy has prepared a bill of about \$6200 for the car accident that happened last week, including about \$680 for the fire department. The board agreed to turn it over to PACIF for collection.

We budgeted for \$40K in PILOT money and we got notice that we will receive about \$47K.

The annual Public Service Board report for the electric department has been filed.

Rosemary asked if the board wants to go out to bid for cleaning services. Rhonda's daughter Kelly would like to continue providing the service Rhonda provided. We currently pay \$20/hour, which includes a vacuum cleaner. The selectboard would like to go out to bid. Kelly does have a full-time job. She is continuing to provide cleaning service temporarily. The board agreed Rosemary should let the selectboard know they prefer that Kelly continue to provide cleaning service on a trial basis rather than going out to bid.

The board agreed to discuss the tax rate on June 27.

Johnson State College has not paid the \$6K for fire service they told us they would pay. Sandy will contact them.

Sandy said our electric department receipts for the first quarter are considerably lower than last year's. It is not entirely clear why.

Walter said VELCO may change the timing of when they pay dividends, which may affect this year's budget. *(David arrived at 6:24.)*

Walter asked how we ended up with a negative number in tree trimming. Rosemary said she will look into it.

Walter said we are just barely ahead of budget for water revenue. Sandy said revenue is down compared to last year. Maybe we are budgeting a little conservatively. Scott asked if the newly vacant buildings could be causing it. Troy said he thinks that could contribute.

5. *WWTF Chief Operator Report and Action Items*

Tom said the wastewater plant ran well last month. He reminded the board that he had talked about problems with a rotating assembly on a pump and said he was going to pursue other alternatives. He got a quote on a submersible pump. We would have to do some piping retrofitting to switch to a submersible pump. He is getting quotes on that. It looks like it will be cheaper to get a new submersible pump than to replace the rotating element. A submersible pump would be more efficient and we wouldn't have to worry about flooding in that space again. Walter asked if we can replace the existing pumps one at a time or if it makes sense to do both at once. Tom said it makes sense to do both. He is looking at getting some type of grant or funding, perhaps from our insurance company or from Efficiency Vermont. Sandy asked about the savings. Tom said each rotating assembly costs \$10,886 and we need two. A submersible pump costs \$9742 so we would save about \$1100 per pump by switching to submersibles, as well as getting a more efficient pump that will run under water. Walter said with the cost of retrofitting the piping the cost of submersible pumps will probably be close to the cost of replacing the rotating assemblies. Tom said yes, but once the pumps are replaced they should have a life of 25 years. Sandy said we might get some of the money back from insurance or Efficiency Vermont.

Tom said hydrants have all been flushed. He will assist Troy with getting ready for paving on School St. (raising manholes, etc.)

Gordy asked how the School Street project is going. Troy said the contractor will start grinding on Thursday. Two catch basins have been put in and they will be working on another one tomorrow. Tom has materials ordered for raising manholes.

Walter asked if Tom and Steve are CPR trained. Tom said yes. Walter asked if Troy's crew is trained. Troy said yes. Walter asked if employees are AED trained. Tom and Troy said yes.

Gordy said Jan Perkins had originally discussed having an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at the municipal building. Is having an additional one at the garage enough? Troy said he thinks it would be good to have one on the truck.

Rosemary asked if a PACIF grant could possibly pay for AED's. Sandy said he doesn't remember if they are eligible or ineligible. We are about \$1200 or \$1300 under the cap for PACIF grant funds.

Walter said if we get AED's we have to commit to training everyone and to maintaining the AED's. Under state statute we have to notify NEMS if we have AED's. He suggests starting by asking NEMS about their protocols and recommendations. Scott said there is a state law that AED's have to be registered with the state and employees have to have training on using them. He thinks it is worth spending the time and money.

