

Bennington Street Naming Committee

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

BCRC Conference Room – 210 South Street, Bennington

Proposed Agenda

- ❖ Call to Order
- ❖ Review of Minutes of 3/26/24
- ❖ Public Comment
- ❖ Review of Research by Committee
- ❖ Committee Recommendations to the Select Board
- ❖ Other
- ❖ Adjournment

Minutes - Street Naming Committee
March 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
BCRC Conference Room, 210 South Street
Bennington, VT

Those Present: Martha M. Mackey, Scott Frost, Bruce Lee-Clark

Public: Jeff Joslin

Bruce Lee-Clark convened the meeting at 7:19 p.m. and read through the proposed agenda which the committee agreed to follow.

1. Review of the Minutes: Scott requested that the minutes reflect that the committee agreed that the historical markers should be worded so as to help visitors to Bennington feel welcomed, including a QR Code leading to information about the meaning behind the street names.

MSP That the minutes of 3/18/24 be approved as amended. Unanimous.

2. Public Comments: None at this time

3. Review of Research by the Committee:

a. Squaw Hill Road – it appears that Squaw Hill Road was named after Houghton Lane was redirected after the building of the new Route 7 that would have cut off the original Houghton right of way. The new Houghton Lane was redirected southward to cross 7a at Rice Lane. Research will continue in order to elicit additional possible names.

b. Gypsy La – Appears on the 1929 map as a crossing between Rt. 9 and the present Walloomsac Rd. It appears that the owners of the land would allow “travellers” and others to camp in that location when working in the area. It was also possible to “flag down” the train as it travelled to and from downtown Bennington on the “corkscrew”.

Martha suggested that we research the oldest home on Gypsy Lane in order to arrive at additional information regarding its formation.

4. Committee Recommendations, if any:

a. We have one possible recommendation but will need two for the Select Board. That one is Joslin Hill Road, (informally agreed to)

After further discussion regarding our timeline:

MSP Change our response date to the Select Board to recommend two names with Historical Data for the signs to April 22nd, and to Stu on 4/16. Passed Unanimously

MSP [Scott/Martha] That the Town reimburse Jeff Joslin for any reasonable expenses to his business that arise from the renaming of Squaw Hill Road. Passed Unanimously

MSP [Scott/Martha] That the committee should be empowered to draft for approval by the Select Board the language on the markers and their location, with Town assistance. Passed Unanimously

1 5. Next Meeting: April 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the BCRC Conference Room.

2 MSP [Martha/Scott] Motion to adjourn at 8:31. Passed Unanimously.

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4 Respectfully submitted,

5 Bruce Lee-Clark, Convener

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Minutes - Street Naming Committee
March 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
BCRC Conference Room, 210 South Street
Bennington, VT

Those Present: Martha M. Mackey, Scot Frost, Bruce Lee-Clark

Public: Kristine Lewis, Jeff Joslin

Bruce Lee-Clark convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and read through the proposed agenda which the committee agreed to follow.

1. Committee Organization: The committee unanimously agreed to have Bruce Lee-Clark as convener and notetaker for the brief life of the committee.

2. Bruce led a brief review of the Vermont Open Meeting Law requirements for the committee.

3. Public Comments:

Jeff Joslin stated that he and his extended family are the only residents of the current Squaw Hill Road, and he has a business on that road. His family has lived on the road for more than 40 years. He stated that he has been in touch with Town Manager Stu Hurd, and has suggested a possible name as Joslin Hill Road. He likes the idea of an historical marker at the intersection with Houghton La.

4. Review of the Scope of Work: The committee was clear about the need to arrive at two suggestions for the renaming of Squaw Hill Road by April 2. There was less clarity about the full scope of providing history of the two particular locations for the purposes of placing historical markers. Bruce will check with the Select Board Chair regarding whether we are to provide results of historical and other research or to suggest language for the markers. The committee is unanimous in their desire to do both as well as the use of a QR Code on the markers for further education of visitors and residents.

There was some discussion regarding sending just one name to the Select Board, but the consensus was that the charge called for two names, and we would be in a better position to make recommendations after we have done and shared our research.

5. Possible Resources identified were:

- Assessor's Office Maps from 1929 and 1912(?) - Scott
- Town Clerk's Office -- Martha
- Probate Court Records - Martha
- Bennington Historical Society - Bruce
- Email from T. Isselhardt - Scott will distribute this to the rest of the committee.
- Jeff Joslin suggested the following: Jamie Jerome, Duffy Outwater, he will speak to his grandmother regarding other suggestions of names.

6. Committee Assignments - See above

7. Next Meeting – March 26, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.; BCRC Conference Room, 210 South Street

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted: Bruce Lee-Clark, Recorder and Convener

MEETING NOTICE

Bennington Street Naming Committee

Monday, March 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

BCRC Conference Room – 210 South Street

Bennington, VT 05201

AGENDA

- ❖ Committee Organization
- ❖ Review of Vermont Open Meeting Law requirements
- ❖ Public Comment
- ❖ Review of Scope of Work – from Select Board
- ❖ Possible Resources
- ❖ Committee Schedule
- ❖ Other
- ❖ Adjournment

“The committee shall research the history of Squaw Hill Road and Gypsy Lane areas for the purpose of placing historical rather than commemorative signage in both areas and for the purpose of presenting at least two possible names for Squaw Hill Road. The names shall be submitted to the town manager by April 2 and presented to the Select Board for consideration at a public meeting on April 8. Street names chosen shall recognize any known history of the street or the area, shall not duplicate any or nearly duplicate any other street names or road names already in existence in Bennington to avoid 911 confusion, shall be of a reasonable length and shall not be considered derogatory or humorous.”