

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **AUGUST 14, 2023**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner; Ed Woods; Gary
7 Corey; Sarah Perrin; and Jim Carroll.

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Haley-Vice Chair.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Shannon
10 Barsotti-Community Development Director; Chief Paul Doucette and Lt. Cam Grande-
11 Bennington Police Department; Sam Restino; Jack Rossiter-Munley; Mary Ellen Munley;
12 Representative Mary Morrissey; Clark Adams; Mike Bethel; Kelly Carroll; Ned Perkins; Nancy
13 White; Rhonda Maki; 15 citizens; Jim Therrien-Bennington Banner; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and
14 Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

15 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order.

16 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

17 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

18 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

19 Ms. Conner read the Town’s Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on
20 August 24, 2020:

21 “Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, resilient community where everyone
22 regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life.”

23 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

24 **A. MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2023**

25 **B. WARRANTS**

26 **C. LICENSES**

27 *Jim Carroll moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to approve the Consent Agenda*
28 *amended as follows:*

29 *Minutes of July 24, 2023, Line 217, Change “a law suit against the*
30 *Town.” to “a complaint in HRC alleging the Select Board’s actions were detrimental to the*
31 *complainants.”*

32 Ms. Conner verified with Mr. Hurd that any expense that references “Lead Line Project”
33 is reimbursable, and Mr. Hurd agreed.

34 Ms. Conner asked what the Service Contract was for that we have with HACH Company,
35 and Mr. Hurd answered that is for service on the variable speed drives at the water treatment
36 plant.

37 Mr. Corey asked if the Play By Design check for the Willow Park Playground was the final
38 check, and Mr. Hurd and Mr. Monks verified that they have completed their work.

39 Ms. Conner noted the liquor license application for Donovan’s on Main Street and
40 thought they had closed. Mr. Hurd stated that it’s under new ownership.

41 ***The motion carried with Ed Woods abstaining and Tom Haley absent.***

42 Sam Restino noted that the Minutes did not state that there was a police officer in the
43 room at the July 24, 2023 meeting.

44 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

45 The following Public Comment Practices to make the experience for all involved a
46 productive and informative use of the Public Comment period at Select Board meetings was
47 placed on the podium for those that wish to make Public Comments to reference:

- 48 1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or make
49 announcements that benefit the community at large.
- 50 2. The topic should not be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public wants to
51 comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of that item.
- 52 3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
- 53 4. You are required to state your real name and town of residence.
- 54 5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than asking
55 questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have specific questions it is best
56 to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation and accurate information.
- 57 6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda item at a
58 future meeting.

59 _____
60 Nancy White: 1. Questioned if the Select Board was following the Vermont Open Meeting Law
61 stating that the public has the right to participate in conversations on agenda items including
62 the Manager’s Report which is an agenda item. 2. The Select Board has been aware since
63 December 2021 that the Rec Center needed \$.5M worth of work. She mentioned this 3 or 4

64 meetings ago, and would like it put on the agenda of the next meeting. *Ms. Jenkins: We will get*
65 *you answers.*

66 Jack Rossiter-Munley: 1. We have welcomed 3 new families to Bennington at the end of July
67 who are now working to get settled. They have varying skill sets which include being
68 multilingual, international business backgrounds, and military security experience. More will be
69 coming in August. ECDC is looking for volunteers and donations of any kind. If interested
70 contact jrossitermunley@ecdcus.org. *Mr. Carroll: Please let them know that the Select Board*
71 *welcomes them.* 2. The Community Café is open every Saturday from 1:30pm-3:00pm at 121
72 Depot Street. Payment for meals is accepted but not required. The flour from our partnership
73 with King Arthur Flour is being used to make all of the bread served. If interested in helping
74 out, contact benningtoncommunitycafe@gmail.com or facebook/benningtoncommunitycafe.

