

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 18, 2008**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Larry Yandow (Village President); Deb Billado, John Lajza, George Tyler, Peter Gustafson.  
**ADMINISTRATION:** Dave Crawford, Village Manager.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Larry Yandow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance

**II. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Addition:

- Authorize CCRPC Byways Grant under ‘New Business’.

**III. GUESTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Pearl Street Improvement Project**

Rick Hamlin with Hamlin Engineering reviewed proposed improvements to Pearl Street from Susie Wilson Road to Five Corners. The goal is to look at the entire corridor of Pearl Street and make a plan. Improvements include a five foot wide bike lane on Pearl Street, widening the center island, narrowing Pearl Street from two lanes to one lane with left turn lanes, having wider sidewalks and better lighting through the ‘hill section’. The curbing along Pearl Street will not change. At the fairgrounds a new pedestrian/bus entrance is proposed as well as improved sidewalks, decorative iron fencing to replace the chain link fence, lights to match those in the village center, and a new electronic sign. The streetscape by CVE will feature retail shops and other establishments (hotel) in addition to the entrance archway to the fairgrounds. CVE wants the Saratoga Group to review/refine the proposal for the area in front of the fairgrounds. Other improvement ideas along Pearl Street include having trolley service from the high school to the Burlington water front with associated trolley stations and multi-modal centers, a multi-purpose path along the railroad tracks with many connector points from the path to Pearl Street, and two small roundabouts rather than traffic lights at the intersection by the shopping centers and by West Street Extension. Project cost estimates range from \$800,000 to over \$4 million depending on how many suggested improvements are included. There is a federal earmark (\$450,000) and CVE’s contribution (\$80,000 over eight years) as well as the Village’s contribution. The trolley service, multi-modal stations, and the multi-use path are not included in the cost estimates. Recommendations from staff include asking VTrans to modify the 2009 paving to incorporate the lane changes and striping, pursuing Essex Junction taking over Pearl Street as a Class 1 highway, asking VTrans to start the project, and continuing the collaborative effort on the project. There will be a presentation to Sen. Leahy on the project. CVE, CCMPO, and Essex Junction are investing resources in the project. Hamlin Engineering is donating \$5,000 of service toward the project.

Deb Billado emphasized the \$450,000 federal earmark is for the area in front of the fairgrounds which the Saratoga Study covered (streetscape in front of CVE). Trustee Billado asked about accessing the proposed bike lane on Pearl Street from Suzie Wilson Road. Rick Hamlin stated CCMPO and St. Michael's College are investigating how to link the existing shared use path in front of the Fort to the proposed bike lane into the village. Ms. Billado asked about burying the power lines. Mr. Hamlin stated burying the lines would be very expensive.

George Tyler mentioned design control. Robin Pierce noted there is discussion of expanding the designated village center which does have design control.

**MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by Deb Billado, to approve the following recommended actions:**

- **Authorize the Village Manager to request that VTrans modify their summer 2009 paving plan to incorporate the lane changes and striping on Pearl Street to Five Corners as proposed.**
- **Direct the Village Manager to start the process with VTrans of Essex Junction taking over Pearl Street as a Class 1 highway.**
- **Authorize staff to request VTrans start the project.**
- **Authorize staff to continue the collaborative effort on the Pearl Street Improvement Project.**

**VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

2. Michele Boomhower, CCMPO Executive Director

Michele Boomhower announced the Long Range Transportation Visioning Workshop on 11/22/08 at CVE beginning at 10 a.m. The workshop will look at 50 year transportation planning beyond paving and bridges to accommodate growth in the county (population and jobs) and fiscal constraints. Ms. Boomhower also provided the Trustees with information on the TIP, CCMPO, funding sources across modes for transportation projects, and pedestrian/bikeway projects for interconnectivity. There is a two percent increase in local share funding of CCMPO. Recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Innovative Finance (how to pay for transportation projects in the future) will be forwarded once they are released.

Dale Arango, Essex Junction representative on the CCMPO Board of Directors, noted her service on the Public Transportation Committee which is looking at a regional perspective and the funding process. Ms. Boomhower said there is discussion of regional commuter bus service (linking service from Jeffersonville to Burlington). Deb Billado asked about merging all bus services into one system. Dale Arango assured efficiencies are being reviewed, but special needs riders need special bus service. There was agreement there is opportunity for improvement in public transportation service.

Regarding the circumferential highway, Ms. Boomhower stated the EPA and Corps of Engineers are still in disagreement over the wetlands and which alternative of the highway to select. There is an upcoming meeting. Ms. Boomhower will follow up with information to communities.

3. Comments from Public on Items not on Agenda  
There were no comments from the public.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. CCRPC Byways Grant

**MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by Deb Billado, to authorize the Village Manager to apply for a CCRPC Byways Grant of \$10,000 for a bus shelter and kiosk in the area of the shopping center or CVE (the grant includes design and construction). VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

**VI. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Meeting Schedule

- Special Meeting on 12/2/08
- Regular Meeting on 12/9/08
- Budget Work Session on 12/18/08 at 8 a.m.

2. Meetings

Dave Crawford reported he has had meetings with the CVE Executive Committee, the Town of Essex, and concerned citizens on Central Street and the police department.

3. Garden Committee

Interest has been expressed in establishing a garden committee to determine where gardens can be planted and maintained in the village.

4. Ken Greer

The passing of Ken Greer, Village Manager from 1971-1982, was noted.

**VII. TRUSTEES COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

1. Thanks to Village Manager and Staff

The Trustees extended thanks to the Village Manager, Village Engineer, and staff for the presentation on the Pearl Street Improvement Project. The cooperation/collaboration of all those involved (Essex Junction, CCMPO, CVE, Hamlin Engineering) was noted.

2. Light the Village

All are invited to the lighting ceremony on 12/3/08 at 6 p.m. at Five Corners. The high school chorus will perform. Following the ceremony everyone is invited to the Lincoln Inn. The Brownell Library will have a display of puzzle art in Lincoln Hall.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA & READING FILE**

**MOTION by Deb Billado, SECOND by John Lajza, to approve the consent agenda as follows:**

1. Approval of Minutes (11/10/08)

2. Approval of Warrants
3. Reading list acceptance (letters/communications)
  - CCMPO Estimate for FY10 Local Match
  - “Light the Village” Celebration on 12/3/08
  - Amendment of the 2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan
  - Fall Newsletter from Vermont Council on Rural Development
  - Article in *Business People Vermont* on Essex Rescue

**VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION by Peter Gustafson, SECOND by George Tyler, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters, and to invite the Village Manager to attend. VOTING: 5 ayes; motion carried.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

**MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn Executive Session. VOTING: 4 ayes [Peter Gustafson not present for vote]; motion carried.**

Executive Session was adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by John Lajza, SECOND by George Tyler, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: 4 ayes [Peter Gustafson not present for vote]; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

*RScty: M.E.Riordan*