

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM AND PHONE CALL-IN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020

Present:

Trustees: Steve Hatfield, Will Jennison, Scott Meyer, Gordon Smith

Others: Meredith Dolan, Kyle Nuse, Lynda Hill, Rick Aupperlee, Michael Zebrowski, Joie Lehouillier, Sophia Berard, Margo Warden, Kyle Nuse, Cal Stanton, Joey Buttendorf, Diane Lehouillier, Jackie Stanton, Shayne Spence, Brian Raulinaitis

Trustees absent: Athena Parke

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 said Pam Mudgett had not joined the meeting yet so she suggested changing the order and starting with the Johnson Works discussion. Gordy agreed.

3. Johnson Works 2020 Project Funding

Meredith said it turns out that the lighting of buildings probably won't work out as envisioned due to challenges with exterior lighting so now Johnson Works is proposing to put three of the sculptures we talked about on the village green. She got a rough estimate from the electrician for the cold spring site and she used that number and increased it a bit for the cost of providing electricity for the sculptures at the village green.

Joie Lehouillier said Johnson Works looked at lights and cost and who would put up the lights. They noticed that most buildings don't have outside electrical to plug lights in. They decided the lighting idea wouldn't create the vision they were hoping for. They are looking for a way to draw attention to the village to get people to come and walk here. They are proposing putting water molecule sculptures on the green. They feel that is a better way to spend money rather than lighting up a few buildings.

Kyle said Johnson Works has reached out to some businesses and landowners that they had been in touch with about putting up string lights. They all say they understand. Some are still going to do lights. Ones with outdoor power sources are still planning to light up as much as they can.

Meredith said at the last meeting we talked about allocation of \$1,000 toward building lights. Johnson Works fundraised about \$350 and has about \$300 in their bank account, so we are working with a total of about \$1,650. The cost for three of the water molecule sculptures is \$1,000. Meredith estimated \$500 for an electrician to hardwire the sculptures. VOSHA confirmed that if our employees are going to touch any of the wiring the 3-month limit on extension cords applies and if the sculptures are going to be in a public place their overwhelming recommendation would be to have an electrician wire them. The electrician estimated about \$300 for the cold spring and she thinks wiring needed for the village green would be a little longer so she estimated \$500. The staff would dig a trench and she budgeted \$250 for that. Kyle suggested red ribbon for light poles and Meredith put in \$150 for that. We can't separately meter the power for the sculptures and we can't resell it according to our tariffs. We would have to give it to Johnson Works. She put \$150 in

the budget for that. She thinks that estimate is on the high side. The total cost for the project is \$2,050. It looks like an additional \$400 is needed over and above what is already allocated.

Kyle said Michael Zebrowski calculated that the sculptors use so little power that it would only cost about \$29 per year to power 11 of them. So the additional amount needed is only about \$260 to \$275. Meredith suggested she should change her estimate for the cost of power to \$20. Kyle agreed and said even that is probably double what is needed.

Kyle asked if the \$500 for an electrician to hardware the sculptures is if Mudgies is still there or if it matters. Meredith said it doesn't matter. She spoke to Troy about it. It would be simpler to do something separate from the power to Mudgies. Pam Mudgett has decided that they are not going to go through the month of November on the village green. They are planning to move their truck.

4. *Mudgies Food Truck*

Joey Buttendorf said she is on the phone with Pam. They will move their truck probably at the end of this week. Pam wants to know when they can file an application for next year. They definitely want to come back to that spot. They are willing to turn the trailer sideways so people can see the green better. Meredith said her recommendation would be for them to put in an application as soon as possible. Technically it is on a first come first served basis but because Mudgies already spent money to put in infrastructure she thinks they have a foot in the door. She thinks there is interest in turning the trailer.

There was a question about whether the wiring be used for following years so we would not have to repeat some of this if we wanted to do it again. Meredith said we were talking about hardwiring directly to the sculptures, not putting in infrastructure that would be there for the future. We could leave the conduit in the ground but it will be in an open area where she doesn't know that we would permanently want to have a stub.

Will what the thought is behind moving from one to three sculptures. Kyle said the original idea was to have string lights and one sculpture but now that string lights are not going to be as much of a draw the idea was to make the sculptures more of a splash and a draw to hopefully encourage people to come to Johnson and shop. It will be a bigger visual. It will be quite stunning.

Gordy said he thinks this plan is better for several reasons. With the other plan, merchants may not have felt they were being treated equally. He feels private businesses should do their own lighting. He thinks it is better to do something on the green. Are these numbers going to be requested each year?

Joie said Johnson Works will always hope that they can go back to having the Jubilee again. This sculpture was in place of that. In the future she would hope Johnson Works could have the original amount budgeted. Meredith said we budgeted \$1,400 for insurance, \$500 for Jubilee support and \$1,000 for general Johnson Works support. She thinks historically we have put in at least \$500 for Jubilee support, plus in recent years the insurance amount. Joie said if we can't go back to having the Jubilee next year Johnson works would look for some way to draw people in for businesses.

Gordy asked, if there are outlets on the green will we be able to set up tents or other things for the Jubilee without people tripping over pedestals or electric outlets? Meredith said we will have to put a cap over the one for the food truck when the food truck is not there. The way we have been

talking about having the sculptures wired, she wasn't envisioning anything left sticking out of the ground once the sculptures are gone.

Gordy asked if the \$270 still needed is money we have in our funds Meredith said yes, we have that.

Will asked what the cost would be for one sculpture instead of three. Kyle said it would be \$600 versus \$1,000. The artist is being generous in making the cost within Johnson Works' \$1,000 budget. Because he lives in Johnson and would love to see our village jubilant, he said he could do it for no less than \$1,000 for three sculptures. If there is a way to use an extension cord safely, that would work with the sculptures. Meredith said our staff will be digging the trench. To be on the safe side it is probably better not to use an extension cord.

Rick Aupperly said at the September 14 meeting Meredith asked if the board would support reallocating \$1900 for Johnson Works' efforts and the board agreed that Meredith should work with Johnson Works to come up with a proposal. The board agreed they were open to reallocating up to \$1,900 for this effort. This was in September and there was no discussion of reallocating funds for a flagpole. There was no decision about a flagpole at that time. He would like the trustees to consider fully funding the Jubilee at the amount that was allocated. He doesn't see in any minutes where a motion was made to reallocate funds from the Jubilee for a flagpole. He has questions about whether that procedure was legal. He thinks it is in the public interest to fully support whatever Johnson Works comes up with up to that amount.

Will said since there is no Jubilee, funds allocated for the Jubilee are not in question. Meredith said what was in the budget was for events and celebrations. There isn't an actual line item for the Jubilee.

Rick said in the minutes it said the board agreed they were open to reallocating money for Johnson Works to use. Johnson Works is trying to do something in lieu of the Jubilee to draw people and the board is working at odds with what Johnson Works is trying to do to promote business in the village. He thinks it is worthy for the board to support Johnson Works trying to bring people in to support businesses. If money is needed for the flagpole he thinks the board should find money and make a motion that is part of the public record that the board is appropriating a certain amount of dollars for the flagpole. We have no idea what this flagpole is costing people. He thinks the board has made it clear that they want to be responsible stewards of taxpayer money. To take money from somewhere with no motion and no amount attached to the flagpole raises concerns for him. The board is taking money from one pot for something else

Lynda Hill said she and Walter Pomroy usually set up the electricity under the tent for the Jubilee. It is a borderline nightmare and disaster waiting to happen. She thinks it would be good if the village could put in something more permanent for electrical toward the back of that field for long-term use. The Jubilee is a huge draw and taking money from it rubs her the wrong way. The more we can do to bring people into town the better. She thinks the three sculptures is an awesome idea. We need to bring people into Johnson. The more we can do to brighten it up, the better. We may not have the Jubilee, but we should have the spirit of the Jubilee in town. Meredith said she doesn't think electricity for the Jubilee can be solved with this project but it is good to know that is an issue. Lynda asked how the Christmas tree gets lit up. Meredith said power is run from the light

pole at the back corner through the ground and it comes out near the base of the tree. There might be something that could be done at the back of the village green to make more outlets available there. Gordy said if the board approves only \$1,270 for the sculptures there may be money we can carry over for putting more electricity more safely in another part of the green. Kyle said she thinks Lynda is right. There is definitely a need for power for any event Johnson Works has done in the past.

Lynda said if there are going to be food trucks on the green it needs to be planned out where they will be. It needs to be something that works for all seasons.

Will moved to allocate \$1,270 to Johnson Works for lighted sculptures and ribbons for light poles, seconded by Scott. Kyle said regarding what Rick said, Johnson Works decided at their August meeting that they would be doing a Jubilee alternative. They have been talking about this since August. **The motion was passed in a roll call vote with Scott, Steve and Gordy voting in favor and Will opposed.**

5. *Adjourn*

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:44 and the motion was passed.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths