

JOHNSON VILLAGE TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Present:

Trustees: Steve Hatfield, Will Jennison, BJ Putvain, Ken Tourangeau

Others: Erik Bailey, Rosemary Audibert, Peggy Williams, Dave Williams, Adrienne Parker, Johna Keefe, Lynda Hill, Doug Molde, one other person

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Ken called the meeting to order at 6:01.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

3. Review of Agenda and Any Adjustments, Changes and Additions

Ken added an announcement and discussion of possibly starting a green space committee.

4. Announcement

Ken said he got an email this morning from GiGi Beach giving notice of her resignation from the trustee board. **Will moved to accept GiGi Beach's resignation from the trustee board, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.** The board agreed that notice of the vacancy should be posted on Front Porch Forum, the town website, the village Facebook page, the town Facebook page if they are willing, and in the News & Citizen. The board will hold a special meeting on September 27 at 6:00 to interview candidates and possibly make an appointment. If there are no applicants by September 26, the meeting will be cancelled.

5. Review and Approve Minutes of Trustee Meetings

Will moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024, BJ seconded and the motion was passed.

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

Rosemary said village taxes are due on Friday. The auditors are coming for a week starting September 30. She will start training on payroll with Susan on Wednesday. Susan will write up the Standard Operating Procedures for payroll. Union Bank is working on converting the one-year \$200K note into a 5-year note. Erik reminded the board that the trustees authorized borrowing for one year and then the voters authorized borrowing for 5 years. Erik said the rate increase will take effect at the end of January. We don't know yet what increase will be approved.

Will asked if the fuel pump issue has been resolved. Rosemary said yes. The town has reimbursed the village the amount we requested due to the pump mix-up. Village consumption has gone way down.

There was discussion about payroll costs. Ken suggested making sure employees are coding to the right area. Erik noted that there has been a lot of general department work. This week the crew will be working on the Cold Spring.

BJ asked about residential solar revenue. Will said it dropped during summer. Did someone take their solar offline? Erik said that line may not be accurate because NEMRC is still working on adjusting their program to account for the new net metering law.

7. *Village Manager's Report and Action Items*

Erik read his report:

Electric Boom truck replacement update: Tori from LCPC found a grant from the VT Public Service Department called the Energy Efficiency and Conservation grant (EECBG). It is for municipalities to add energy efficiency to their operations. Grants are for awards of \$50,000 to \$100,000 dollars, and require no match, but matching funds are preferred. Hybrid maintenance fleet trucks are one of the listed preferred projects. I had Nate get a quote for such a truck that would best fit our current replacement needs and it finally came back at \$249K. With a \$100K grant award, this puts us in a new truck vs an ~5 year old that we were looking for, and with expanded capabilities for less money after trading in our truck. This type of hybrid runs the back end on battery (unless the battery runs out, then you engage the PTO off the diesel engine that drives the truck). In our operations >90% of a bucket truck's run time is the back end. A hybrid saves a huge amount of fuel, saves wear & tear on the engine, allows the crew to hear each other better, and removes diesel fumes from their work zone. Nate & I are pretty excited about this possibility. With the board's consensus, I'm going to pursue this grant with help from LCPC.

Board members agreed they are in favor of Erik pursuing the hybrid truck option. Ken asked if it will get back the Renewable Energy Credits we lost when we did not end up getting the other electric truck we had planned on. Erik said it may. He needs to look into that.

I did the research on propane prices, and Jack Corse again had the best price at \$1.63/gallon. Bourne's could have matched that if we owned our tankage, but it all belongs to Corse. The propane bid has been awarded to Jack Corse, they have already adjusted our account to show the reduction to that price.

The utility pole on the bank of the Gihon next to Union Bank has had much of its protective riprap washed down river by the floods, quite noticeably after this past July's flood. We got an estimate to repair it with even larger material to guard against future floods for \$99,000. I have filed a FEMA Public Assistance Program application for DR4810 (July 2024 flood) to get assistance with that repair. This single claim should only require village staff to navigate the FEMA process.

The end of summer edition of the Village News went out in electric, and water/sewer bills last week. A copy is in this packet.

Water & Light Garage Project update: Weston and Sampson, the Ph1 ESA contractor came last Thursday to tour the garage and take notes and pictures, then did a records dive at the municipal vault. The rest of the work on the ESA will be done at their office, and it should be complete in 3 weeks.

AES, the architecture & engineering firm awarded the project are going to meet with me, Nate & LCPC tomorrow to get a solid Scope of Work so they can begin the design process.

