

M E E T I N G N O T I C E

BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD

Monday, November 28, 2022

Bennington Fire Facility

Multi-Purpose Room - 3rd Floor

130 River Street

Bennington, Vermont 05201

A G E N D A

6:00 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Vision Statement

3. Consent Agenda

6:00 PM - 6:05 PM

A. Minutes of November 14, 2022

B. Warrants

C. Liquor Licenses

4. Public Comment

6:05 PM - 6:20 PM

5. Rail Cars Storage

6:20 PM - 6:40 PM

6. Implementing the Town Vision

6:40 PM - 6:55 PM

7. Manager's Report

6:55 PM - 7:05 PM

8. Upcoming Agendas

7:05 PM - 7:10 PM

9. Other Business

7:10 PM - 7:25 PM

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pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Bruce
7 Lee-Clark; Jim Carroll; Gary Corey; and Tom Haley.

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Perrin.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Jonah
10 Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Camille Kaufman; Lindsey Restino; Alisa Del Tufo-Lake
11 Paran; and Michael Fernandez-Bennington County Conservation District-Lake Paran; Kelly
12 Carroll-CPARB; Chad Gordon and MAUHS Football Team; Isabelle Harper-Bennington College;
13 Bill Clark; Sam Restino; Debbie Mann; Lisa Byer; 10 citizens; Jim Therrien-Bennington Banner;
14 Josh Boucher CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

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

16 *Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to amend the Agenda as follows:*

17 *Change “#5. Resolution” to #4A. Resolution”*

18 *Change “#4. Public Comment” to #5. Public Comment”*

19 *Add “#4B. MAUHS Football Team”*

20 *Delete “#6. Green Mountain Community Network”*

21 *The motion carried with Sarah Perrin absent.*

22 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

23 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

24 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

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

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

29 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

30 **A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2022 AND OCTOBER 24, 2022**

31 **B. WARRANTS**

32 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to approve the Minutes of October*
33 *24, 2022 and Warrants as presented and the Minutes of October 19, 2022 amended as*
34 *follows:*

35 *Page 3, Line 92 and Page 6, Line 186 - Change “professionally” to “permanently”*

36 Page 5, Line 182, Change “Stewart’s” to “Old Stewart’s”

37 Page 7, Line 256, Add “At 8:30pm, It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion
38 carried unanimously.”

39 *The motion carried with Sarah Perrin absent.*

40 **4A. RESOLUTION**

41 Ms. Conner read the Town of Bennington Resolution Honoring Lisa Byer for 25 Years of
42 Service to CAT-TV signed by the Select Board and presented to Ms. Byer. Ms. Byer thanked
43 everyone for the recognition.

44 **4B. MAUHS FOOTBALL TEAM**

45 Mr. Carroll stated that MAUHS hasn’t had a State Champion Football Team since 1994
46 acknowledging the years of effort by Coach Chad Gordon, the members of the Team and their
47 parents, and the support of the Town, to help make this year’s team the State Champions.

48 Mr. Gordon thanked the team for their hard work and their parents and the Town for
49 their support.

50 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

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

6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Bill Clark-BBC Streetscape and Maintenance: Stated that the decorations will be going up in the Downtown on November 15th with the help from the Community Based Learning class and the Town's Building and Grounds crew.

Debbie Mann: Feels that the Select Board should run the Town more like a household that saves for future upkeep and purchases. She was "flabbergasted" when the Town Office was buying bottled water when we are always praising, and sell, our Town water, and doesn't feel that the Town is running on a tight enough budget. *Ms. Jenkins encouraged Ms. Mann to attend the budget meetings held the first three Saturdays in January.*

Isabelle Harper-Bennington College Student: Doesn't feel that the LPG train cars on Rice Lane are safe because they could combust. There are 60 of them in a residential area. They also do not provide any benefit to our community and we ask that the Select Board consider options to improve the situation. *Ms. Jenkins confirmed that this will be on the next meeting's agenda and Ms. Harper will bring the information on the improvements that the Select Board has the authority to do.*

Sam Restino: Yes, propane is dangerous, however, these trains are used for training the Fire Department should a leakage occur. The trains do move.