David said he agrees we should contact NEMS and start the ball rolling. He thinks it is important to have as many AED's as we can get. Sandy asked Rosemary if she thinks office staff would be interested in getting trained. Rosemary said yes. Gordy said every one of VEC's bucket trucks has an AED. Walter said there is a maintenance commitment. Sandy suggested perhaps we could ask the fire department to look at our devices periodically. Walter said NEMS may do it also. Sandy said we could ask the selectboard if they are interested in splitting the cost. Troy said he supports getting AED's. The board agreed to look into it further. *(Tom left at 6:48.)*

6. Foreman Report and Action Items

Troy said it was brought to his attention that when the water level has been lowered at the Collins Hill reservoir in the past it has flooded St. John's St. in Johnson. Based on the contour of the land he can see how that could happen. He suggests hiring a hydraulic engineering firm to see if they can come up with a way of rerouting that flow. He would like the board's permission to get a quote. The board agreed.

Troy said on May 29 we had an outage involving 13 customers. We restored power in about an hour. On June 3 there was a car-pole accident. We had to de-energize the line and there was a 6-hour outage affecting 335 people. The fire department did a good job assisting the electric department.

Troy said his crew has been working on a line on Sinclair Rd. in preparation for the twin bridges project. They upgraded a service on Clay Hill Rd. Last week they worked on School St., cutting pavement and installing two new catch basins. With Tom's crew they replaced a curb stop. On June 8 they had annual pole top rescue training. Gloves and blankets were sent out for testing.

Sandy, Tom, and Troy did a substantial completion walk-through for the School St. project. There is a hole where a catch basin was not engineered to be replaced that creates a hazard. Today Troy signed a change order so Desroches can repair that problem. We will only pay 20% of that cost. Troy feels this is something that was overlooked by the engineering firm. But if they had planned for this work initially we would have paid the 20% anyway. During

the walk-through they identified one new catch basin that needs to be lowered said one section of cement that was too high. They will repair that.

Troy ordered a new amp meter and voltage tester. He made a few changes to the lineman posting and decided to advertise nationally. We have one applicant who may be good. Cliff is willing to keep working in the meantime. Troy is getting a quote from the company we use for telemetrics to upgrade the substation communications equipment. Troy has a plan to replace two sections of sidewalk near the yellow house.

Scott asked if Ken Phelps had done the digging to repair his sewer line. Sandy said we believe he did, though he was supposed to notify Tom and he didn't. Troy said he admitted to doing it. It doesn't appear that anything was damaged. David asked if we have any ordinance covering that. Sandy said he would need to check. He suspects if we do, it is weak. David said he thinks we should look at it and firm it up. The board agreed to document the fact that Ken Phelps did not contact Tom as requested to coordinate repairs and that the village was unable to inspect his work. Sandy said PACIF denied Ken Phelps' claim regarding water damage (unrelated to the problem with his sewer line.) The board agreed a note should be sent to Ken. Sandy said he thinks Tom should do it.

Walter asked when we are getting our new trucks. Troy said he assumes by the end of the month.

Sandy said the state asked, related to Kim Marble's issue with her neighbor's animals, if we knew whether the creek by her neighbors' house goes to the wastewater treatment facility before draining into the river. Troy said he doesn't think so.

Sandy said a demo with CRC is set up for June 30. Troy said Sandy had asked him to talk to other utilities that use CRC for dispatch. Hardwick just started using them. Troy talked to a lineman from Hardwick who said that Washington Electric Coop highly recommended CRC to Hardwick. Vermont Electric Coop told Troy CRC has been doing a very good job for them. Sandy said the approximate dollar amount they quoted us is within budget. *(Troy left at 7:09.)*

7. *Tim Sargent – Additional Space for Boy Scouts*

Tim Sargent said the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts currently use 2 of the 3 upstairs rooms in the house of the building with the Food Shelf. The rec committee has vacated the other room. Participation in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts has grown and there are issues of not having enough room. They would be interested in using the third room if it is available. Tim has also contacted the town. Sandy said he recommends waiting until we hear from the town and having the Boy Scouts fill out a facility use application. The trustees are willing to approve this use if the town agrees. *(Tim left at 7:13.)*

Gordy said the trustees should have known that the rec committee moved to the cold storage building. Sandy said he thinks the town should have let us know. The board agreed that the selectboard should have informed and asked the village.

