

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES & PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2012**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: George Tyler, Village President; Dan Kerin, Vice President; John Lajza, Lori Houghton and Mary Morris.
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE: Charlee Day, Chair; Michael Smith, David Riester, Marla Durham and John Gazo.
ADMINISTRATION: David Crawford, Village Manager
Michael Deweese, Superintendent
Grant Geisler, Executive Director of Operations
GUESTS: Vince Gonillo, Brad Luck, Wendy Johnson, Harlan Smith and Chris Halpin.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER

George Tyler began the meeting at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and welcomed all the members from the Board of Trustees, Prudential Committee, and the community.

2. BUSINESS

WiFi Committee Update: Michael Deweese said the WiFi Committee membership has been defined and it will be an advisory committee. He distributed a policy with operational definitions, standards and timeline. He indicated he's not expecting reports from the committee, just routine minutes, and his office will provide that service along with the agenda notices. The study committee will complete a final report by 8/24/12 so that it may be presented for joint consideration at the next semi-annual meeting on 9/5/12.

Discussion of Stevens Park Opportunities and Boundary Definition: Discussion incurred concerning alternative uses and safety issues surrounding Stevens Park. The space could be used for a community garden/picnic area as it is considered a natural space. Issues discussed included:

- The park is very shady and has a drainage problem. It was agreed that the brush should be cleared out first, the drainage problem should be addressed, and improve pathways. Suggestions were made on lighting the pathways with indirect lighting in the future mainly during hours of operation.
- Would indirect lighting in the park deter mischief and theft? A robbery in the park occurred before July 4 last year.
- Old playground structures will be removed.
- No significant parking is available for the park. The beginning of Southview Road has a widened area for minimal parking.
- There are plenty of other park playground opportunities for the community to use.

There is a confusion concerning the property boundaries surrounding the park. A neighbor is trying to sell her property and according to the deed, the park boundary is in her driveway. Further discussion needs to

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take place as more information and a sketch of the site are reviewed. The concern is the future impact of the entrance of Stevens Park if a small piece of land is deeded over to the interested party. Topic was tabled.

Land Development Code Fees for Parks Permits: The Champlain Valley Exposition is seeking a fee waiver on future development. Discussion incurred concerning precedents if fee waivers are granted to EJRP. The Board of Trustees needs further review of his topic and the discussion was tabled. The issue will be an agenda item at the March 13th Trustees meeting.

IBM Lease: The lease between IBM and the Village for the Maple St. Park soccer fields was renewed in 2009 for 10 years. Per the Parks Lease Agreement signed last year, permission is needed from IBM to sub-lease their portion of the park. IBM has been notified and is now considering it. The Village's attorney will send CCSU information for them to complete the process.

EJRP: Presentation of Programming: Brad Luck gave a detailed presentation on the people, parks and programs for the EJRP. There are special committees working on the dog park, bike park and Memorial Day Parade. There are on-going enhancements within the parks including the pavilion structure and maintenance sheds at Cascade and Maple St., Their variety of programs and special events are popular and well attended, including a new fall festival last year.

Heart and Soul Grant Update: Lori Houghton summarized the progress of the Heart and Soul Grant. The non-profit status has been formed. The board will have 16 to 19 board members. The kick-off of the community 63 events, to find the heart and soul of the community, will begin after the retreat. Brad Luck was acknowledged for the major role he has played in the success of the Heart and Soul.

At the closing of the combined meeting, John Lajza announced that he will be leaving the Board of Trustees as his term is over. The Board of Trustees and the Prudential Committee thanked him for his service to the community.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David Crawford, Village Manager