75 Sam Restino: 1. The only time he was aware of an individual being asked to leave was when Mr.
76 Hoyt was out of order. He didn't feel that there have been any meetings since that were
77 uncivilized enough that warranted a police officer to have been present at the last meeting. 2.
78 We need to address the fact that the Armory deal won't be happening, the PCB problem at Jard
79 still exists, the CTC building, and infrastructure issues.

80 Clark Adams: Was uncomfortable and "appalled" by the demanding tone of the public
81 comment restrictions and police presence at the last meeting.

82 Ned Perkins: Was pleased with the decision made by the Select Board for their participation on
83 housing loans while leaving the decision for loans of no more than \$25,000 to the Town
84 Manager. However, on July 19th, the Town Manager granted a \$100K loan to Hale Resources
85 and explained that the \$25,000 limit is per unit, and this is a 4-unit building. Mr. Perkins feels
86 that this policy should be readdressed to remove such a loophole that enables loans to be
87 made for much larger amounts than was intended.

88 Kelly Carroll: Attends practically every Select Board meeting staying to the end or very close to
89 it, and heard people in the audience at the meeting before the last one mentioning firearms.
90 This may have some bearing on why there was police presence at the last meeting.

91 Mary Ellen Munley: Bennington Cares will be out in the public twice in August - 1st at the
92 Riverwalk on August 19th starting at People's Park at 10:00am and ending at Bennington
93 Elementary where the gardening efforts started by Bennington Cares will be seen, and 2nd, at
94 the Bennington Museum on August 25th for a concert from 5:00pm-7:00pm featuring Jack
95 Rossiter-Munley. Also, be sure to bring a drawing for a square to be part of the Bennington
96 Community Quilt.

97 **5. BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT (BPD) UPDATE**

98 Police Chief Paul Doucette and Lt. Cam Grande did the following presentation:

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- Kudos to all that participated in and did all of the work for a great Bennington Battle Day Weekend.
 - All surrounding fire departments and police departments put on a parade in front of Deacon’s house to brighten his day as he is fighting cancer.
 - The 2023 Experience Camp in July was fantastic.
 - The National Night Out was also successful where many new members of the community attended.
 - We have recently signed several MOU’s, such as, with the Department of Public Safety for a State funded crisis worker specifically for the police department 24 hours/week, with United Counseling Service for continued 24/7 crisis access, and with the Bennington Rescue Squad for BPD members to get first aid training.
 - We have 4 recruits at the Academy who will be on the road at the end of December 2023 or beginning of January 2024.
 - We also have a Level II certified officer from another agency that will start on 8/21/23 and another candidate who will start Level I training in September 2023.
 - There has been much discussion on the Academy extending the next class to 24 weeks, as well as, many upcoming trainings in town.
 - We have been working with the Town’s IT Director, Nick Cave, who has augmented what we have plus has added the following:
 - ✓ A new white board in our conference/training room.
 - ✓ New touchscreen mobile data terminals in the vehicles for real time information and report capability.
 - ✓ The grant funded e-ticket program.
 - ✓ New body cameras.
 - We are working on the 2022 Traffic Stop Use of Force Report that will be completed next week.
 - We appreciate the support from the community with many people expressing their appreciation for what we do. There has been a decrease in violent crimes in 2023 from 2022 but we are still on track for 13,000-14,000 calls for service this year. “We’re doing a lot with a little” and definitely making a difference with our Federal and State partnerships.
 - As a reminder, August 31st is Overdose Awareness Day and we need to be thinking about those that are struggling with their addictions.