8. Kim Marble – Neighbor’s Animals

Kim Marble joined the meeting at 7:16. She said she has been emailing Sandy and working with Wendy from the Agency of Agriculture. The Agency of Agriculture came out and saw a manure pile that Kim thinks is not supposed to be there. They were supposed to come again this week. They were concerned about runoff from manure and urine.

LCSD has invited Kim to meet with her neighbors at the police station. Nat Kinney from the selectboard will be there. Bob said Kim asked him if he would attend. He told her he wanted to talk to Nat and the trustees about it. Nat said he has nothing against Bob coming but it is a town issue relating to the town’s noise ordinance. Kim said she asked Bob because she didn’t want to go alone and because the village might be working on an ordinance. Bob said the purpose of the meeting is to get the two parties to sit down and talk to each other. Sandy said he thinks it is always a good idea to participate in something like that. He thinks it would be a good idea for Bob to go. He doesn’t think anything will get worse as a result of Kim participating.

Sandy said the board had asked him to check with the Agency of Agriculture and look into ordinances. He has been communicating with the Agency of Agriculture. There are two issues – best agricultural practices and a nuisance issue. Kim said she thinks the issue of animals getting onto her property is pretty much fixed since the neighbors put up more fence. There are still noise and smell problems.

Sandy passed out copies of 4 ordinances – two general nuisance ordinances, one backyard chicken ordinance, and the existing Town of Johnson noise ordinance, which applies in this case. The backyard chicken ordinance, which came from a municipality where he used to work, limits the number of chickens and says no roosters.

David asked if the village should adopt an ordinance with the same wording as the town’s so they wouldn’t conflict and so the village could take action instead of having to refer issues to the town. Sandy said that is a possibility but then he feels the town would ignore any issue in the village. The village might want to consider adding backyard chicken language. Scott said the village has no way to enforce an ordinance. We don’t have a constable or health officer. Sandy said the village could name an enforcement officer.

Scott said he thinks Bob should go with Kim to the meeting at LCSD. Bob said he has no problem with that. David said Bob should represent the village, not Kim’s family. Sandy said he could represent both.

Sandy said he will continue to monitor the situation and be in touch with the Agency of Agriculture. Bob can report back to the board after the meeting. *(Kim left at 7:33.)*

9. Seth Jensen – Flood Resiliency/River Corridors and Brownfields Program

Seth handed out some fact sheets. One is about what a floodplain is. A floodplain is an area with a 1% chance in any given year of having an inundation flood. There are 2 parts of the 100 year flood plan: the floodway, which is the area where the river is still moving during a flood, and the floodway fringe, which would have standing or slow moving water. The

designation is based on elevation. There is also a 500 year floodplain, which has a 1-in-500 chance of flooding in any given year.

The river corridor designation is new. That comes from Vermont DEC rather than FEMA. A river corridor is the area where it is predicted that over time the river will move and meander. The state was directed after Irene to do river corridor mapping on a statewide level. When mapping is done on a statewide level that means losing on-the-ground accuracy. The state used a mapping algorithm to determine if an area was in a river corridor. In Lamoille County, because there is a high frequency of flooding, on-the-ground truthing had already been done but that hasn't yet been incorporated into the state's maps.

Bob said the rivers are shallow now because the state doesn't dredge them like they used to. Dredging kept rivers in their banks.

Seth said the maps are not very accurate. They are based on survey points at least 1000 feet apart. There is a process called a letter of map amendment. Regarding the issue of dredging, the state requires a stream alteration permit for anything done in the water. There is some evolving river management of building flood benches. For instance, by the West Branch in Stowe by the rec path they are excavating the bank to make a place where the river can deposit sediment which can then be harvested.

Scott said there are reasons they don't dredge anymore. Dredging gets water moving faster so damage is worse downstream.