Tori from LCPC is working with Rosemary and I navigating the steep paperwork on the CDS grant finalization. As well as helping me massage the scope of the BGS MERP grant for the garage.

All parts of this project are currently going forward at a very rapid pace. This should help make up for the “oops” by LCPC management when Rob Moore left. While they told the customer (us) who our replacement PM was for this project, in all the upheaval, they failed to let the new PM know that we had a PM contract, or that he was the PM! So, Alec has been helping us the past several months at the normal level of LCPC liaison effort due to this miscommunication. That got fixed a week ago and the project is now moving very fast.

FEMA Update: All 2023 flood projects other than the ongoing WWTF ones have been finished at our level. Many are obligated and awaiting FEMA to get more money in the Disaster Relief Fund. The mitigation projects at JFD and the Lower storage Building are not yet obligated, still awaiting CRC review and sign-off. Once they are obligated, I will get the contractor going on those projects. Just a reminder that the WWTF project can only go 2 ways at this point, either rebuild in place upgraded to Current Codes and Standards and for flood mitigation or moved to the Municipal Building location. The previous consideration of locating at the future industrial park is no longer a factor as the design engineer walked the property and found it unsuitable for our purposes.

The Village Crew is forging ahead fast and getting projects done. Much electric ROW clearing has been done, Nate has estimated some jobs and is just awaiting payment to schedule them, sidewalk & Cold Spring concrete is happening right now, and they are working with Dale Percy to disconnect our system from the Nadeau well in the next couple of weeks. All in addition to the multiple water leaks and power outages. The water leaks they fixed were obviously long term issues, as water loss is now at 10%, which is almost zero when you account for old meters not quite logging all gallons used. I've never seen a water system run below 15% loss, we are very tight. The crew will be working with a grant funded water valve exercising contractor next month, as well as one that will jet our sewer lines.

The project to get our electric customer at the end of our line on Clay Hill returned to us was assigned to Anne and she did not get done. I am reenergizing that effort and digging into it myself. Sarah Braese from VPPSA gave me some ideas and suggested contacts and I am taking it from there.

I coordinated with the Local Loss Control Specialist, Larry Smith from PACIF to conduct what I call a “FauxSHA” inspection of our facilities and safety practices. This is basically a mock VOSHA inspection through our insurer. We walked through the Water & Light Garage, WWTF, and the Municipal Offices on August 29th. I'm happy to report that we found nearly no potential violations. Both Larry and I were very impressed with the safety culture and practices in our current operations. He will be sending me a report of our walk through soon.

The Cold Spring is closed for repairs this week as the village crew busts up and removes the old crumbling floor and replaces it with a new one. I posted a notice in last Thursday's FPF, and Nate hung signs with the schedule at the Cold Spring. It will be blocked off during

construction and the water will be turned off. They will also be repairing a 60-foot poor section of Railroad St sidewalk at the same time to save on concrete costs by not having short loads.

Will mentioned that some streetlights were out the last couple of nights. Erik said that was due to the ongoing upgrade of the Main St. siphon. The electrician tripped a breaker. The lights are back on now.

BJ asked if we can move forward on looking into an inventory system as previously discussed. Erik said VPPSA is looking into new billing software and we want to see if we can integrate with that.

Lynda Hill asked if the Cold Spring will be open next week. Erik said it should be. Right now concrete is scheduled to be poured on Thursday or Friday. It should be open Monday morning at the latest if there are no unexpected issues.

8. ***Water/Wastewater Report and Action Items***

Erik read the report submitted by Dan Copp:

Operational Status of Wastewater Plant and Callouts

- E-DMR and Wr-43 were submitted to the State
- We hauled 64,000 gallons of sludge to Morrisville for processing for the month of July.
- Mowed and trimmed all plants and pump stations and the reservoir.
- We are continuing to dispose of the tainted alum from the flood by slowly dripping it in to our influent stream.
- Performed and passed our permit required proficiency testing for pH, Settleable Solids and eColi.
- Don Martin completed the mitigation work at River Road pump station. He raised the entire backboard and control panel and installed metal stairs to reach all of the components on both sides of the structure.
- Don also has started the mitigation of the Syphon panel and controls at the Main St Bridge. He is raising everything up and will have a set of stairs so we can reach and service the panel.