132 *Board comments and questions answered by Chief Doucette and Lt. Grande:*

133 Ms. Conner: Can you talk about the New Experience Camp? *The Experience Camp has been*

134 *happening for over 20 years, police officers volunteer their time, we’ve had as many as 40 which*

135 *is too many to manage - this year we had 29. We introduced them to the building trades*

136 *(driving a backhoe and bulldozer), taught them firearm safety at a shooting range, took them to*

137 *the hospital to teach them first aid and CPR, the fire department taught them how to use a fire*

138 *extinguisher with real fire, we taught teamwork with white water rafting, and taught them*
139 *kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. Next year we hope to raise the age to 16 and add some law*
140 *enforcement experiences to the agenda for the older kids. We feel this makes a difference with*
141 *the youth.*

142 Ms. Conner: Could the Select Board be invited to the Swearing In Ceremony of the police
143 officers? *It would be even better if we could bring the newly graduated recruits to a Select Board*
144 *Meeting so everyone in the community knows who they are.*

145 Ms. Conner: Is the new technology being well received? *Yes, and Nick is very popular among all*
146 *of the officers.*

147 Mr. Woods: Does the 24/week crisis counselor change your access to 24/7 with UCS? *No, that is*
148 *in addition to.*

149 Mr. Woods: Could a member of CPARB be invited to your upcoming meeting with the Attorney
150 General - if it is that kind of meeting? *Senator Sears asked about this when he set up the*
151 *meeting, but at this point, it is more or less for us to have a clearer understanding of each other.*
152 *The BPD was instrumental in some of the legislation that happened this year and there will be a*
153 *training for police officers only for privacy reasons.*

154 Mr. Woods: Noted that his son has now gotten a paying job as a camp counselor at age 15
155 because of the time he had spent in the Experience Camp. Thank you for that. *Thank you.*

156 *Public comments/questions answered by Chief Doucette and Lt. Grande:*

157 Mary Ellen Munley: What does a crisis worker do? *They are called in when we encounter mental*
158 *health issues, if someone threatens to harm themselves, or has experienced a tragic event.*

159 Clark Adams: How do the cameras function? *You get car video and body cam video synced*
160 *together, they can be muted but an officer has to say he/she is doing so, and they automatically*
161 *download when the officers enter the police building. The recordings cannot be changed.*

162 Clark Adams: Perhaps we should consider more noticeable clothing for the officers and brighter
163 colors for the vehicles that stands out more so that police presence is more noticeable. *We do*
164 *have cruise lights on the vehicles and will be forming a committee to discuss uniforms as that is*
165 *part of the "working plan"..*

166 Sam Restino: Is there a plan to put cameras up at Monument Plaza, for example? *We would*
167 *have to do research on that but there is no plan to do so at this time.*

168 Mike Bethel: Is there a policy in Vermont concerning stealing and looting? *We have had some*
169 *businesses being robbed but not the 'stash and grab' that you're referring to.*

170 Mike Bethel: The BPD police officers do a great job.

171 **6. RIVERWALK - TREE REPORT**

172 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

- 173 ➤ We have State grant funds to improve the width, lighting, and aesthetics of the
174 Riverwalk.
- 175 ➤ The current walk was built in phases so there is little consistency of design.
- 176 ➤ It is narrow in places (3'), too close to the river in other places, and over-planted in
177 certain sections providing a very dense but poorly grown canopy.
- 178 ➤ In the section between Park and School Streets there is no space for lights to be
179 installed given the growth of trees there.
- 180 ➤ School Street to Park Street -
 - 181 ✓ The County Forester has said that the seven (7) cherry trees here are near the
182 end of their normal life.
 - 183 ✓ The canopy is relatively bare as the trees were planted too close together and
184 are now competing for the light. We need to add lighting to this area.
 - 185 ✓ *After discussing with Ron Pembroke, Pembroke Landscaping, the plan is to*
186 *remove every other cherry tree which will provide space for lighting, increase*
187 *visibility and security, and help to improve the overall health of the canopy these*
188 *cherry trees are providing.*
- 189 ➤ North Street to School Street -
 - 190 ✓ The walkway is only 3' wide with insufficient space to widen the walkway to
191 comply with State and Federal standards without encroaching on the riverbank
192 area.
 - 193 ✓ *We recommend removing the four (4) Crimson Maples (a Norway maple)*
194 *allowing the walkway to be widened to minimum compliance. One is already*
195 *dead.*
 - 196 ✓ The remaining trees appear to have sufficient space to allow the walkway to be
197 widened while protecting the riverbank. It is understood that new trees will be
198 planted to enhance the aesthetics of this entrance area. We will not use the
199 Norway species.
- 200 ➤ We hope to begin this project relatively soon.

