

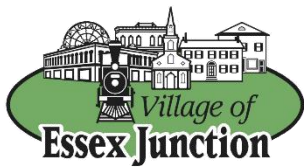
LIST OF AGENDA ADDITIONS AND HANDOUTS
VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

- 6f. Accept resignation letter from Andrew Brown from the Capital Program Review Committee

ADDITIONAL HANDOUTS

- 5c. Open container ordinance DRAFT
- 5c. EPD Open Container Ordinance DRAFT (presented by Chief Garey)
- 6b. Memo to Rick Jones from Jeffrey Kershner re: Prospect/Lincoln Street intersection



**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

2 Lincoln Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Tuesday, September 24, 2019
6:30 PM

E-mail: manager@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6951

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG** [6:30 PM]
2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. *Interview for Village Planning Commission: Ned Daly
 - b. *Interview for Village Planning Commission: James Wicks
 - c. Discussion about open container ordinance—Rick Garey
 - d. Discussion about security cameras at Maple Street Park—Rick Garey
 - e. Waive no alcoholic beverages policy at Maple Street Park for event
 - f. Capital Program Review Committee report on Local Option Tax—Andrew Brown
6. **CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Agreement for shared use of Park Street dumpsters
 - b. Authorize removal of parking spaces at Prospect/Lincoln Street intersection
 - c. *Reappoint Capital Committee member—Tim Dall
 - d. Approve minutes: September 10, 2019
 - e. Check Warrants #17164—09/13/19; #17165—09/20/19
7. **READING FILE**
 - a. Board Member Comments
 - b. Email from Al Villa re: Vandalism at Amtrak Station
 - c. Upcoming meeting schedule
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a. *An executive session may be necessary to discuss the appointment of a public officer
9. **ADJOURN**

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Certification: 09/20/2019

Date Posted


Initials

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 24, 2019**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Andrew Brown, Chair; George Tyler; Dan Kerin; Amber Thibeault; Raj Chawla

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Evan Teich, Unified Manager; Sarah Macy, Finance Director/ Assistant Manager; Rick Garey, Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Clemens; Ned Daly; John Ganorecki; John Sheppard; Ken Signorello; Al Villa; James Wicks; Irene Wrenner

1. CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES

Mr. Teich added:

- Consent Item 6f, Accept resignation letter from Andrew Brown from the Capital Program Review Committee.
- Two documents for item 5c, Open Container Ordinance draft and EPD Open Coordinator draft
- A document for item 6b, Memo to Rick Jones from Jeffrey Kershner re: Prospect/ Lincoln street intersection

3. APPROVE AGENDA

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, and RAJ CHAWLA seconded, to approve the meeting agenda, as amended. VOTING: 5-0; motion carried.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

a. Comments from public on items not on the agenda.

John Ganorecki and Al Villa, contracted Amtrak Station caretakers, spoke about regularly occurring vandalism at the Essex Junction railroad station. They said that, over the past 4-5 months, people have trashed a picnic table and fence, urinated and defecated on the platform, and uprooted rocks from a wall, which they threw on the tracks. Mr. Villa said they have informed the police department about this and believe the damage is taking place in the afternoons and the defecation is happening late at night. Mr. Ganorecki said that they do not have access to security cameras and Amtrak, and the Northeast Central Railroad have not been able to resolve the issue. He requested that the police monitor the station in the afternoons. Mr. Brown suggested a follow up on this issue be added to the next meeting's agenda.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. *Interview for Village Planning Commission: Ned Daly

* Mr. Daly agreed to an open session interview by the Trustees for a position on the Village Planning Commission. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Daly to explain his interest in serving. Mr. Daly described his life-long interest in development and master's degree in city planning. He said he cares about what is built in the Village and wants to be involved with the Design 5 Corners efforts. He also expressed interest in looking forward to a time in the future when the Town and Village Commissions combine efforts. Mr. Tyler asked Mr. Daly his thoughts on the current Commission's direction. Mr. Daly expressed concerns about the new 5 corners building because 60% of the

ground floor has been empty and he suspects there may be structural defects related to panel movement on the outside of the building. He suggested that the Village start thinking outside the box about their needs over the next 15 years, and intentionally include the development of affordable housing and updated energy and zoning codes into planning. He talked about how the design of the Village Center buildings can incorporate attractive, affordable and market rate housing. Mr. Kerin wondered about Mr. Daly's thoughts on the current Land Development Code. Mr. Daly discussed that variability of aesthetics from following the code could be eased with the implementation of a design review board, if it is careful to not restrict developers too much in their designs. Mr. Daly illustrated his skills facilitating diverse architectural stakeholders toward a shared product by describing his career experience leading the Design Team of an architect firm.

b. *Interview for Village Planning Commission: James Wicks

* Mr. Wicks agreed to an open session interview by the Trustees for a position on the Village Planning Commission. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Wicks to explain his interest. Mr. Wicks said that he has lived in Essex for 20 days but always wanted to live here. He wants to be involved with the community and thought the position looked interesting. Mr. Tyler asked Mr. Wicks about his thoughts on the way Essex has changed over time. Mr. Wicks said that the Village design supports walking and biking and he was attracted to this so he could raise his young family with conveniences and accessibility. Mr. Kerin asked if Mr. Wicks would be available during the meeting times and he said he would be. Mr. Teich requested he talk about his work experience and Mr. Wicks explained that he sells cleaning and food service supplies and has a background working with plumbers. Mr. Tyler explained to Mr. Wicks that planning commissioners sometimes handle hard decisions that can be controversial. He also explained that the role is responsible for ensuring the revisions of the code book. Mr. Wicks said he was aware of this based on his meetings with Community Development Director Robin Pierce.

Mr. Brown explained to the candidates that there are two openings on the Planning Commission and four applicants so other interviews will be conducted at a future meeting and a decision will be made by mid-October.

c. Discussion about Open Container Ordinance—Rick Garey

Mr. Brown explained that the Open Container Ordinance idea first came up 4-6 years ago. More recently, with inappropriate behaviors and public intoxication concerns being reported to the Trustees, about people on the local multi-use path, the ordinance is being considered again. Chief Garey discussed the fact that this would be a new ordinance, but police already have authority to intervene on public intoxication, if people call this in. He suggested that the Essex Community Justice Center be involved discussing enforcement and fine deterrents that do not criminalize the behavior. He said that, if the Trustees decide to adopt an Open Container Ordinance that the same ordinance should also be adopted by the Town. Mr. Kerin pointed out that the ordinance could strengthen Multi-Use path enforcement. Chief Garey pointed out that one of the challenges of currently understaffing on the police force is that proactive monitoring of places like the Multi-use path is not prioritized over reactive policing. He said that the department appreciates when people call in their concerns when there is a problem. Chief Garey provided a draft open container ordinance and asked the Trustees to send him questions that will help inform this process.

d. Discussion about security cameras at Maple Street Park—Rick Garey

Mr. Kerin said that the idea of implementing security cameras at Maple Street Park began when he was on the Recreation Advisory Council. He reasoned that, with only one entrance and exit at the pool, cameras could help with potential Amber Alerts. Mr. Tyler compared Maple Street Park camera installations with cameras at schools, noting that the parents he talked to already assume there are cameras. Chief Garey pointed out that there has not been an increase of crime in the park and discussed a cost of over \$100,000 to install an effective camera system, noting that a less expansive system may cost less. He said alternate strategies for safety may be more

effective, such as the recent implementation of a School Golf Cart monitor at the park. He cautioned that putting up cameras in Maple Street Park may set a precedence for other parks to follow and talked about public expectations of privacy. Mr. Chawla expressed concern that camera monitoring could eventually end up in nature parks, if the cameras are installed in the Maple Street Park. He said the studies he looked at suggest that installing cameras does not deter crime. Mr. Brown asked staff to research what other communities are doing with camera installations in parks and for the Trustees to conduct independent research on the issue. He invited Chief Garey to come back with guidance about what is allowed and parameters for installation.

e. Waive no alcoholic beverages policy at Maple Street Park for event

Ms. Macy explained that the Essex Junction Recreation and Parks (EJRP) requested a waiver of the no alcoholic beverages policy for their second annual Battle of The Barbeque at the Maple Street Park on October 12. Mr. Brown stated his personal dissent on the issue, based on his belief that alcohol should not be allowed in public parks.

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, and DAN KERIN seconded that the Trustees waive the no alcoholic beverages policy (Chapter 3, Section 303(a)) at Maple Street Park for the Battle of the BBQ event on October 12, from 12-2 p.m.

Ms. Macy commented that the event would be held in the parking lot and vendors hold liquor licenses. She said similar events take place in other communities and that last year’s event was a success.

Mr. Brown reiterated his opinion that alcoholic beverages should not be near playgrounds.

VOTING: 3-2; motion carried, dissenting vote by ANDREW BROWN and RAJ CHAWLA

f. Capital Program Review Committee report on Local Option Tax—Andrew Brown

Mr. Brown provided background for why the Capital Program Review Committee researched the Local Option Tax. He pointed out that calculations of capital need expenses, as compared to revenue predicted to be available, comes up significantly short, over time. A Local Option tax could offset this and would allow people who frequent the area, but are not residents, to help pay a share of the wear and tear on infrastructure. The tax would need to be reported to the state from the Village and Town but the committee would like the money to go to Essex Junction. He explained that splitting the tax revenue between the municipalities could result in unresolved revenue needs for the Village capital expenses. Mr. Tyler pointed out that the capital needs in the Village, vs. outside the Village, are higher due to the older infrastructure. Mr. Kerin added that area communities all have already adopted Local Option Taxes. Mr. Brown suggested, and the board members agreed, that they would bring the LOT research and proposal to the Town Selectboard for discussion.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

GEORGE TYLER made a motion, and DAN KERIN seconded, that the Trustees approve the Consent Items:

a. Agreement for shared use of Park Street dumpsters

Approve conditions of shared use of the Dumpsters at Park Street School Agreement between HANDY’S HOTELS & RENTALS, LLC, and the Village of Essex Junction.

b. Authorize removal of parking spaces at Prospect/Lincoln Street Intersection

Authorize the removal of three parking spaces on Lincoln Street, closest to Prospect Street, by replacing with cross hatched no parking. Mr. Teich explained that this procedural approval is needed in order for the ordinance to be on a future meeting agenda to be amended.

c. *Reappoint Capital Committee member—Tim Dall

Reappointment of Timothy Dall to a three-year Village Capital Program Review committee term to expire June 30, 2022.

- d. **Approve minutes: September 10, 2019**
- e. **Check Warrants #17164—09/13/19; #17165—09/20/19**
- f. **Accept resignation letter from Andrew Brown from the Capital Program Review Committee**

VOTING: 5-0; motion carried.

7. **READING FILE**

- a. Board Member Comments
There were no comments from the board at this time.
- b. Email from Al Villa re: Vandalism at Amtrak Station
- c. Upcoming meeting schedule

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. *An executive session may be necessary to discuss the appointment of a public officer
No executive session transpired.

ADJOURN

ANDREW BROWN called a recess of the meeting to enter the Joint meeting of the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees and the Town of Essex Selectboard at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Ainsworth