Walter asked what this will do to developing in the Village of Johnson. Seth said the Act 250 criteria related to river corridors incorporate the No Adverse Impact idea. That means there can be no downstream or upstream impact on flood levels or velocity. It doesn't specifically mean no building or filling but it effectively works out to that, especially in an undeveloped area. In Johnson, because there is no zoning, any commercial development that impacts an acre of land has to meet the No Adverse Impact standard. But there are some important exceptions such as replacement of existing structures within their footprint or relocation farther from the river or in a less hazardous situation. There is also exemption from No Adverse Impact for redevelopment or infill in designated village centers as long as the new development is not closer to the river than the structures beside it. Scott asked if that includes parking. Seth said he thinks that is probably somewhat interpretive. He thinks it could include parking if the parking area doesn't impact the direction or velocity of flooding.

Walter said in terms of our downtown village center designation, that gives us a strong case for wanting to expand down Railroad St. Sandy said the village center designation addresses only current conditions, not future conditions, so it doesn't necessarily give us a better argument for being able to expand the designated area.

Scott said he notices the zone on the map doesn't include an area where houses have flooded in the past and does include an area that is higher where houses were not flooded. Seth said that may be because of the inherent inaccuracies of the map. Also, every flood is different. In

the area near the confluence of the Lamoille and the Gihon what the two rivers do can be different depending on where the rain falls.

Scott asked who people can talk to if they are mapped in the flood area and think they should not be in it. Seth said the process they need to follow is called a letter of map amendment. It is effectively a petition to FEMA. One barrier is that you have to provide a more accurate survey, which is expensive. LCPC is working on getting more accurate survey data points at the confluence of the rivers. That data will be publicly available, probably within 3 months. Scott asked if LCPC could help people with these issues. Seth said they can share the data. FEMA may still ask people to get specific points for their house, but the data LCPC will get will hopefully reduce the amount of data homeowners have to get.

Walter said the village was discussing where we could put solar panels. There is land we are being told we could not consider because it is in the river corridor. Is it correct that solar panels would have an adverse impact? Seth said the Public Service Board process incorporates No Adverse Impact. He can't definitively tell whether that is correct. No Adverse Impact would think about changes in flood levels or velocity or the potential for debris in the floodplain. Solar is uncharted territory a bit. Certainly you may be able to make a case that it should be permitted but you would have to do it in the terminology of No Adverse Impact. The basic FEMA standard is that electric connections, transformers, etc. have to be above the 200-year flood level, even without No Adverse Impact.

Walter said if the exceptions are for infill, that says VOJ can't expand because we are not really infilling, we are building on the edges. Seth said it is an open discussion how much is infilling and how much is on the edges. What Walter is saying is the strictest, most legalistic interpretation.

Seth passed out a sheet on area-wide planning. One way people are having success under floodplain and strip development criteria is by having some kind of master plan to demonstrate to state regulators that the development is part of a bigger vision. Right now LCPC has a fairly large Brownfields assessment grant. Some can be used for area-wide planning. It does not go into site specifics. It gives a community a big picture of information already out there and issues that might need to be considered. It might help make the case that redevelopment, infill or expansion in river corridors met the exemption. He thinks area-wide planning would probably help the village in terms of making the case that something is part of a bigger plan and should be considered infill. If redevelopment is going to be done there will have to an assessment that wouldn't be part of the area-wide planning. Area-wide planning can give predictability about the likelihood of Brownfields contamination coming up when someone goes to sell or finance a property; then property owners can decide if they want to do an assessment.

Walter asked if there is a way to do an assessment and have it remain confidential. Seth said not with public money. The people who do the assessments have an obligation to report. Sandy said it will become public if they find something.

Seth said he shared some examples with Sandy of what an area-wide plan looks like. He could forward them to the board. Winooski found that area-wide planning helps their public works department predict when doing sewer or water line projects when they will run into underground water tanks. Area-wide planning does not do testing. That would only happen with property owners' consent.