Operational status of Water Plant and Callouts

- Monthly reports were submitted to the state.
- Coliform samples were negative
- Rotated the pumps at Katy Win.
- Tested for disinfection byproducts.
- Started the rehab of Katy Winn pump house #1. We ordered and received a lot of the fittings and pipe needed to consolidate all of the service lines and meters. We hand dug the dirt floor out to see where all of the service lines distributed out from under the building. It's a mess of service lines going every which way. We tore out the ceiling to find 2 rafters rotted. We will be replacing those. Tim is building the meter header system at the plant for an easier install. We are in the process of moving the electrical and pressure tank for the existing well that is Katy Winns, so it will be tucked out of our way. Pump House #3 is a much easier project. We will be

working on that at the same time. We need to sleeve a few of the lines and raise a valve up 2 ft. We will compact about 2.5' of sand and pour a 4" concrete floor to bring the finished height above grade. I anticipate being wrapped up by the end of October.

9. *Electric/General Report and Action Items*

Erik read the report submitted by Nate Brigham:

Electric Dept. –

Mutual Aid for Hyde Park 29.5Hrs

Outage on Gould Hill Rd due to Hurricane Debby - 13 customers out for 3.5hrs

Outage on Sweetser Rd due to Hurricane Debby - 6 customers out for 7hrs

Outage on West Settlement Rd due to Hurricane Debby – 12 customers out for 30mins

Cut Trees of lines at 5 different locations around the system – no outages

Moved Equipment from Lower Storage for Hurricane Debby

Outage 1026 100C – tree on line – 3 customers out for 1hr

Outage at Katywin East

Working on estimate for Johnson Woolen Mills major service upgrade

Did Easement for 552 Railroad St

Transferred Pole at 96 West Settlement Rd that Consolidated set

Started getting Matt's Apprenticeship set up

Working on getting generators serviced

Working on getting quotes for a Hybrid little bucket truck (possible grant) as well conventional bucket trucks

Voltage reduction test

Completed monthly meter reading, high/low checks, substation check, and dig safes

Water/Sewer -

Fixed curb stops at 170 100C and 43 Railroad St.

Shut off 43 Railroad St and 170 100C

Replaced manhole on Lamoille View Drive

Raised Valve Boxes for Main St paving project

Met with VCS for a building at the Old Fire Station Lot

Set up Vtums for sewer line jetting and Catch Basin cleaning

Met with Percy's at Naduae Well for moving of the fire hydrant

General Dept. –

Pressure-washed Cold Spring due to Graffiti

Cut some brush around sidewalks

Started putting up winter sand for sidewalks

Extensive work with the Town to install culvert and ditch to reroute the old culvert under the Town Garage

Cut broken leader out of the Maple tree by the monuments at the Town Clerks

Changed flags on the Green and Town Clerks

Site prep for Cold Spring and sidewalk concrete work being done the week of the 9th.

Safety –

Jeff had welding class

NEPPA Safety meetings was on Grounding

Did rubber gloves/sleeves swap out and shipped out of testing

Ken asked if Hyde Park is caught up on paying us for mutual aid. Erik said yes.

Ken asked what our half of the culvert repair at the town garage is. Rosemary said about \$5K.

BJ said he knows the idea about boil notices is that only the people who are affected get a notice. But the last time we did a boil notice for some people those who didn't get it didn't know if it also applied to them. They may have wondered if theirs blew away. For the next boil notice, is there a way we can keep track of how many calls come in asking about it? If there are more calls than there should be, maybe we should start putting information out on Front Porch Forum to let everyone know exactly who is affected. Erik said in his experience fewer calls result when only

those affected get the notice. Ken asked that office staff do their best to keep track of how many calls come in.

10. Fire Department Report and Action Items

Erik read the fire department report submitted by fire chief Arjay West:

Johnson Fire Department Report
July 26 – Aug. 29, 2024

JFD responded to 9 calls. 8 calls occurred during the daytime (6 am - 6 pm) and 1 call occurred during the nighttime (6 pm - 6 am.) The average duration was: 90 minutes

Nature:

Those calls were: 2 – vehicle crashes, 1 – automatic alarm, 1 – medical assist, 1 – odor investigation, 1 – work detail (boat motor repairs) and 3 mutual aid (2 water rescue, 1 smoke condition)

Staff:

The average number of firefighters that responded was: 10
Total hours of service was: 133

Other:

The truck committee has received its first design packet. It has been sent back for changes and cuts. We expect a revised design packet within a month and more importantly, truck cab and chassis specifications in the near future. We will present to the Board as soon as available.

Erik said the fire department conducted the auction for the old ATV they replaced. The high bid was \$3400 and they accepted it.

11. Village Manager's Report and Action Items (continued)

BJ asked if the village manager's report included anything about why we are no longer considering the industrial park as a location for the WWTF. Erik said the design engineer said it is not feasible. The biggest issue is the topography. We would be trying to build on a slope. The plan the engineer presented for continuing to use the current site calls for removing the control building and replacing it with a smaller 2-story control building that would be basically where the office trailer was sitting. The SBR building would be elevated 3 feet. The fire station would lose a little bit of lawn because a small building with influent pumps would be put in near the road. That would allow us to change the controls if we can't access the plant.

12. Beautification Committee Request for Fall Planting

Adrienne asked if she could read something she wrote in addition to making the committee's request. Ken said she could. Adrienne read a statement.

Hi I am Adrienne Parker the new chair of the Beautification Committee. I want to start out by saying that the goal of the Beautification Committee is to improve the appearance of Johnson through gardening, public art, and well taken care of hardscaping. For instance signs, benches, bike racks, pathways etc. We do this through volunteer work, our yearly budget, donations, and grants. As we have seen through this statue pedestal incident there is some work that needs to be done in improving communication with the Beautification Committee, Select Board, and the

Village Trustees. Two ways we can improve is looking at what went wrong in the past and also trying to retroactively catch issues before they happen.

In the instance of the statue pedestals there were several mishaps in communication. First being that we were not made aware that we had to get approval on maintaining already established projects. Every year the Beautification Committee plants at the Power House Bridge, the Cold Spring, Railroad Street Bridge, and other areas. These are not new projects, these are just maintaining old projects. The second mishap with communication was when the statue pedestals were considered an issue by the Village. An email was sent from Ken (the Village Chair) to Eben the chair of the Select Board. Stating that we did not receive permission for the planters on the pedestals and that we had until the end of the day to move them. A way this could have been handled better is if this email had also been sent to the chair of the Beautification Committee and maybe the previous chair of the Beautification Committee since you have never spoken to the newest chair, me. Also, this tight deadline of one day. I don't understand the need for that. These planters sat this summer for 10 weeks with no issues. I don't see why they couldn't have stayed there and you could have invited me to your next meeting to ask permission for them.

I know there has been a rocky relationship with the Village and Beautification Committee and I would like that to end today. I want to move forward after today with open communication with us all. Some ways we can do this is for the Village to email us whenever you encounter an issue. Then we can work together to find a solution.

Also clear guidelines: It would be helpful if the Beautification Committee had a clear understanding of what tasks require permissions and approvals. Then the Beautification Committee can ask permission before moving forward.

In addition we would appreciate being invited to Village meetings to share our progress and discuss future project ideas once in a while.

Or I even mentioned to the Select Board that maybe the Village Trustees and the Select Board could have a joint meeting every other month that is just for committees to come to, so that everyone is on the same page as each other.

My assumption is that the Village would still like our help in adding flowers and art to Johnson Village with volunteer work, our town budget, and donations but please let me know if I am off base. We are a group of volunteers and I feel like we are treated as a paid group. That is not the case. We do what we can in the hopes of improving the appearance of Johnson. If you would like the Beautification Committee to not take care of maintenance of our projects and you would like to hire a landscape group we would agree to that with open arms. Then we could just focus on new gardening projects. I know to some this isn't a very important issue to even be discussing but to quote a user from Front Porch Forum " If we can't agree on flower pots how can we agree on bigger issues".

I think we all have the same goals in mind but we need to get on the same page on how to accomplish them.

Adrienne said she would like clarification on what Erik can decide on his own without board approval, what the chair can decide on his own and what needs permission of the entire board with regard to the beautification committee.

Ken said Erik can decide on day-to-day processes with employees and utilities. The chair doesn't need permission to have something removed if no permission was granted for it to be there. In his opinion the statement Adrienne just read puts the blame on the trustees but the beautification committee refuses to ask permission. Other committees come to the board and request to use village rights of way, properties or buildings. The past chair knew it. He is certain Adrienne knew it. This has been going on a long time. During the time he has been on this board the beautification committee never requested to put anything on the pedestals. He doesn't understand how it is an annual project when they have never asked permission. The constant pushback from this committee and this committee alone has aged on him.

Adrienne asked what he means by pushback. Ken said continuing to do what they please and blaming the board. Johna Keefe said they never knew it was an issue. Ken said if the committee wants to move forward he thinks it should start with an apology not just to him but to the entire village.

Will said he would just like to see everyone move forward from here. It doesn't make sense to dwell on who was right or wrong or what happened in the past. He would like to see a clean break. The committee now knows if they want to do anything on village property they need to come to Erik or the board. To get on the agenda they can call Erik. They can ask to be on the agenda as often as they want. He thinks Erik can give permission for the majority of beautification requests. He thinks beautification is a great idea.

Adrienne said as she understands it the flower planters on the pedestals were a group effort between Johnson Works and the beautification committee. She doesn't know if permission was obtained originally. She doesn't know if she was on the committee at that time. Unless the planters were impeding safety or equipment she doesn't know why there couldn't have just been an email to communicate about them.

Will asked if Adrienne wants to move forward. Adrienne said she wants to resolve past issues first to be able to move forward. She will call out when she thinks something is not right. She wants to know if the committee needs to come annually to get permission if they want to do the same thing again.

Will said he thinks when the committee puts in a request they can say it will be an annual project moving forward. If they change what they are doing, then they would have to come back to the board. Ken said there will be a new board in April. No board has to abide by a past board's decision. That could be a problem with perpetual projects. Will said he feels if the new board disagrees with a previous decision they have an obligation to bring it up and make a motion to change the previous decision; otherwise the decision stands.

Adrienne asked if the board would like her to write up a list of all annual planting to be approved all at once. Will said he thinks that would be good.

Adrienne said a possible issue could arise when the committee is not sure what areas are owned by the town, the village or both. Will said they can ask Erik or Nate if they are not sure.

Adrienne suggested a memorandum of understanding between the village and the beautification committee so permission is binding. Will said if the board votes on it and approves it, that is binding. There doesn't need to be an MOU.

Adrienne listed the fall planting the beautification committee would like approval for:

Mums in the Cold Spring planters

Cornstalks around streetlight posts

Dividing perennials at the Cold Spring to fill in some areas

If possible, moving the flower pots back to the pedestals so mums can be put in them

There was discussion about the locations of the 3 pedestals the committee would like to use.

Steve moved and Will seconded to approve the fall plantings requested by the beautification committee.

Will said this is a one-time request. Adrienne said she will write up a list of projects for all seasons and send it to the board and if the committee wants to start new projects she will ask to be put on the agenda. Will suggested that if a request from the committee is going to be on the agenda someone from the committee should be at the meeting to answer questions.

The motion failed, with Steve and Will in favor and BJ and Ken opposed.

Ken said the committee can come back with another plan.

Lynda Hill said the beautification committee has done amazing things for this town and the fact that the trustees don't want to put flowers out is mind-boggling. She runs four Airbnbs. She has a lot of people coming through town who spend a lot of money here. They comment on how cute the community is and how nice people are. They love Jenna's Café, they love the flowers, they love the Cold Spring. We need to welcome them. The beautification committee puts a lot of work into their plantings. They water every single day. She doesn't understand why the flowers are being vandalized. She drives through the covered bridge almost every day. It will be okay until somebody makes a comment and then all of a sudden flowers are pulled out.

BJ said he voted the way he did because the board is looking at possibly creating another committee to do the exact same thing in the village as the beautification committee. They know the beautification committee has been overwhelmed with watering and other work. Kyle told them that was why the committee couldn't do the flowers at the municipal building. The village crew had to do it. If we get our own green space committee we will still be putting flowers out.

Adrienne said she thinks creating a village committee would be creating a division.

13. Discuss Cupola Repairs at Municipal Building

Ken said repairs to the municipal building cupola have been discussed at joint meetings with the selectboard. We put \$10,000 in the village budget for that. He would like Erik to reach out to the selectboard and see what their plans are for repairs. Steve asked if we were thinking \$10K would cover half the cost. Ken said no. The \$10,000 is just a start. Erik will draft a letter.

14. Discuss Possible Future Use of DocuSign for Village Operations

BJ said he thinks using DocuSign might help staff with all the things that need signatures. He thinks it pretty inexpensive, maybe \$40 a year. Ken said if we used DocuSign, if Erik had something he needed Ken to sign, Ken would be able to sign it on his phone. Will suggested bringing price information to the next meeting.

15. Discuss Main Street Statue and Future Procedures for Use of Village Property

BJ said there is a statue on a pedestal by the Masonic Temple. He would like to try to get the creator in to talk about maintenance. If she would like to keep it there for longer, he would like her to let us know how long and get permission. Will asked if she could just speak to Erik rather than having to come to a meeting. BJ said that would be fine. If she wants to talk to the board she can, but she doesn't have to. Ken said the statue can't be seen well because of tree branches in the way.

A community member asked if the board has researched the history of the statues and the process to get them here. Ken said the process was that Johnson Works had a collaboration with Vermont State University and they requested it to be there. We haven't heard from the creator in 15+ years and we want to know if she wants to keep it there or relocate it or add more. The community member asked if there was an agreement for maintenance. Ken said he doesn't know. Will said he was on the board at the time of the Main Street project. He thinks the intent of the pedestals was to have rotating art displays. But that never came to fruition. He thinks Ken just wants to reach out to the artist to see if anything can be done to clean the statue up and make it more visible or if she has other art she wants to bring in. He would like to see something brought to the other pedestals. BJ suggested maybe the statue could be moved so it would not be under a tree and would be more visible.

The community member said the village trustees live in the village but are also Johnson residents. She would like to see more cooperation. She would like to understand that the trustees still want beautification of Johnson as a whole. The publicity the trustees are getting does not show that and doesn't reflect well on Johnson. BJ said we can't control other people's opinions. We can't please everyone. Ken said we did nothing. The beautification committee just needs to ask permission to use village property just as any other committee or resident or entity does, because when the village allows something it assumes responsibility for it.

The community member said the board needs to clarify with the beautification committee chair what is village property and subject only to the village's decision and what is jointly owned by town and village. Will said only the municipal building and the garages are jointly owned.

The community member asked what the flowers hurt. Will said he wants to move forward in a positive way. He is confident we can do that. The community member said it is discouraging to have to read bad things about Johnson in the paper. Ken said it is discouraging to see someone who doesn't know him make comments about him and put the blame on this board when the sole blame lies with the beautification committee. Lynda said the flowers were there all summer. Lynda said the board is talking about putting statues on pedestals. The pedestals are currently empty when they weren't a week or two ago. BJ said people have to ask permission.

16. Discussion of Potential Green Space Committee

Will said GiGi has resigned from the board. She was part of making the patio at the municipal building presentable. His understanding is that the beautification committee said they had too many irons in the fire to do that, so she took it over. Steve said Lydia helped too. Will said he messaged

GiGi and told her he appreciated the beautification work she did on municipal property. The beautification committee has said they are stretched too thin to do the municipal building. He asked if GiGi would be willing to take the lead on a green space committee. She is interested in the idea. His thought is that she could chair the committee or perhaps it could be just her. She could present to the board green spaces that could use some beautification. She can work with the beautification committee as a liaison from the board to implement some of their ideas. We would have a village board that would work in collaboration with the town beautification committee.

Lynda asked why GiGi doesn't just join the beautification committee. BJ said because she doesn't like Kyle. Lynda questioned starting another committee to do the same thing as the existing committee. Ken said the existing committee is the town's committee, not the village's. Will said his intent would be that the village and town committees would work together. Lynda asked, the beautification committee is a town committee? Board members said yes. Lynda asked, the village doesn't give them money? BJ said we do. Ken said for the last 3 years they haven't used it.

BJ said when he asked Kyle about the municipal building she said it wasn't on her priority list because the village didn't go halves with the town on a gardener. To him the municipal building is the heartbeat of the town and village and more important than other places like bridges. BJ said the only green areas the village has are the jointly-owned municipal building property, the Cold Spring and Main Street. Even if we have to use the village crew sometimes, he would like to see the village have a standalone green space committee. Ken asked Will to reach out to GiGi and come up with a plan the board can take up.

Lynda asked if the village green space committee would take over beautification at the Cold Spring, Will said it's in the village. We will work on the plan. Lynda said she thinks the board is walking on a slippery slope. Will said he hopes there will be a cooperative effort between the village and town committees. Ken said there are two locations where the beautification committee has worked on village property. They worked at the Cold Spring and they put flowers on pedestals without asking. Lynda asked, don't they pay Peter Moynihan for the flower bed he maintains? Ken said they give out grants for projects like that. The property owner can maintain areas in the right of way. Will and Ken explained that the flower bed is in the state right of way and the village is the permit holder for the right of way.

17. Executive Session – Evaluation of Public Official

BJ moved and Will seconded to go into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) for evaluation of a public official. Ken said only the board would be included in the executive session. **The motion was passed at 7:38.** The board came out of executive session at 8:20. No action was taken

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.