Kelly Carroll: Thanked the Bennington Community for participating in Socktober. 1,018 socks were distributed in Bennington to the Homeless Coalition and the Veterans Home with 611 of those coming from the Bennington Police Department. The Riverwalk is 11/19/22 starting at People's Park at 10:00am and ending at the Splash Pad with Scott Winslow speaking on the Empty Bowls Program.

7. LAKE PARAN ASSOCIATION - WEED PROBLEMS

Camille Kaufman, Lindsey Restino, Alisa Del Tufo, and Michael Fernandez did the following presentation:

- Eurasian Watermilfoil, (milfoil) has been present in Lake Paran since 1950 and there was a little bit of management in the 1980's. A study was done in 2018 on the aquatic species in Lake Paran showing milfoil by far the most prevalent.
- Milfoil spreads by fragmenting - when it breaks off, it will reroute in the same place - making it very hard to manage.
- Mats of milfoil depletes oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic species, swimming and boating are severely obstructed, and native plant species are overcrowded.
- If we don't do anything about this problem, Lake Paran will turn into a swamp in 20 years.

- We have been going around to gain support from the various stakeholders in the communities and municipalities in establishing a consecutive year weed management plan.
- There are two removal option plans we are considering -
 - Herbicide - ProcellaCor is 100% non-toxic and approved by the EPA and used in 10 Vermont lakes, targets only milfoil, and requires a permit and survey completed by the State. COST: \$8,000/acre and Lake Paran is 36 acres. We are estimated that we would do ¼ of the area.
 - Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) - Hire divers to vacuum the milfoil targeting specific areas where growth is more dense, and removes the milfoil by the root that causes delayed regrowth. COST: \$1,750/day for 5-8 days.
- The Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) recommends the ProcellaCor option as it is more affective.
- We have been working on this for ~10 years with the mapping and an environmental survey of the surrounding areas that may be contributing to the problem. We have finally convinced the State that Lake Paran is worth saving so we are now appealing to the three towns it is a part of - Bennington, North Bennington, and Shaftsbury. This is a multiple year project.

Board questions/comments answered by the Presentators:

Mr. Corey: Does ProcellaCor have any affect downstream? *No, it is a very targeted herbicide. There are a couple of other species it affects but they don't exist in Lake Paran or downstream.*

Mr. Haley: Suction Harvesting is far less expensive, so why use the Herbicide? *Treating with the Herbicide, and following up the next year with Suction Harvesting, is going to have more long term weed control.*

Mr. Carroll: How is ProcellaCor applied and is that a permanent solution? *We would spray the roots, and it is not a permanent fix. Milfoil is constantly coming in on birds and boats. This is a chronic problem that needs to be managed and has gotten systemic and unsustainable.*

Mr. Carroll: Is there federal and state grant funding available? *There is one State grant that we are in contention for which has a 20% match for the project. Our region hasn't been designated for funding until 2 years ago.*

Mr. Carroll: Have you checked with the Agency of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources? *Yes, and they have encouraged us to proceed with the project but it isn't a high priority for State funds. Mr. Carroll will discuss Lake Paran with the legislature.*

Ms. Jenkins: Looked up ProcellaCor's website and it is a targeted herbicide but it is not non-toxic as you said in your slide. You can't keep using ProcellaCor repeatedly because the milfoil will become resistant to it and another herbicide would have to be used. *We intend to use an initial application of ProcellaCor followed up with a suction harvesting plan.*

136 Ms. Jenkins: If you do come back with a plan that includes ProcellaCor, be sure to include the
 137 language that ProcellaCor is using. *"It is a herbicide and it is not non-toxic."*

138 Ms. Conner: If you do decide to use ProcellaCor, can you collaborative with other lakes to bring
 139 down the cost of it? *The BCCD is working on doing more resource sharing in our district.*

140 Ms. Conner: Would you have access to funding if you were not a stand-alone non-profit but
 141 partnered with the Village of North Bennington the way the Benn Hi Project is working? *This*
 142 *isn't going to happen right away so we are trying to build collaborations with all of the towns.*
 143 *The grant that we do have access to is because of the partnership between the Lake Paran*
 144 *Association and the BCCD.*

145 Ms. Conner: Will there be any education on how to prevent bringing in milfoil on boats? *We do*
 146 *intend to do that and the grant funding will pay for some of it but not all of it.*

147 Mr. Haley: What kind of time frame are you looking at? *We would like to do something this*
 148 *summer but that would require a lot of work in a short amount of time. Lake Paran is an*
 149 *anomaly because it is not owned by a town or a home owners association as many other lakes*
 150 *are.*

151 Mr. Lee-Clark: Clarified that the Bennington Select Board finalizes its budget in January. It is
 152 then voted on in March and begins on July 1st. Also, there are 3 communities, two towns and a
 153 village, and the village is in one of those towns.