Walter asked if doing something like this helps businesses develop properties on Railroad Street or Main Street that are in the river corridor. Seth said he believes it would help demonstrate that redeveloping those properties meets the definition of infill. They could tailor the work they do to focus on infill analysis.

Scott asked if just a leaking underground storage tank could make a site a Brownfields site. Seth said yes. He said the Petroleum Cleanup Fund kicks in over a certain amount. Over that threshold there can be value in doing an assessment.

Sandy asked if area-wide planning could help us identify areas to do assessment. Seth said it could.

Sandy asked how much we would have to pay in matching funds. Seth said LCPC got about \$400K in grant funds - \$200K for hazardous materials and \$200K for petroleum. An area-wide assessment usually costs between \$20K and \$40K. They don't currently require a match.

Seth said LCPC has a nomination form for their Brownfields committee. Sandy said the board has talked about it.

Sandy asked if LCPC will help us write the proposal for area-wide planning. Seth said yes.

Sandy asked if there are any cons. Is there any way any of this could hurt our development plans? Seth said he thinks the benefits probably outweigh the cons. They could possibly find an existing record about something bad. That information is all publicly available somewhere.

Walter said we have owned an electric company for over 100 years. They used to use harmful substances. Is this assessment going to put us in the crosshairs of some agency? Seth said he doesn't believe so but he can ask questions. Liability can be severed through doing the assessment. Sandy said, so there's risk, but it's low? Seth agreed.

Bob said Brownfields lets us set up proper procedures for redevelopment. There will be restrictions even if the state says it is okay for redevelopment. He thinks doing area-wide planning is smart government.

Seth said he thinks it would be useful for the board to look at examples. What would likely happen would be that there would be a GIS map that would identify sites where further assessment would be beneficial. The plan would just look at already available public records.

David said he is in favor of doing this. He asked, if we identify private property is there money for the property owner to take the next step and mitigate? Seth said yes. Sandy said it would increase the property value if the owner mitigated. David said that is something he would want to present to the property owner. Maybe we should prepare documentation ahead of time to give to property owners if something is found.

The board agreed to proceed with area-wide planning. Sandy and Seth agreed to work on a proposal for the next meeting.

Gordy said he thinks we should get the word out about what we are doing. Sandy suggested a press release. David agreed. Sandy asked if we can get a draft proposal in enough time to post information on the website, Front Porch Forum and in the newspaper. Seth said yes. *(Seth left at 8:29.)*

10. Interim Manager's Report and Action Items

There will be a series of ribbon cuttings for the rail trail. The Johnson ribbon cutting is scheduled for 2:15 on June 23 and will be held at the trailhead on Old Mill Park.

The listers have determined the value of our electric power line has increased from \$709,000 to \$725,600. The increased assessment would cost the village electric department \$31.37. The board does not wish to grieve the increase.

VMERS state retirement rates for FY17 are unchanged.

Sandy asked if the board wants to pursue the Loeffler sewer connection project as a public project. If so, next steps would be to put the project out to bid, consider the terms under which the village would recover costs from property owners connecting to the system on a voluntary basis, and apply for a loan from the revolving loan fund. He believes that since it is our loan fund we can construct a loan that would not require us to pay it back until we were paid back.

Walter said the question is whether we would ever be able to pay it back. Sandy believes we would. He thinks enough people will connect to get some cost recovery. This is a component of economic development. We have to think about the long game. If it does not impact existing ratepayers, he thinks all the concerns the board had are addressed.

Sandy said we don't know what the real cost is. The next step would be to put together a bid package. Scott asked if the project includes the industrial park. Sandy said no, just the section already designed, but the pipes are sized in a way that the industrial park could connect.

Walter said he thinks we want to put together a bid package but he also wants to do a good assessment of how many properties would connect and how much we would have to charge them to break even.

Sandy said he recommends not rolling into our costs any costs Loeffler has already incurred.

Gordy said we are talking sewer, but what about water? Sandy said he thought the people in that area were on water. Rosemary said the property on top of the hill is not on water. Sandy said we can find out which properties are on village water and give that to the board before the board authorizes going out to bid.

Sandy said he thinks the bid package should be put together by an engineering firm. We could use the engineer who did the work for Loeffler.

Walter asked if there is any way this could be constructed this year. Sandy said yes. It's permitted by the state already.

David moved to authorize the interim village manager and the village manager to put together a bid package for the Loeffler sewer connection project using the engineer Loeffler used, provided we can ensure that past costs are not charged to the village, only future costs, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.

The Johnson Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on the new unified plan on June 14. Gordy said LCPC's annual meeting is the same night. There will be an honorable mention for Butternut Mountain Farm. The trustees and selectboard have been invited. Eric and Duncan are going. Unless one of the trustees wants to go he will send LCPC an email saying that unfortunately no one from the trustee board can attend. No one was able to go.

Sandy recommended that the board authorize LCPC to submit the village center designation re-application on our behalf. They can hold the final draft for 2 weeks so the board can review it and submit additional comments so they can make changes.

Walter said he sees places it could be improved a little but if they think it is good enough to get the job done, he says we should leave it alone. We could include something about the Paddlers' Trail. Sandy said that could be added. Walter said someone will be renting electric bikes at Old Mill Park. We are already showing economic development due to the rail trail. Sandy said this application is only about existing conditions. Board members agreed to look at the application over the next few days and see if they have more comments.

Walter moved to submit the village center designation re-application with the changes discussed, David seconded and the motion was passed.

The selectboard approved the proposed projector policy Sandy had previously showed the board. **Walter moved to authorize Gordy to sign the projector policy, bob seconded and the motion was passed.**

Sandy said the selectboard didn't approve the proposed job posting policy. They felt the existing language in the personnel policy was adequate. Under the existing personnel policy the default is not to post a position. In our proposed policy the default is to post. **Walter moved to authorize Gordy to sign the job posting policy, Bob seconded and the motion was passed.**

Sandy distributed several versions of tree policies/ordinances as researched by him and Sue Lovering. Sue believes an ordinance would be preferable because it would be enforceable, largely through the tree warden. This would be for public land, including right of ways.

Walter said his issue is that this is almost not applicable to us. We don't own any right of ways. Another board member mentioned power line right of ways. Scott said he doesn't think it would be applicable to power line right of ways. Sandy said he thinks there is no question about that. Walter said he thinks this should go forward with the town.

Sandy said there are two trees by the yellow house scheduled for a controlled burn that will die when the house is burned and a couple of others that will be damaged. If we want the fire department to go ahead with the burn we need to authorize destruction or damage of those trees. The school has petitioned us to do this. **Walter moved to allow destruction of two trees and possible destruction or damage of some smaller trees during the controlled burn of the yellow house, Scott seconded and the motion was passed.**

Sandy said he asked Arjay to work with the school to be more proactive in making sure people who live near the yellow house receive notification of the burn so they don't leave their windows open and get smoke damage. He spoke with Katie Orost about that as well.

In May the board authorized Sandy to sign a work plan and cost estimate for the Cyprus Industrial property. Since then AOT wanted to lower the state's cost, which would then result in the town and village paying some of the costs. Our consultant, Katrina Mattice, is asking if the village and town want to assume responsibility for the project, which would result in no net cost to the village and town as the project is 100% covered by the petroleum cleanup fund. Sandy is not fully comfortable with this issue and would like to wait until he gets more information before making a decision.

Sandy distributed an economic development and marketing initiatives outline he, Dave and Scott worked on. Does the board want them to work on a more detailed plan?

Gordy said he feels economic development is an area we could improve on.

David said we took one step forward and will be notifying new businesses we recognize them and thank them for choosing Johnson. He has talked about putting together a welcoming packet with information about grants available and maybe something like an "I Love Johnson" mug.

Scott said the town also talked about a welcome letter or packet. He told them we are already doing it. Maybe they will want to work together with us to put something together.

Walter said he feels we should go as fast as we can to implement easy ideas like a welcome packet or a logo. We need to put signage up to direct people to Johnson from the rail trail. Johnson Works talked to Chan Parker about signage on his buildings directing people to town.