201 *Board comments/questions answered by Mr. Hurd and Mr. Monks:*

202 Ms. Conner: Was safety a concern - bikes hitting pedestrians - where the walkway is so narrow?
203 *That's true, and if we were to do nothing with the walkway, we wouldn't have to touch it.*
204 *However, the community has advocated for lighting and walkway improvement, so we are*
205 *acting on the behest of the Select Board to follow through on those requests and have State*
206 *grant funds to do so. Because of the State funding, we have to comply with their standards for*
207 *walkway width which will also make the walkway safer.*

208 Mr. Corey: The walkway goes from 3' to 5' to 7', correct? Mr. Monks: *We are going to go to the*
209 *7' which is the absolute bare minimum. They recommend 8' and prefer 10'-12'. We are not*
210 *able to go that wide on this walkway. The Rail Trail is 10' wide.*

211 Mr. Corey: Is there any way to keep those trees on North Street? *As you face the walkway from*
212 *North Street, the trees are right adjacent to North Street and then it drops off. We were told we*
213 *can't widen the riverbank because it would affect flow and encroach on the flood hazard area.*

214 Mr. Corey: Will there be new trees planted there? *Yes, that is the intent.*

215 Ms. Perrin: Can we do part of the walkway and not remove the maples? They are gorgeous. *Mr.*
216 *Monks: It makes no sense to only do part of the walkway and this is where the walkway is the*
217 *narrowest.*

218 *Public comments/questions answered by Mr. Hurd and Mr. Monks:*

219 Sam Restino: What kind of lighting will there be? *There is already lighting along the Walloomsac*
220 *portion. We will be upgrading the fixtures on the trail and will bend them more downward to*
221 *better light the trail, itself, and not the surroundings.*

222 Sam Restino: We should also look at other areas in town where direct lighting would be more
223 beneficial.

224 Mike Bethel: Would like the project cancelled and it is a waste of money. The walkway is
225 beautiful as it is, the project will encourage bikes that can go 19 mph, and make it look like a
226 city pathway. However, if a compromise isn't going to happen, then we should close all
227 pathways in Town at dusk if people are afraid someone is going to get hurt, improve lighting
228 and cameras, and don't make it a bike path.

229 Rhonda Maki: Is School Street along Bennington Elementary being repaved? *Ms. Jenkins: Yes,*
230 *and widened.*

231 Rhonda Maki: North Street to School Street, the narrow part is supposed to slow bikes down,
232 however, it really is impossible to ride a bike on that path as is because you're always coming
233 up on pedestrians.

234 Nancy White: Doesn't feel the public has previously seen these plans. *These plans were*
235 *presented at a Select Board meeting when we applied for the grant.*

236 Nancy White: The plan that Mike McDonough had doesn't look like this one. *Ms. Jenkins: The*
237 *plan that Mike had was the BBC's conceptual plan and he did two presentations on the*
238 *Riverwalk. That was the Design Committee's conceptual plan. Mr. Woods: What we have*
239 *before us is what has been determined is necessary to make the improvements. This is the final*
240 *plan made available to the public and what is being discussed tonight.*

241 Ned Perkins: Do we have a tree development plan? *No.*

242 Ned Perkins: To take down trees, we have to have an officially warned Hearing. Is that what
243 this is? *Yes.*

244 Ned Perkins: Stated that he has had bad experiences in Burlington and Cape Cod where
245 pathways were shared with bikes and pedestrians.

246 Kelly Carroll: Noted that her daughter was murdered on the Riverwalk in 2021. Though it could
247 have happened anywhere in Town, it happened on the Riverwalk, and since then we have been
248 advocating for more public safety and improvements on the walkway. We are thankful for the
249 community and business support with the additional lighting, additional cameras, updated
250 benches, and the community using the area in a positive way. All of the grants received have
251 been discussed at several Select Board meetings. She, too, loves the trees, but this is a good
252 compromise between the love of the trees and public safety. If this plan does not go forward,
253 that section should be closed to the public with signage on both ends warning people to enter
254 at their own risk. The Town should also do a risk analysis to the taxpayers on that section of the
255 walkway.

256 Clark Adams: We should restrict e-bikes and power vehicles on this pathway. Is it safe for the
257 pedestrians if power vehicles are allowed?

258 ***Jeanne Conner moved and Gary Corey seconded to accept the proposal as presented***
259 ***and explore restricting motorized vehicles with the exception of motorized wheel chairs and***
260 ***to explore signage.***

261 Ms. Perrin cannot support this motion.

262 ***The motion carried with Sarah Perrin opposed and Tom Haley absent.***

263 7. MARKETING REPORT

264 Ms. Barsotti did the following presentation:

- 265 ❖ <https://vermontbeginshere.com> is the Town's marketing website.
- 266 ❖ There is a directory of "all things Bennington" with things to do, shopping, events,
267 attractions, recreation, restaurants, hotels, wedding venues, etc.
- 268 ❖ The marketing campaign was launched in September 2019 to switch the focus from
269 economic development to town wide destination marketing for tourists including our
270 history, attractions, and recreation.
- 271 ❖ This is being done through the website directory, e-newsletter, and social media.
- 272 ❖ We started with a \$50,000 budget that was decreased over the last couple of years to
273 \$40,000.
- 274 ❖ We used our original budget to hire 802 Marketing to create the website and manage
275 the visual campaign.
- 276 ❖ We use ~\$25,000 for digital ads on Google and Facebook, with the rest of the funds
277 used for website management, Facebook and Instagram accounts, photography, ads
278 through Vermont Country magazine and the Chamber of Commerce.
- 279 ❖ We track the searches showing that 52,000 have used the sponsorship searches, 18,000
280 have done the organic searches, 2,500 have subscribed to the e-newsletter, 3,300 are

- 281 Instagram followers, and 2,300 are Facebook followers. We also have printouts of the
282 magazine ads and rack cards from the Chamber.
- 283 ❖ People are looking at 1.6 pages with an average time spent on the site at 1 minute 18
284 seconds with just over a 15% conversion rate of people going directly to the websites of
285 the businesses, such as the restaurants, the Museum, etc.
 - 286 ❖ The order of interest from top to bottom is restaurants, things to do, fall foliage,
287 shopping, Vermont foliage drives, discover Old Bennington walking tour, and covered
288 bridges with several others beyond these.
 - 289 ❖ Our goal is to have more photos, more events, recreation for all seasons, and more
290 collaboration and promotion with the Chamber and BBC, as well as, new Welcome signs
291 coming into Town.
 - 292 ❖ All talent is locally hired - the photographer, creative writer, and 802 Marketing.

293 *Board comments/questions answered by Ms. Barsotti:*

294 Ms. Conner: Do you have a sense how the number of followers has increased over time? *In a*
295 *presentation that was done at the end of 2018 there were only 300 e-mail subscribers so it has*
296 *gone up 2,000-3,000 followers.*

297 Mr. Woods: Do you know what portion goes to management fees? *Yes, that is \$3,925 annually*
298 *with the rest going to vendors.*

299 Mr. Woods: That is a good deal and we need to thank 802. *They're wonderful. When we did*
300 *RFP's in the beginning they came in at half the price of anyone else.*

301 Ms. Jenkins: Is there anyway of knowing if the 81,000 total visits is a high or low number? *We*
302 *saw a bump during COVID because people were staying closer to home whereas this summer is*
303 *has waned a little because people are now flying more and going farther away. Good question*
304 *and we can check with 802 Marketing for an answer.*

305 Ms. Jenkins: The Chamber has said that businesses in the area are feeling good about what is
306 happening. Is there a way to target some of the questions that the Chamber asks such as what
307 makes them feel like they're doing well? *Definitely.*

308 Ms. Conner: Is there a way to parse out whether or not the businesses have seen a change from
309 the marketing strategy? *We could survey them for their input.*

310 Ms. Conner: Is the website at all interactive so those visiting it could ask a question? *We can*
311 *direct people to the Visitor's Center but we don't really have a question/answer section.*

312 Ms. Perrin: Thank you for coming to report and would you come to report again at some point?
313 *Sure.*

314 *Public comments/questions answered by Ms. Barsotti:*

315 Sam Restino: Do we still get bus tours in town? Encourages having CAT-TV do more Bennington
316 Begins Here videos. Have Green Mountain Express have video screens on their buses.

317 Mike Bethel: On our own, we had 2 half page ads in the Banner twice a month in July, August,
318 and at the end of Garlic Fest. Some of our marketing funding should go to the Banner, to BBC
319 to put on more concerts, and \$1,500 to CAT-TV for videos to go throughout the State. *This list*
320 *is what people are searching for in their organic searches with entertainment not being in the*
321 *top list. It could be argued that the events in Town are also entertainment. It shows what*
322 *Bennington is known for and what people are looking for. We can measure digital marketing*
323 *where we can't measure the impact of hard copy ads. Ms. Jenkins: Remember that this is to*
324 *bring people to Bennington from the outside. This is not internal advertising. Mr. Woods:*
325 *Encourages putting the ads on the sides of buses and advertising locally if we had an unlimited*
326 *budget. There's nothing wasted in what we're doing here.*

327 **8. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPENINGS**

328 Ms. Jenkins stated that we have two openings on CPARB - one to fill an unexpired term
329 ending in June 2024 and one for a 3-year term expiring in June 2026, and one opening on the
330 Historic Preservation Commission to fill an unexpired term ending in June 2024.

331 ***Jim Carroll moved and Gary Corey seconded to open up applications for CPARB and the***
332 ***Historic Preservation Commission.***

333 Ms. Perrin would like to send out a reminder of the openings to those that had
334 previously applied, and Ms. Jenkins agreed.

335 Mr. Woods asked if these three positions were terms that would be ongoing, and Ms.
336 Jenkins responded that we have expirations of - CPARB June 2024; CPARB June 2026; and
337 Historic Preservation Commission June 2024.

338 ***The motion carried with Tom Haley absent.***

339 **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

340 Ms. Jenkins clarified that the reason the Manager's Report isn't open to questions is
341 because it is literally a report by the Manager to the Select Board on things that we need to be
342 aware of. So, if you have questions on anything on the Manager's Report, contact him at his
343 office. He is accessible and returns calls.

344 Mr. Hurd reported the following:

345 *Garlic Town Road Closures* - The Chamber is seeking to close Depot Street on Saturday,
346 September 2, 2023 from 6:00am until 6:00pm for Garlic Town. Prior to the event small sections
347 of Depot Street may be temporarily closed or traffic flow altered for preparations beginning on
348 August 30, 2023. This only requires Manager approval based on Section 10-3.02(f) and (g) of

349 the Traffic Control Ordinance. All adjoining properties will be notified by the Chamber prior to
350 a temporary closing or of a directional traffic change.

351 Ms. Jenkins is uncomfortable voting on this until it has been verified that the Chamber
352 has notified the businesses on Depot Street of the closure on Saturday, September 2, 2023.
353 Last year we didn't vote until the Chamber had spoken to each business about the closure.

354 Mr. Carroll noted that we only have one meeting left a few days before the event.

355 Ms. Perrin added that the Chamber typically notifies the businesses of the closure the
356 day before or a day leading up to the event so they can make accommodations for their
357 business.

358 Mr. Hurd recommended that the motion be contingent upon them having notified all of
359 the businesses. We close streets all of the time and some businesses may not approve.

360 ***Sarah Perrin moved that we close Depot Street as requested. There was no second so***
361 ***the motion died.***

362 ***Ed Woods moved and Jim Carroll seconded to close Depot Street on September 2, 2023***
363 ***from 6:00am until 6:00pm for Garlic Town with the stipulation that the Chamber will contact***
364 ***each impacted business with accommodations for parking and signage for their business will***
365 ***be in that parking area.***

366 Ms. Perrin stated that, if that is a compromise, she would approve the motion.

367 ***The motion carried with Tom Haley absent.***

368 Mr. Hurd will notify the Chamber of the motion.

369 Notice Requiring Reappraisal - We have received an anticipated notice requiring reappraisal
370 since we had received that our most recent Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) from Property
371 Evaluation and Review had dropped below 20%. The Town must first sign indicating receipt of
372 this letter and the Select Board Chair must sign the document. Within 150 days, the Town must
373 develop a plan to bring the Town into compliance. For around 20 years, the State of Vermont
374 has been sending the Town ~\$40,000/year for reappraisal. We have over \$700,000 in reserve
375 for the reappraisal. Property purchases in the State during COVID has skewed almost every
376 Grand List in the State. There are only 2 or 3 companies to do all of the reappraisals that are
377 necessary in the State, however, we are obligated to attempt to schedule our reappraisal of our
378 6,000 properties within 150 days.

379 *The Chair will sign the attached document beginning the process to reappraise.*

380 Certificate of Approval - Salvage Yard Location - Every five years, Joshua Greene must have his
381 salvage yard location certified as approved by the Town. This requires the Board, after review

382 by the Zoning Office, to certify by signing the document provided. The Development Review
383 Board (DRB) has already signed off on this.

384 ***Jim Carroll moved and Gary Corey seconded to approve the Salvage Yard Location at***
385 ***471 Chapel Road and to sign the Certificate.***

386 Ms. Conner asked if salvage yards are subject to inspection, and Mr. Hurd answered that
387 the State inspects them and the DRB has the authority to revoke permits. Mr. Monks added
388 that this salvage yard has been in place for at least 40 years and there are no environmental
389 issues.

390 ***The motion carried with Sarah Perrin abstaining and Tom Haley absent.***

391 Willow Park Playground Equipment Closure - The Mesa Climber - a bridge which runs to the
392 slide - has created concerns with three recent incidents with minor injuries although it had
393 been certified as safe by the contractor. Based on a thorough review by staff and our insurer,
394 we have closed this equipment pending replacement. The replacement piece - a different piece
395 of equipment - is on order and expected to be in place before the month is out. We can't hold
396 the contractor responsible because this piece of equipment has been installed elsewhere
397 without any problems.

398 **10. UPCOMING AGENDAS**

399 August 28, 2023 - ECDC Refugee Resettlement

400 September 11, 2023 - Benn Hi Update Presentation

401 Mr. Carroll noted the number of agenda items and the over 2.5 hour meeting this
402 evening.

403 **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

404 Mr. Carroll: Kudos to Sarah Perrin and Betsy Shapiro Greenwalt for the success of their
405 food truck at Battle Day Weekend.

406 Ms. Conner: Thank you to Bernie Sanders for coming to Town and talking with people at
407 the pavilion on East Road.

408 Mr. Woods: Is the Tuttle Lot listed for sale? Mr. Hurd answered that the Tuttle Lot has
409 been sold and Mr. Monks added that it and its plans are listed for sale.

410

411 ***At 8:35pm, Jim Carroll moved and Sarah Perrin seconded the adjournment of the***
412 ***meeting. The motion carried with Tom Haley absent.***

413

414

415 Respectfully submitted,

416 Nancy H. Lively

417 Secretary