154 Mr. Hurd: We would need actual expenditures by mid-December and is there a cap on the
 155 grant? *Yes, 20% of the project cost. We need to raise the other 80%.*

156 *Public questions/comments answered by the Presentators:*

157 Sam Restino: We should collaborate with Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield, MA to see how they have
 158 handled their problems. *The only area in Lake Paran that we have been able to try and manage*
 159 *is around the swimming area. The rest has been off limits to us. They use huge combines on*
 160 *Pontoosuc Lake that just break off the leaves so they aren't really managing the problem.*
 161 *Several years ago we did reach out to them to rent their equipment and they did not want to do*
 162 *that.*

163 Sam Restino: Suggested ways to raise money for the project and that landscapers need to stop
 164 using fertilizer on the lawns. *We agree that part of our management plan is to be pro-active on*
 165 *the prevention as much as we can.*

166 Sam Restino: If you've been working on this for 10 years, why are you here now? *Funds used to*
 167 *be directed to Lake Champlain and that has changed. We are now competing with other towns*
 168 *that have also not had these funds available to them until now.*

169 **8. MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT**

Mr. Monks presented the following:

- The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) will work with the Town of Bennington to apply for an FY23 Municipal Planning Grant for \$20,000 to complete an update to the Bennington Town Plan.
- Developing a new Town Plan will include two related and successive phases -
 - ✓ Phase 1 - An extensive public outreach component to identify key themes that will provide a framework for each section of the plan while informing recommended policies, actions, and priorities.
 - ✓ Phase 2 - Development of a Town Plan that includes all elements and maps required by statute while providing fresh insights on equity and inclusion across all issues in the community. Based on new state guidance, the Town Plan also will include an enhanced implementation table. Phase 2 will begin next year with an expected completion date of 2025.
- A local match of 10% of the total project cost of \$20,000, or \$2,000, is required and we have that from our training budget.

Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the FY23 Municipal Planning Grant Application for \$20,000 for the Bennington Town Plan Update. The motion carried with Sarah Perrin absent.

9. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION

A. CPARB

CPARB Chair Kelly Carroll reported the following:

- ❖ The first CPARB meeting was October 27th and the next one will be November 17th.
- ❖ We will be meeting monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00pm and they are open to the public.
- ❖ We had a motion concerning the Pledge of Allegiance and it was reported in the Bennington Banner that Mr. Haley had voted and he did not.
- ❖ Also, the comment that was in the Banner that Marsh Hudson-Knapp made concerning trust and the police was from a previous experience on a task force that he had and not from the training that we had in CPARB.
- ❖ We need clarification as to what was the intent of the Select Board as to the presence of the police at our meetings. Was the intent for the Chief of Police or his designee to be present at all meetings or only when their presence was requested? Ms. Jenkins answered that it was the intent for the police to attend all meetings - the Chief or his designee - because questions may come up that they could answer. The police and the Select Board liaison could be resources available to you. Mr. Carroll added that it is similar to having the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager attending the Select Board meetings so that they can hear discussions/comments first hand. Mr. Lee-Clark noted that it's a public meeting so anyone can attend, however, if there is a discomfort

208 in speaking openly, an individual attending can be asked to step out for a few minutes.
209 And, Ms. Conner was glad to hear that a lively discussion took place which indicated that
210 people felt it was a safe place to speak.

211 **B. IDEAL**

212 Ms. Jenkins reported the following:

- 213 ❖ Assistant Manager Dan Monks, SVSU Equity Coordinator Jonathan Phipps, and Ms.
214 Jenkins attended an IDEAL meeting in Randolph, Vermont on October 26th.
- 215 ❖ We met the representatives from the 12-14 towns that are participating in this program
216 - a mayor, several town managers and assistant town managers, and select board
217 members.
- 218 ❖ We were the only ones that brought a representative from the school system.
- 219 ❖ We will be having an Equity Training on November 15th and our other team members -
220 HR Director Michele Johnson and Select Board member Ms. Conner - and our
221 Community Development Director, Shannon Barsotti, have also been invited to attend.
- 222 ❖ They are giving us a lot of work and e-mailing regularly.

223 **10. MANAGER'S REPORT**

224 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

225 Benmont Avenue/County Street Sewer Line Replacement - This project is moving along and it is
226 expected that Benmont Avenue will be paved before Thanksgiving weather permitting. They
227 still must complete a manhole at County and Benmont and may continue to work on County
228 into December, again, weather permitting.

229 Distribution of COVID Test Kits - The completed distribution of test kits was 2,200, not 220. We
230 have reached out to the Department of Health to see if we can obtain more kits. We will once
231 again make them available at various municipal buildings if we can obtain them.

232 Tax Sales - Went very well. 11 properties were up and 10 were sold.

233 Fleet Manager Position - The individual we had in mind found another job so the position
234 remains unfilled while we look for another individual with the training and skills we need.

235 Willow Park Playground - Due to the cold weather, we can't put down the rubber as planned so
236 it is unlikely that the project will be finished this year. Our contractor is checking other systems
237 that can be put down in colder weather to see if we, indeed, can finish this year. There is no
238 additional cost for this work and we are holding funds until it is finished.

239 Other Items - Mr. Lee-Clark: What is the completion date for the Rail Trail? Mr. Monks
240 answered that it is substantially complete but there are many punch list items left to do. It is,
241 however, fully usable. A reminder that it is not for motorized vehicles but electric bikes are
242 allowed.

243 **11. UPCOMING AGENDA**

244 November 28, 2022 or December 12, 2022 - Propane Train Cars

245 November 28, 2022 or December 12, 2022 - Green Mountain Network

246 **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

247 Mr. Carroll: There will be a ribbon cutting at the Holiday Cottage and encouraged everyone to
248 check it out.

249 Ms. Conner: Reminded everyone that MAUHS is performing Chicago on November 17th -
250 November 19th and the ticket price is \$8.00/person.

251 Mr. Lee-Clark: Thanks to the Board of Civil Authority, the Town Clerk, and the Assistant Town
252 Clerk for their work on the elections and the general good attitude from those that voted.

253 Mr. Lee-Clark: Please don't park on the street after November 15th.

254 **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

255 **A. PERSONNEL**

256 *At 7:35pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded that the meeting was*
257 *adjourned finding that an Executive Session be held on Personnel as premature public*
258 *knowledge would place a person involved in the subject matter at a substantial*
259 *disadvantage. No action will be taken when going back into Open Session. The motion*
260 *carried with Sarah Perrin absent.*

261

262

263 Respectfully submitted,

264 Nancy H. Lively

265 Secretary

266


**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES ADDENDUM
November 14, 2022**

Present: Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Tom Haley, Jim Carroll, Bruce L Clark, Jeanne Conner, V. Chair, and Gary Corey. Absent: Sarah Perrin. No staff present.

The Board went into executive session at 7:35 for a personnel matter.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:09 pm. but took no action. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Stuart A. Hurd

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

2022 LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

2022 2nd Class License

1. East Road Market & Deli, 1404 East Road
Owners: Mark Hamilton, Kristy Kier

**The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above
2022 Liquor License Applications
Dated: November 28, 2022**

Jeannette Jenkins, Chair

MANAGER'S REPORT
November 28, 2022

ACTION

Nothing at this time.

INFORMATIONAL

Three Water System Projects These projects all identified by staff as needed (Tier Two Projects): the final south end project to address pressure deficiencies in our system, a Gage Street water main replacement project, and the Settlers Road/ Springhill Road water main extension project are all coming to fruition. Two, the South End and Gage Street projects, will require a bond vote in March 2023. The third, Settlers Road/Springhill Road will not, and it is 100% reimbursable by the State. It is the project we hoped to address due to PFOA potential contamination. I've attached a letter from MSK Engineering outlining the projects, the costs, and a description of each. No action is required by the Board at this time. I will take the necessary steps to move them forward. I wanted to alert you to what's ahead.

River Walk Redesign and Upgrade This project, for which a State grant has been received, is moving forward to formal design and bidding for the next construction season. The project will feature a wider, paved pathway and improved lighting. Over time new benches and other amenities will be added.

Benmont Ave/ County Street Sewer Line Replacement This portion of the project within Benmont Avenue is completed. An additional 60 'of sewer main has been extended up County Street towards Depot Street. That is now on hold until Benmont is paved. Paving is scheduled for November 22. Casella then plans to extend the remainder of the sewer main to Depot Street before Christmas.

FOLLOW UP

Willow Park Playground Paul Dansereau provided the attached update.

The Communications Coordinator's Report is attached.

The Police Department Report is attached.



BENNINGTON, VT | MONTPELIER, VT | GLASTONBURY, CT
PO Box 139 | 150 Depot St | Bennington, VT 05201
802.447.1402 | www.mskeng.com
Licensed in CO, CT, MA, ME, NY, VT

*Mgr Report
11.20*

November 21, 2022

Stuart Hurd, Town Manager
205 South Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Re: Design Services Proposals for Town of Bennington IUP Funded Projects

Dear Stu,

MSK Engineers has prepared three separate Engineering Services Agreements (ESA) for services related to projects funded in the recent Intended Use Plan (IUP) issued this year by the state. The following projects included in the recently issued IUP are summarized below, along with their loan terms.

PROJECTS REQUIRING DESIGN (STEP II)			
PROJECT NAME	IUP FUNDING AMOUNT	LOAN TERMS	ESA INCLUDED PHASES
Gage Street	\$1,800,000.00	30 YR, 0-2% fixed admin fee, annual	Step II (Design)
South End	\$4,000,000.00	30 YR, 0-2% fixed admin fee, annual	Step II (Design)
Settlers Lane	\$1,600,000.00	100% Forgiveness	Step II and Step III (Design and Construction)

The following sections provide a brief overview of each project and estimated costs. Detailed summaries of each project have been provided in separate project proposals, with each proposal accompanied by an Engineering Services Agreement (ESA).

Gage Street

The recent Intended Use Plan (IUP) issued this year by the state has allocated \$1,800,000.00 worth of loan value to the Gage Street project. Gage street was included in the priority list application as it was identified by the Town Department of Public Works (DPW) a zone that experienced low operating pressures during fire flow events. Improvements to the water system to eliminate these pressure drops will serve the residents on Gage Street, Knapp Drive, Frank Street and Cross Street.

The allocated amount of funding in the IUP would allow for the final design and construction of these waterline upgrades. The following table shows costs associated with the final design and construction of the Gage Street project. The ESA provided separately from this letter includes services for design only.

Town of Bennington Gage Street Upgrades - Opinion of Probable Cost	
ENGINEERING (Design)	\$104,825.00
ENGINEERING (Design) – Non-Standard	\$13,915.00
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION	\$1,500,000.00
ESTIMATED ENGINEERING (CA)	\$181,260.00
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$1,800,000.00
Recommended Loan Application Value	\$1,800,000.00

South End

The recent Intended Use Plan (IUP) issued this year by the state has allocated \$4,000,000.00 worth of loan value the South End Project. The South End Upgrades project was started in 2008 in response to a State of Vermont sanitary survey which identified a pressure deficiency during fire flow events. This survey has resulted in multiple projects over the years including a new tank and upsized water mains. The allocated amount of funding in the IUP would allow for the final design and construction of these waterline upgrades required to be compliant. The following table shows costs associated with the final design and construction of the South End project. The ESA provided separately from this letter includes services for design only.

Town of Bennington South End Upgrades - Opinion of Probable Cost	
ENGINEERING (Design) - Standard	\$104,080.00
ENGINEERING (Design) – Non-Standard	\$16,565.00
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION	\$3,000,000.00
ESTIMATED ENGINEERING (CA)	\$407,500.00
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$3,528,145.00
Recommended Loan Application Value	\$4,000,000.00

Settlers Lane

The Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund's (DWSRF's) Intended Use Plan (IUP) issued in September 2022 has allocated funding for infrastructure projects that will address public health risks posed by emerging contaminants. This funding is a result of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is issued as DWSRF loan to be subsidized by 100% loan principal forgiveness (similarly to the town's lead service line replacement project). The current IUP has allocated \$1,600,000.00 worth of loan subsidy to this project, with 100% loan principal forgiveness. This principle forgiveness means that no bond vote would be needed.



This project will involve the final design and construction of water main extensions to residents along Springhill Road and Settlers Lane. The ESA provided separately from this letter includes services for both Design and Construction Administration.

Town of Bennington Settlers Lane Waterline Extension - Opinion of Probable Cost	
ENGINEERING (Design) - Standard	\$ 92,000.00
ENGINEERING (Design) – Non-Standard	\$ 16,840.00
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION	\$1,450,000.00
ENGINEERING (CA)	\$184,500.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$1,743,340.00

Loan Deliverables

Per the issued IUP, all projects must meet the following readiness to proceed milestones:

- **December 1, 2022:** Submit a signed and administratively complete Environmental Information Document (for SERP review) to the assigned WID engineer
- **January 1, 2023:** Submit 90% design drawings to DWGPD
- **January 31, 2023:** Schedule a bond vote and submit a copy of the warning to WID; (excluding Settlers/Springhill)
- **May 1, 2023:** Receive voter authorization via the bond vote (Excluding Settlers/Springhill).; and
- **June 30, 2023:** Submit complete Step III/Construction loan application (all required items have been completed and submitted)

Upon receipt of signed ESAs, we will begin design and permitting work for both projects. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and we look forward to assisting the town on these endeavors. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Jason Dolmetsch, P.E.
MSK Engineers
(802) 447-1402 x 127
jdolmetsch@mskeng.com

November 22, 2022

Town of Bennington Willow Park Play Structure Project Update 11/22/2022

Prepared by: Paul T. Dansereau

- 1. Purpose:** Provide the Town of Bennington Select Board an update of the Willow Park Play Structure Project.
- 2. Current Status:**
 - a. Poured in Place rubber installation has been placed on hold due. The poured in place rubber installation requires temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - b. Play by Design mobilized on site 11/21/22 through 11/23/22 to address the following issues:
 - i. Address a low point on the poured in place pathway at a slide exit. The slide height is able to be adjusted and reset to enable the poured in place pathway elevation to be raised to correct the low spot while maintaining the required minimum exit height from the slide.
 - ii. The exercise station area original design had fall protection at engineered wood fiber. The Childscapes sub-contractor changed the design without an approved change order to prepare the fall protection in this area to be poured in place rubber. Play by Design is redoing the exercise station section sub-base and fall protection to be engineered wood fiber.
 - c. The Childscapes installation sub-contractor was terminated by Play by Design. Play by Design is completing remaining preparation work/punchlist items on the project and contracting with a poured in place rubber vendor.
 - d. The Town of Bennington Willow Park Committee met on 11/22/2022 to review the project status and conducted a follow-on meeting with the Play by Design Project Manager to discuss the project status and develop the way ahead for project completion.
- 3. Additional updates will follow as they become available.**

M:\Building & Zoning\Paul\Building & Grounds\Willow Park Play Structure\Executive Summary and References 12012021\Willow Park Play Structure Project Update as of 11 22 2022.doc



Town of Bennington

Communications Coordinator Report — November 28, 2022

Preparing for Winter

Town staff is busy wrapping up all the projects from the summer and getting things ready for the frozen months ahead. The overnight Parking Ban began on November 15 and will continue until March 31, 2023.

Elections

I work with the Town Clerk to help get the word out about elections in our town and to provide information on sample ballots, and where to find what district you are in. We also strive to build trust in our electoral system by sharing links to information about election integrity and by encouraging everyone to participate and vote. Our town clerk is the keeper of all things election-related! You can learn more at: <https://benningtonvt.org/departments/town-clerk/elections/>

Willow Park Playgrounds:

Work on the new playgrounds was interrupted in late September when a number of issues were identified by the playground engineer and playground certification team. The most visible issue was problems with the curbing, but they also included placement of Geotextile material installation, and a punch list of items regarding the new equipment.

Crews have completed putting in the new curbing in mid November. By the time this report is submitted, Town staff will have met on November 22 to discuss final plans for addressing the remaining issues. Because this includes the sub-base and the final poured rubber surfacing, we don't expect to be completed until the spring of 2023 due to winter weather.

The \$500,000 cost of the new playgrounds have been entirely funded through ARPA monies. The Town is committed to ensuring that the project is completed as quickly as possible but in accordance to all specifications and requirements. We greatly appreciate the patience of the community as we work towards finishing this important community resource.

Citizen Outreach:

I met with citizens ten times over the last month on a variety of issues, ideas, and concerns. There was one public record requests to my office. I note that all of the public record requests made in the last couple of months are from people that have names that appear to be made-up and use free email addresses.

Community Outreach

In addition to the series of posts and reminders about the elections, we have also done a series of posts reminding folks about things like taxes, deadlines, and how to pay. Nobody likes taxes, but it's even worse to have to pay penalties, so we hope this was useful.

The proposed move of the senior center to a new location at the BennHi is a key part of the redevelopment of that property. I have been working with Shannon to meet with seniors at the Senior Center on a regular basis to gather input, hear concerns, and to answer questions. We held another meeting this past month, staying two and a half hours to ensure time for everyone to have their questions answered fully. Concerns remain about the move, particularly around parking and safety. These meetings have been very useful in keeping seniors fully informed and giving the planners at the town valuable feedback.

250th Anniversary Planning:

A full meeting of the Bennington 250th committee was held in October and a number of task forces that were created have started meeting as well. A press release about the 250th committee has been sent to the Banner and an interview with a Banner reporter is scheduled tomorrow so a story about the work so far should be out in the Banner by the time you read this report. An informational website to keep everyone informed about the work of the committee is also planned and should launch in January of 2023.

I also participated in a meeting of the VT 250th Commission to finish work on strategic planning for the commission moving forward.

Village Cemetery Vandalism

On October 24, the community was shocked to discover extensive vandalism at the Village Cemetery. Founded in 1813, the cemetery has about 2,100 graves and around 200 stones had been overturned, and many broken. This included the gravestones of veterans from perhaps every war since the Revolution. The sadness and disgust at the senseless vandalism resonated both locally, and beyond.

In just hours after the news broke, we began to hear from people asking how they could help. A volunteer day was organized to re-set as many unbroken stones as possible, and the result was very impressive. Dozens of people showed up, including teams from towns like Shaftsbury, Pownal, Manchester, Halifax, Clarendon, Rutland, Hoosick Falls, Cohoes, members of the VT Old Cemeteries Association and more. Our local VFW deserves special praise for both the number of volunteers they brought out, as well as providing food for everyone.

With all the help... every stone that had been cast down was re-set, and many broken stones were fixed as well. An additional work day is planned for May 27, 2023 to finish work fixing broken stones with the

help of the VT Old Cemeteries Association, whose help and expertise are a huge asset.

What started as a tragic event, at least had a happier ending. We are very thankful to everyone who came out to help with the cemetery restoration! If you would like to assist with fixing stones next May, you can contact me at jspivak@benningtonvt.org

Website Development

Work is almost completed finishing the move of documents from the old website to the new unified website that has been in development for almost a year now. The new website combines the current town website as well as the Planning and Permits website and the Bennington Police Department website. A team of volunteer "beta testers" will be starting work the week after Thanksgiving to help with testing the new navigation and user friendliness of the website.

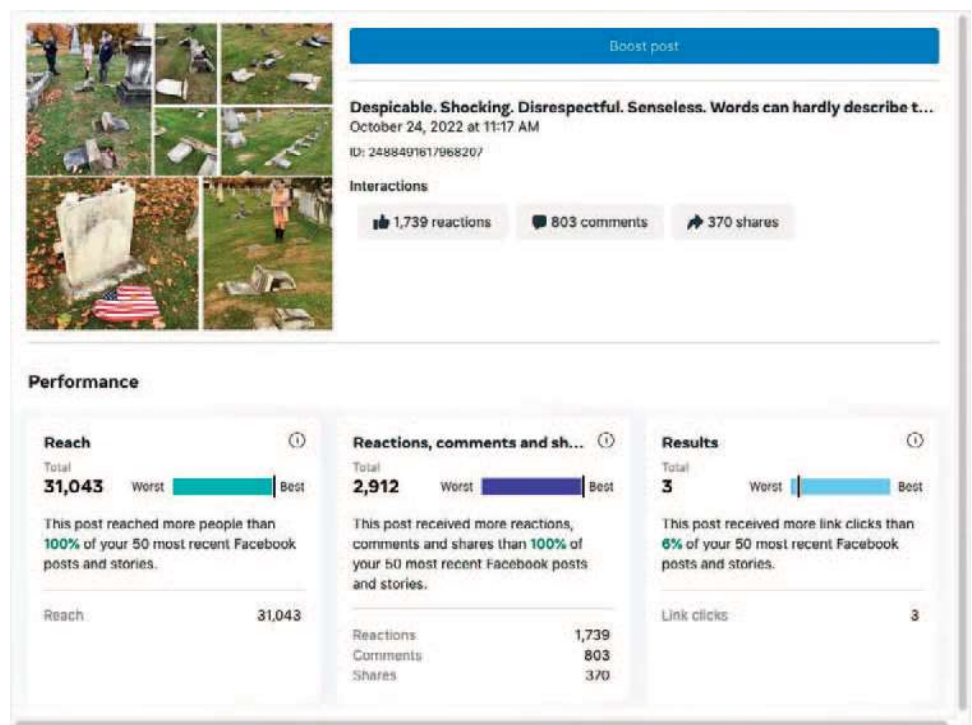
Once this testing is completed, we will be ready to switch to the new website! The partner the town has been working with on the new site is REVIZE, which specializes in municipal websites. Their client list includes over 1,600 towns including many in Vermont such as South Burlington and St. Albans.

Facebook POST OF THE MONTH:

The vandalism at Village Cemetery got a tremendous amount of attention with over 30,000 reach on Facebook.

The Bennington Banner ran stories on both the vandalism as well as the restoration. We also did numerous interviews and had strong coverage from regional TV stations such as NBC Channel 13, ABC Channel 10, as well as Fox News.

We hope that the renewed interest in the cemetery will help us avoid similar vandalism in the future.



Bennington Police Department
Public Safety

Report to the Bennington Select Board

November 2022

We now have two additional Ford Interceptor hybrid patrol vehicles in service. The vehicles were upfitted by Global Public Safety and are now on the road. The Department now has a total of four hybrid vehicles in service and we anticipate two additional hybrid vehicles will be purchased in fiscal year 2024. The hybrid vehicles are averaging 6-8 miles more per gallon than a conventional patrol vehicle.

We have been working on preparing the police and fire budgets for fiscal year 2024. Input from members of the police department and fire department were considered. We are focused on recruiting and **retaining** members of both departments in efforts to maintain a high level of public safety in Bennington. We look forward to presenting the budgets to the board in January 2023.

The police department is working on completing annual training for calendar year 2022. As you know officers are required to have mandatory training in order to retain level III certification in Vermont. At the end of the year, we will prepare a report showing the number of hours and types of training received by staff at the Bennington Police Department.

Despite low staffing levels, we continue to focus efforts on highway safety. We will experience higher volumes of traffic during the holiday season and we will do our best to conduct traffic enforcement. We are participating in Vermont Highway Safety Campaigns, working with other local law enforcement agencies, in an effort to increase visibility, deter distracted driving and slow operators down during the holiday season.

We have been actively participating in community events. We participated in three trunk or treat events in Bennington and provided treats to well over 2,000 children. We also partnered with Battenkill Valley Health Care and distributed toothbrushes during the events. We also provided security details at most of the Mount Anthony Union High School sporting events and are proud of all of the teams and the sportsmanship. We must also mention members of the band, as well as the cheerleaders, for braving the elements, supporting the athletes and providing excellent team spirit.

CPARB meetings are underway and we look forward to working with the six members of CPARB. This project took a long time to develop and we are looking forward to the positive impact this group will have on community policing. We must all understand there are ways to improve everything we do. We look forward to exchanging information and effecting positive change when needed.