Walter asked about Facebook. David said we can put together a page. The Johnson Works page has frequent posts. Walter said there is a town Facebook page but it is not being updated. David said if we are going to have a Facebook page we have to keep it up. Who is going to maintain it to make sure there is at least one post a day? Walter said he thinks we need to steer as much traffic as possible to the Johnson Works page. We can link to it from the town website. David said we might want to think about whether we should hire a consultant to maintain a social media presence.

Walter said he would suggest changing around the outline to separate out the easy things and the long term things. David said the consensus he is hearing is to move forward and create a priority list as the next step.

David showed some preliminary logo designs he had a designer create. He is having some changes made to a couple of them. Scott said one of them doesn't show any mountains. Walter suggested the logo could include a river. David said he will email out the next designs when he gets them in a day or two. Meredith said a trail is not represented on the logos. The recreation aspect is one thing that may be missing.

Walter said a group is starting to get active thinking about sculptures in downtown Johnson. We own 4 pedestals and are in control of them. In the past we have allowed a group to select sculptures, reminding them that they should be family-friendly. We had the artists sign a liability release form.

David asked if that worked well before. Walter and Gordy said yes. Gordy said we told the group we had final say over the sculptures if there were any complaints. Walter said we didn't want to pick the art ourselves. David asked if the liability release form releases us if someone gets hurt on the art. Sandy said no, that's why we have an insurance company. Walter said the release says we're not responsible if the artwork is damaged. Sandy said if someone hurts themselves on the art it's the same situation as if someone gets hurt jumping off a bridge or going into a culvert. Public art is very common. We just want to make sure our insurance company is aware of it. And someone ought to look at what the group wants to install to determine that it is at least reasonably safe.

Sandy asked who is doing this. Walter said Leila Bandar, who used to work at VSC and now works at JSC. She used to be president of Johnson Works. She put together previous sculpture displays downtown. David sees he sees this as something that could draw people to our downtown. Walter said Leila is trying to get the college and the Studio Center involved so we have rotating art on a regular basis.

Sandy said the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District has put together a grant proposal to work with us on a composting facility. The grant includes determining feasibility of composting biosolids at the site. A major issue is that the lease agreement between the village and the town will have to be renegotiated. The selectboard wants to see a host benefit for the town. There will be free drop-off and composting and free compost. Walter said the selectboard does have a legitimate concern because of traffic on the roads. Sandy said if we

can provide composting for free for our residents that is a benefit because everyone will have to compost.

David moved and Walter seconded to authorize Sandy to write a letter of support for the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District's grant application to use the village composting facility and the motion was passed.

David moved to enter executive session to discuss contractual matters, personnel matters and related legal issues, premature disclosure of which would put the village at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Sandy, Rosemary and Meredith to remain. The motion was seconded and passed and the board entered executive session at 9:39. At 10:39 Walter moved to exit executive session, David seconded and the motion was passed.

Walter moved and David seconded for Gordy to transmit a reply to the selectboard via Eric along the following lines:

Due to the selectboard's non-negotiable stance and their renegeing on prior arrangements they have put the trustees and taxpayers in an untenable position by threatening to withdraw their grant amendment application to the State. The trustees insist that the town not withdraw their application and, under duress and threat, will agree to pay the 20% the town is obligated to pay.

The motion was passed.

The trustees also discussed having Sandy arrange to contact Jeff Bartlett from Atlantic Green Energy and encourage them to file a Certificate of Public Good for the hybrid solar/generator project and use the electric meters for the town and village. They also asked Sandy to continue to gather information on this project and to invite Mr. Bartlett to meet with the Trustees June 27. The Trustees also asked Sandy to contact Eli Emerson regarding the possible need to reject the Johnson GLC filing as their project exceeds the net metering cap at this time based on the other applications already on file or approved.

11. Adjourn

David moved and Bob seconded to adjourn at 10:45 and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths