

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

BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD

Monday, April 10, 2023

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 - 6:10 PM

A. Minutes of March 27 and March 31, 2023

B. Warrants

C. Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

4. Reorganization

6:10 PM - 6:15 PM

5. Public Comment

6:15 PM - 6:30 PM

6. Public Hearing Notice

6:30 PM - 6:45 PM

CDBG Application for 612 Gage Street Recovery Housing

7. Bennington Sports Foundation

6:45 PM - 6:55 PM

8. Staff Updates - Communication

6:55 PM - 7:00 PM

9. Traffic Ordinance Amendments

7:00 PM - 7:05 PM

10. Police Contract Ratification

7:05 PM - 7:15 PM

11. Implementing the Town Vision

7:15 PM - 7:25 PM

12. Manager's Report

7:25 PM - 7:35 PM

13. Upcoming Agendas

7:35 PM - 7:45 PM

14. Other Business

7:45 PM - 7:55 PM

We endeavor to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Paul Dansereau, Facilities Director: pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.

**Town of Bennington
Select Board**

**Monday, March 27, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Bennington Town Office
Conference Room 2
205 South Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201**

MINUTES

Members Present: Gary Corey, Jeannie Jenkins, Jim Carroll, Sarah Perrin

Also Present: Shannon Barsotti, Zak Hale, Jon Hale, Dan Monks

Executive Session - Contracts

Jim Carroll moved, and Gary Corey seconded that an executive session be held to discuss a contract based on a finding that premature public knowledge would place a party involved in the subject matter at a substantial disadvantage. No decision will be taken in executive session. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the Select Board members present.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel W. Monks
Assistant Town Manager

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

2 **130 RIVER STREET**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **MARCH 27, 2023**

5 **MINUTES**

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

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Shannon
10 Barsotti-Community Development Director; Jonah Spivak-Communications Coordinator; Wendy
11 Morse and Bill Colvin-Bennington Career Month Proclamation; Jon and Zak Hale-CDBG
12 Application for Benn High-Housing; Bill Woods; Kelly Carroll; Debbie Matte; Nancy White; 10
13 citizens; Jim Therrien-Bennington Banner; Josh Boucher-CAT-TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

14 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order and announced that there
15 would not be a Chelsea Solar presentation this evening - it has been rescheduled for May. Also,
16 it is easier to hear if you sit in the first row.

17 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

19 **2. VISION STATEMENT**

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

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

24 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

25 **A. MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2023**

26 **B. WARRANTS**

27 **C. LICENSES**

28 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as*
29 *presented. The motion carried unanimously.*

30 **4. PROCLAMATION - BENNINGTON CAREER MONTH**

Wendy Morse explained that Bennington Career Month originally started as Bennington Career Week in 2013, moved to Career 2 weeks in 2016, and Career Month in 2017 to recognize career awareness. Events will take place throughout April from the elementary schools to adults.

Bill Colvin added that the Bennington County Workforce & Education Committee is under the auspices of the Bennington County Regional Commission. Kudos was given to the Bennington Banner, Jeannie Jenkins, and Wendy Morse for their work and support since the beginning.

Ms. Morse read the Proclamation.

Ms. Conner noted that there are 17 events scheduled during April.

The Board signed the Town of Bennington PROCLAMATION Bennington Career Month as presented.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Carroll: On March 31st the VFW Post 13 Riders will be hosting a murder mystery party to benefit Vermont Paws and Boots, an organization that trains service dogs for veterans and first responders. Tickets can be purchased at the VFW for \$20/ticket. Registration begins at 6:0pm,

and you choose to be a guest or a character. Its 3 rounds with varying parts of the game covered in each round.

Debbie Matte: Stated that she was correct at the last meeting that the bathroom had been removed from the Senior Center area at the Benn Hi and has now been put back at a different location but within the Senior Center section.

Nancy White: Has been contacted by several Bennington residents wanting more information on projects that are going on in Bennington so she will be holding a public meeting at the Bennington Free Library on April 18th at 6:00pm.

6. PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE - CDBG APPLICATION FOR BENN HI-HOUSING

Ms. Barsotti explained that the proposal is to apply for \$1,000,000 in Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) funds to complete renovations and upgrades of 650 Main Street, Bennington, VT 05201 (Benn Hi). The building is currently vacant and is recorded on the National Historic Registry through the National Park Service. The building will be converted to a mixed use residential and commercial space. These funds are federal funds to the State that flows through the Town for sub grants for HUD affordable housing and other community development programs.

Jon Hale stated the application must be submitted by April 11th with a decision as to what applicants will receive the grant made in June. Only one application per municipality will be awarded, and Hale Resources are the only applicants from Bennington in this round.

Public comments/questions answered by Jon or Zak Hale:

Nancy White: Who will own the Benn Hi building? *Ms. Jenkins: This is a grant application and there will be an update on the Benn Hi building on April 24th.*

Nancy White: No one should be placed in the Benn Hi basement because, if there were an emergency, they would be trapped. *Zak Hale: We want to put a 66 child care area in the basement and there are above ground windows. Jon Hale: Noted that there are strict code requirements - especially for child care - that must be met on ingress and egress before we would be granted a Certificate of Occupancy. Mr. Monks: There were class rooms in the basement when it was a school.*

Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Sarah Perrin seconded to approve the Resolution for Hale Resources to apply for the VCDP Grant for \$1,000,000.00 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. IMPLEMENTING THE TOWN VISION

A. PROJECT ALLIANCE

Ms. Jenkins stated the following:

- There was a meeting 1 ½ weeks ago to address the following issues:
 - Substance Misuse
 - Homelessness
 - Mental Health Concerns
 - An Uptick in Violence
- The meeting was planned by some State and Local groups and attendance was by invitation only.
- The people were mostly from Bennington but it was also attended by others in Southern Vermont including Brattleboro and Springfield, as well as, from the State. However, the meeting was about Bennington.
- It brought together education, social service organizations, town government (Mr. Hurd and Ms. Barsotti), housing (Zak Hale), and police (Chief Doucette).
- The meeting came from us being approached by the Committee on Public Safety and the Governor's Office.
- Bennington was one of the towns on the State's "Heat Map" which highlights communities that are in crisis in areas of violence and drug issues.
- We were chosen - even though we were 5th on the Map - because of our strides to address the issues with the Opioid Task Force.
- The goal is to develop a Leadership Team to help us decide what resources we need and how we might achieve a solution.
- Discussions utilized 5 focus areas:
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Police
 - Lived Experience/Recovery
 - Treatment
- Each one of these focus areas has next steps for implementation that will involve the entire community.
- There is a Planning Group that is organizing the next steps.
- The hope is to use this model for other communities and Bennington is lucky that we were chosen.
- All that attended were given a copy of the book, Bleeding Out.
- Except for the breakout sessions, it was filmed by CAT-TV.

Ms. Jenkins reminded everyone that there are 15 open seats on Boards and Commissions and urged those interested to get involved. Mr. Hurd added that applications need to be to the Town Office by May 1st. The Select Board will interview the new candidates but not the incumbents. The Board of Listers is the only one that doesn't have an opening.

135 **8. MANAGER'S REPORT**

136 Mr. Hurd did the following report:

137 *Recreation Center Fee Schedule for 2024 and Beyond -*

138 We are proposing the attached fee schedule which is based mostly on 6% increase (the
139 rate of inflation for February 2023) and will increase annually based on the rate of inflation for
140 February of a given year (CPI-U all cities average). The will eliminate being stagnant for a few
141 years and then making a big jump. The new rates will take effect on July 1st of each year.

142 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to amend the Recreation Center Fee***
143 ***Schedule as presented.***

144 Mr. Corey questioned a couple of the increases and Mr. Hurd explained the process.

145 ***The motion carried unanimously.***

146 *Certificate of Highway Mileage -*

147 This is normally presented in early February but was overlooked this year. There are no
148 changes and, after the Board signs, it will be certified by the Clerk and forwarded to the State.

149 *Municipal Planning Grant Award -*

150 We were awarded the Municipal Planning Grant in the amount of \$21,160.00 for the
151 update of the Town Plan.

152 *Pool Chlorine System Modifications -*

153 Due to the excessive use of the pool, we are proposing to install UV sanitation which will
154 reduce our chlorine dependence and destroy micro-organisms. It will breakdown the
155 chloramines (bad chlorine) which causes skin and eye irritation and will reduce the strong
156 presence of chlorine odor when there is a heavy bather load. The electrical consumption is only
157 3 amps - the same as a computer and monitor. It will cost \$7,000, we have the money in the
158 budget, and we should see a significant savings in operating cost.

159 *Other -*

160 Ms. Conner asked when construction would resume at Willow Park, and Mr. Spivak
161 answered that we will be meeting with the project manager on Thursday next week when a
162 renewed construction date will be decided.

163 **9. UPCOMING AGENDA**

164 April 10, 2023 - Reorganization

165 April 10, 2023 - Bennington Sports Foundation

166 April 24, 2023 - Benn Hi Update

167 May 2023 - Chelsea Solar

168 **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

169 Board members paid tribute to Mr. Lee-Clark as this is his last meeting:

170 Ms. Jenkins: An amazingly engaged and active Select Board member with an impact on
171 community policing, energy policies, and trying to get people to vote.

172 Ms. Conner: Agrees with Ms. Jenkins and will miss his well thought-out motions.

173 Mr. Carroll: Mr. Lee-Clark was always a great sounding board for him and he will see him later.

174 Mr. Haley: An honor to have served with him and we all have big shoes to fill.

175 Mr. Corey: Fortunate to have served with him and thanked him for his service.

176 Ms. Perrin: Will make her comments out of session.

177 Mr. Lee-Clark added the following:

- 178 - It has been a privilege to have served on this Board - first appointed and then elected - and
179 a privilege to serve the people of Bennington.
180 - All too often we don't see what a wonderful place Bennington is, and the ones that have
181 been here the longest don't say it to each other. The newcomers see it more so let's try to
182 do better.
183 - Chose not to run because he thought there would be new people with new ideas that
184 would run, and he was correct.
185 - We cannot continue to operate a town when 2,000 out of 9,500 people vote.
186 - The Select Board and the towns by the constitution of the State of Vermont and its
187 traditions are not creatures of themselves. They have been created by the State of
188 Vermont, and therefore, are a board of limited powers.
189 - The Select Board has no power or jurisdiction over private property.
190 - It's been a privilege and an honor - thank you.

191 **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

192 **A. CONTRACTS**

193 *At 6:51pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded that the meeting was*
194 *adjourned finding that an Executive Session be held on a Contracts as premature public*
195 *knowledge would place a person involved in the subject matter at a substantial*
196 *disadvantage. No decision will be taken when going back into Open Session. The motion*
197 *carried unanimously.*

198

199

200

201 Respectfully submitted,

202 Nancy H. Lively

203 Secretary

204

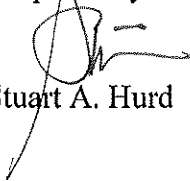
**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES ADDENDUM
March 27, 2023**

Present: Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Tom Haley, Jim Carroll, Bruce Lee- Clark, Jeanne Conner, V. Chair, Gary Corey, and Sarah Perrin. Also present.: Stu Hurd, Town Manager

The Board went into executive session at 6:50 pm for a contractual matter.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:04 pm. but took no action. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Stuart A. Hurd

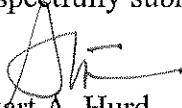
SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
March 31, 2023

Present: Jeannie Jenkins, Chair, Tom Haley, Bruce Lee- Clark, Jeanne Conner, V. Chair, and Gary Corey. Also present.: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager
Absent: Jim Carroll and Sarah Perrin

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. The sole purpose of the meeting was to consider alcohol and tobacco licenses. On a motion by Bruce Lee-Clark, seconded by Tom Haley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the list of licenses.

There being no other business, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Stuart A. Hurd

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

2023 LICENSE APPLICATIONS

2023 1st Class Renewals

1. Aramark/Bennington College
2. Dutchman's Tavern

2023 3rd Class Renewals

1. Aramark/Bennington College
2. Dutchman's Tavern

2023 Outside Consumption Permit Renewals

1. Dutchman's Tavern
2. Farm Road Brewing

2023 Tobacco & Tobacco Substitute Renewals

1. Paulin Inc.

**The Bennington Select Board hereby approves the above
2023 License Applications
Dated: April 10, 2023**

Jeannie Jenkins, Chair

MEMORANDUM

To: Bennington Select Board
From: Shannon Barsotti, Community Development Director
Date: April 4, 2022
Re: Gage Street VCDP funding public hearing

The Town of Bennington is considering making an application to the State of Vermont for CDBG/RHP funding under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held as part of the regularly scheduled Bennington Select Board meeting at 6 pm on Monday, April 10, 2023 on the third floor of the Fire House at 130 River Street in Bennington to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds. This proposal is to apply for \$500,000 in VCDP CDBG/RFP Funds which will be used to accomplish the following activities:

Rehab and retrofit construction of a 9-bedroom home located at 612 Gage Street for use as recovery housing. The project will be developed and owned by Shires Housing and the building will be master leased by the Turning Point Center, which will oversee the recovery housing program.

RESOLUTION FOR VCDP GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORITY

Single Applicant

WHEREAS, the Town of Bennington (hereinafter "Applicant") is applying for a Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that an application be made and agreements be entered into with the State of Vermont.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. that Applicant possesses the legal authority as defined in the State Act [10 VSA §683(8)] to apply for the grant and to administer the program; and
2. that Applicant apply for a grant under the terms and conditions of said program and agree hereby to enter into Certifications and Assurances there of; and
3. the Applicant has a duly adopted and current Municipal Plan October 6, 2015 (Date Adopted) and that the project is consistent with said plan; and
4. the Applicant has received documentation from the Regional Planning Commission that the project is consistent with the "Regional Plan; and
5. that Curan VanDerWielen, Shires Housing is hereby authorized to be Contact Person and as such to provide, on behalf of Applicant, all documents and information necessary for the completion of said application and to provide such coordination as may be necessary for said application; and
6. that (Name) Stuart Hurd Title Town Manager who is either the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as defined by 10 VSA §683(8), or is the Town Manager, the City Manager, or the Town Administrator, is hereby designated to serve as the Authorizing Official (AO) for the Grants Management On-line System, Intelligrants; and
7. that it is understood that, if the application is funded, the receipt of VCDP funds, as federal funds passed through the State of Vermont, may require that an audit of the Applicant be conducted under the provisions of the Single Audit Act, as amended, and that VCDP funds may be used to fund only a limited portion of the audit cost.

Passed this 10th day of April, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

Jeannie Jenkins, Board Chair

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The above resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution as adopted at a meeting of the Legislative Body held on the 10th day of April, 2023, and duly filed in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 10th day of April, 2023.

Clerk

Signature

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board

From: Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

Re: Traffic Ordinance Amendments Article 10

Date: April 3, 2023

I present to you two amendments to our Traffic Ordinance Article 10. The first extends the Winter No Parking overnight ban from March 31 until April 15 of a given year. This will allow our DPW staff to fully clean up after the Winter season.

The second is to increase the allowed speed of traffic on East Road from 35 to 40 mph. A study was conducted by Jim Henderson at BCRC using the Guide to Setting Speeds on Vermont Roads published by Vermont Local Roads. I attach some of the results. The results indicated that traffic can move safely on the East Road at 40 – 45 mph. After discussions with the Chief and Lieutenant, we settled on 40 mph.

I seek a motion to amend the Traffic Ordinance as proposed. This will not take effect for 60 days and will be posted as required by law.

Proposal to amend Article 10 Traffic Control Ordinance as follows:

10 TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDINANCE

Article 10-5 Parking

10-5.03 Angle Parking, Generally:

Shall be amended as follows (highlighted wording is new):

- m. Along and adjacent to the curb or edge of any street or portion thereof between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during the months beginning November 15 through and including March 31 **April 15** of the following year, except when the chief of police authorizes same because of adverse weather conditions.

10-19 APPENDICIES

10-19.03 Speed Limits

Shall be amended as follows (highlighted wording is new):

2. The maximum speed limit shall be 40 mph as follows:

- On Vermont Route 9 beginning at its intersection with the easterly portion of Jennings Drive, thence easterly to the Old Bennington Village Line;
- On Vermont Route 67A beginning at its intersection with Harlan Road, thence westerly to a point approximately 400' east of its intersection with Silk Road;
- On Vermont Route 9, beginning at the easterly exit drive at the Chain-up area 0.4 miles west to the easterly entrance of Kelley Fuels;
- On U.S. Route 7, beginning at the entrance to the Greenberg reserve 0.4 miles north to the former Bennington Village boundary line.
- **On East Road from its intersection with Kocher Drive northerly to the Shaftsbury Town line.**

3. The maximum speed limit shall be 35 mph on Town roads as follows:

Pleasant Valley Road
Houran Road
Walloomsac Road to the Old Bennington Village
Gypsy Lane
Whipstock Road
Vail Road
Fairview Street to the Old Bennington Village Line
Silk Road
Austin Hill Road

Murphy Road
Orebed Road
River Road
Mattison Road to the North Bennington Village Line
Overlea Road to the North Bennington Village Line
Rice Lane
Houghton Lane
~~East Road from its intersection with Kocher Drive northerly to the Shaftsbury Town line.~~
Willow Road from its intersection with Hewitt Drive northerly to its intersection with Hewitt Drive
Chapel Road
Burgess Road from its intersection with Barney Road easterly
Gore Road
Beech Street from its intersection with Gore Road southerly
South Stream Road
Niles Road
Middle Pownal Road
Morgan Street Extension from its intersection with Middle Pownal Road southerly to its intersection with South Stream Road.

This action is taken by the Select Board of the Town of Bennington on April 10, 2023, and shall be printed in full in the minutes of the Select Board, posted in five (5) conspicuous places within the Town of Bennington and a summary published in the Bennington Banner within fourteen (14) days of its adoption and shall become in full force and affect sixty (60) days after the date of adoption to the right of petition provided by law.

Jeannie Jenkins

Jeanne Conner

James Carroll

Tom Haley

Gary Corey

Sarah Perrin

Ed Woods

SPEED DATA ANALYSIS

Location



Latitude: 0.000000
Longitude: 0.000000

Analysis Time Period



Start End
11/9/2022 11/18/2022
1:20 PM 11:01 AM

Vehicles Analyzed



9,331

Speed Limit



35

Total Enforceable Violations



8,459

Average Speed



42

% Enforceable Violations



91%

Fastest Speed



76

Enforcement Rating

HIGH

Slowest Speed



7

LENGTH DATA ANALYSIS

Location



Latitude: 0.000000
Longitude: 0.000000

Analysis Time Period



Start	End
11/9/2022 12:00 AM	11/18/2022 11:01 AM

Vehicles Analyzed



9,331

0 to 8'

0 to 8'
Volume: 61
Average Speed: 40 MPH
Average Length: 5' 5"

>8 to 20'

>8 to 20'
Volume: 8,727
Average Speed: 42 MPH
Average Length: 14' 6"

>20 to 40'

>20 to 40'
Volume: 523
Average Speed: 42 MPH
Average Length: 24' 0"

>40 to 70'

>40 to 70'
Volume: 20
Average Speed: 40 MPH
Average Length: 47' 11"

>70'

>70'
Volume: 0
Average Speed: 0 MPH
Average Length: 0' 0"

Site Code:
Station ID:
Location 1:
Location 2:
Location 3:
Location 4:

Comment 1:
Comment 2:
Comment 3:
Comment 4:
Latitude: 0.000000
Longitude: 0.000000

Volume Sorted by Speed for 11/9/2022 to 11/18/2022

Combined

Speed (MPH)	Volume
16	1
17	1
18	2
19	9
20	1
21	4
22	13
23	5
24	19
25	22
26	11
27	31
28	16
29	42
30	57
31	50
32	126
33	74
34	226
35	327
36	283
37	509
38	271
39	671
40	775
41	437
42	1058
43	778
44	354
45	664
46	320
47	627
48	413
49	153
50	250
51	96
52	168
53	142
54	42
55	54
56	25
57	38
58	38
59	14
60	8
61	6
62	11
63	10
64	10
65	11
66	8

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board

From: Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

Re: Police Contract re-opening

Date: April 3, 2023

The contract with the Police New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) will expire on June 30, 2024. As I indicated to you earlier in the year and during the budget process, I would seek to re-open the Contract to offer the police employees a raise similar to the DPW Contract.

Currently contracted at 3%, we have agreed to increase that to 8.3%, matching the rate of inflation when the budget was built. In addition, we have agreed to an additional two years with raises at 5% or CPI-U in September of a given year whichever is higher, matching the DPW agreement. All other items remain unchanged.

The union employees have accepted this offer. I now look to you to formally ratify the Contract.

I seek a motion to ratify the Contract and authorize the Manager to sign the contract as amended.

MANAGER'S REPORT
April 10, 2023

ACTION

BBC Street Closures: Hemmings Cruise Ins and First Fridays We have concluded our discussions regarding signage and installation of barricades for these events. The Cruise-Ins are scheduled for Thursdays May 18, June 15, July 13, August 10, and September 14. The road closures are Main Street from North Street to Safford Street, School Street from Main to Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street from North to School Street, and Valentine from Union Street to Main Street. The streets will be closed from 4 pm until 8 pm. First Fridays are scheduled for July 7, August 4, and September 1 from 4 pm until 9 pm. The street closed is Main Street from North Street to Valentine Street. It is noted that placement of barricades rests with the BBC staff for First Fridays and BBC/ Hemmings staff for the Cruise-ins.

Action requested Motion to close the streets as requested for the dates and times noted above.

INFORMATIONAL

Armory Deal Although currently off the table and most likely off the table for some time, at some future point the Armory may yet again become available. It is disappointing, not only for those of us who looked forward to the potential uses of the building, but also for those in the Guard who most likely looked forward to a new modern facility.

Information Technology Director Nick Cave started work this week. Once settled, his initial focus will be on the Police Department communications issues both in the building and in the vehicles.

Beech Street Violation/Foreclosure The recent foreclosure action following long-term violations on a multi-family home on Beech Street resulted in fines totaling in excess of \$95,000. The Town will reimburse its cost accrued this fiscal year to the General Fund and set aside the remainder for future clean ups thereby reducing the pressure on the General Fund in future years.

FOLLOW UP

The Community Development and Permitting/Planning Reports are attached.

Recreation:

YMCA program planning:

The Bennington Community Center (Rec Center) pool schedule and spring programs for adults and youth are updated regularly on the Facebook page and town's website. YMCA after-school programs and youth and adult fitness programming are happening at the Bennington Sports Center (old Catamount School), with many new classes for seniors that have been very popular. "Coffee with Wendy" senior focused events are every Wednesday at BSC from 9-11 a.m. Teen use of the Community Center continues to grow, and Kayla and Taylor are meeting with teens to plan a space and more programming for them, such as a 3 on 3 basketball tournament at the outdoor basketball court. The YMCA received additional grant funding from the state for summer camp and after school programs, as well as a grant from Vermont After School to create a teen program. Summer camp sign ups are at [Bennington Rec Camp Green Mountain | Berkshire Family YMCA \(bfymca.org\)](https://www.benningtonrec.org/)

Walloomsac Riverwalk Improvement Project:

The Town received a \$200,000 Downtown Transportation Fund grant for improvements along the Riverwalk that will begin this spring/summer. We are planning the construction schedule and the updates to the riverwalk will include a connection to the new Rail Trail.

Appalachian Trail Community:

I'm meeting with the AT Community leadership team to start planning the next Trailfest for July 29 at the Bennington Community Center. The Bennington AT Community is a volunteer run group committed to raising awareness of the Appalachian Trail in Southwestern Vermont. [Bennington, Vt. | Appalachian Trail Conservancy](https://www.benningtonat.org/)

Vermont Begins Here:

Eight Oh Two Marketing is continuing the digital marketing campaign to promote Bennington. The VBH blog post for April promoted the opening of the new Bennington Community Market as well as music and cultural events.

Bennington Fair Food Initiative:

The Bennington Community Market, located at 239 Main Street, <https://www.benningtonmarket.com> had their grand opening on March 9. Congressman Peter Welch nominated the Bennington Community Market along with other local partners for a federal earmark and he visited the market on his recent trip to Bennington. The Bennington Fair Food Initiative, including the market, Southwest Tech, Bennington College, and the Vermont Veteran's Home, was fully funded with a 2.2 million earmark in the government spending bill that passed at the end of 2022. The funds will be administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and will flow through the Town of Bennington to subgrantees similar to the process of Community Development block grants. I have received the grant agreement from HUD and am working through the program budget and planning with program partners. The goals of the initiative are connecting partners in the local food system and growing jobs in the food sector. I recently visited the Center for an Agricultural Economy's Food Venture Center in Hardwick, VT to learn more about their programming.

Community Development Block Grants:

The Select Board recently approved of the Town applying for a Vermont Community Development grant of \$1 million to support the Hale Resources housing development at Benn Hi. Shires Housing has also received VCDP funding through the Town for two recovery housing projects on North Street and Gage Street. I submit paperwork required for each grant agreement and subgrant agreement along with progress reports on the projects. At the end of the year, I also submit financial reports to the state of Vermont on past HUD loans that have been granted to the Town or sub-grantees.

Benn Hi Redevelopment:

I am on the team with other town staff Dan Monks and Paul Dansereau, and we are meeting weekly to plan the redevelopment of Benn Hi. The Town hired Goldstone Architecture to create conceptual plans and we are working closely with Hale Resources, who will be the developer of the overall project. The Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hale Resources to work on a plan for creating housing at Benn Hi. I am researching grants to help support the redevelopment of the building and identifying partners for the community spaces. The Benn Hi planning team visited the Pittsfield branch of the Berkshire Family YMCA to tour their recently renovated spaces for recreation and childcare. In March, I submitted applications for Congressionally Directed Spending requests for the Benn Hi redevelopment to Senators Sanders, Welch and Balint. In April I will be submitting a request for funding through the Northern Borders Regional Commission.

Health Impact Assessment of the Benn Hi Redevelopment

Zak Hale and I are working with Rory Price and Megan Herrington from the Vermont Department of Health on their Health Impact Assessment of the Benn Hi redevelopment. The assessment process will go through May and will include the collection and analysis of secondary data, as well as community engagement efforts to gather qualitative information about the health needs of the community and the potential impact of the redevelopment. Rory will present findings from the assessment and recommendations in June. Rory, Zak, and I have organized focus groups with teen users of the Bennington Community Center, senior participants at the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels, and with Hale Resources tenants who live on Pleasant Street.

Vermont Council on Rural Development:

VCRD asked me to join their board as a local government representative and I attended their board meeting as well as Downtown Day/Tourism Day at the statehouse in Montpelier on March 22.

Summit to Reduce Violence and Harm Reduction in Bennington:

I met with Colonel Jim Baker to discuss the Benn Hi project and participated in the focus group he organized with educators and local agencies working on substance use prevention. I also attended the March 20 summit that Col. Baker organized at the Center for the Advancement of Public Action at Bennington College. The summit included representatives from each focus group and was attended by the Governor and several state agency leaders. Zak Hale and I gave a presentation on the Benn Hi redevelopment and its potential impact on Bennington. The work that goes forward after the summit will be called Project Alliance.

Housing Committee:

Zak Hale has organized a regular meeting of various professionals working to improve the housing crisis in Bennington, including representatives from BCRC, the Health Department, Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless, Neighborworks, Bennington Housing Authority, Shires Housing, Maple Leaf Realty, and the Sheriff's department. We developed a problem statement for the summit mentioned above.

Community Outreach:

In the past month, I have met with the Benn Hi Redevelopment team, Berkshire Family YMCA management team, Hale Resources, Bennington Community Market, Bennington College's CAPA program, Goldstone Architecture, Better Bennington Corporation, Meals on Wheels, Council on Aging, and the Vermont Council on Rural Development. I visited the Pittsfield location of the Berkshire Family YMCA with Goldstone Architecture and Hale Resources to tour their recently renovated childcare and recreation spaces. I visited food hubs/food business incubation spaces in Greenfield, Massachusetts and in Hardwick, VT. I met with Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, Representative Becca Balint and Senator Peter Welch. The Benn Hi planning team met with representatives from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. I attended a meeting with UCS Head Start and the Bennington YMCA for spring/summer program planning. I attended the Bennington Leadership summit led by Colonel Jim Baker at CAPA. I also attended the press conference with Southern Vermont Healthcare and Alfred Weissman Real Estate to discuss the redevelopment of the Everett Estate.

Summary of Building Permits Issued
March 2023

Construction Type	Month to date	Month to Date Volume	Year to date	Year to Date Volume
	Permit Totals		Permit Totals	
Single Family Dwelling	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Apartments	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Apartment Renovations	1	\$20,000.00	1	\$20,000.00
Condominiums	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	2	\$120,000.00	6	\$314,060.00
Residential Additions	0	\$0.00	1	\$80,000.00
Commercial Construction	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Commercial Renovations	3	\$186,297.00	10	\$371,597.00
Industrial Construction	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Industrial Renovations	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Garages	1	\$20,000.00	3	\$126,460.00
Sheds	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Decks	1	\$15,500.00	2	\$25,500.00
Institutions	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Signs	3	\$5,920.00	5	\$7,778.00
Use & Zoning	0	\$0.00	2	\$28,000.00
Subdivision	3	\$0.00	3	\$0.00
Home Occupation	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	1	\$320,000.00	1	\$320,000.00
Boilers/Furnaces/RTU's, A/C	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tents	1	\$7,500.00	1	\$7,500.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Concreate Slabs	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Cell Towers/Communications	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Solar Installations	1	\$11,731.20	2	\$81,531.20
Camps	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Withdrawn	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
Demolition	0	\$0.00	3	\$0.00
Fire Supression	0	\$0.00	3	\$0.00
Sprinkler System	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Exhaust Hood	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
Fire Alarm	1	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
			46	\$1,382,426.20
Total	18	\$706,947.20	46	\$1,382,426.20

**12-Years At a Glance
Permit Totals Only**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	12	11	5	8	15	10	5	6	5	11	15	16
February	7	6	7	15	8	5	7	5	8	9	10	12
March	31	13	12	10	14	19	11	13	9	19	22	18
April	31	18	22	27	14	15	15	23	11	29	33	
May	27	38	20	23	19	27	23	24	19	23	29	
June	32	20	19	21	19	10	14	12	25	16	21	
July	24	33	29	47	16	29	30	28	12	16	20	
August	30	21	29	20	18	25	25	16	27	16	28	
September	21	32	27	22	21	21	23	26	9	14	23	
October	38	30	21	28	9	19	20	20	17	29	17	
November	10	16	11	12	8	16	11	8	15	19	19	
December	18	18	7	10	5	8	11	11	5	10	12	
Total	281	256	209	243	166	204	195	192	162	211	249	

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning

Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Building

Approval status included: Granted

Occupancy status included: Any status

Decision dates included: Between 03/01/2023 and 03/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
51540500	23-021	TOWN OF BENNINGTON BFYMCA 655 GAGE ST Install Two Temporary Tents	Building C.O. Pending (June 26th, 2023 - August 25th, 2023)	Granted 03/06/2023	0.00 7,500.00
10012000	23-022	MOUNT ANTHONY LLC Alan Selkin 3085 MT ANTHONY RD Construct A 16'x16' Outdoor Pavilion	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/01/2023	45.60 15,500.00
07011100	23-024	TANSITOR ELECTRONICS INC Vishay Tansitor 2813 WEST RD Interior Renovation (648 Sq-Ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/08/2023	97.20 28,000.00
50517200	23-025	JOLLEY ASSOCIATES LLC Bryan Gamache 300 MAIN ST Replacement Of Current Underground Storage Tanks & Associated Fueling Equipment	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/09/2023	50.00 320,000.00
50544800	23-026	MAHAR MARILYN C TRUST Chris Blume 620 -622 MAIN ST Interior Renovations	Building C.O. Granted	Granted 03/10/2023 03/10/2023	50.00 500.00
50554300	23-027	BANK NORTH Robert Cove 500 MAIN ST Replacement Of Rear Stairs & Landing	Building C.O. Pending Repairs/Improvements	Granted 03/27/2023	50.00 157,797.00
60503200	23-028	COUSINS PAUL G & MARIA F Paul & Maria Cousins 107 SOUTHSIRE DR SO Interior Renovation (Study Area & Bath)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/27/2023	76.80 20,000.00
38501614	23-029	BARRON KIMBER L Nichele Herrick (SunRun) 161 LAURA LN Install Rooftop Solar	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/13/2023	25.00 11,731.20
09010800	23-030	WANGLER ROSE A LIFE ESTATE Rose Wangler 116 RICHARD'S DR Construct A 20x24 Garage	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/29/2023	68.00 20,000.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
56545800	23-031	BLOSE ANTHONY P & MELISSA D Jonathan G. Hoffman Builder, LLC 706 JEFFERSON HTS Interior Renovations (2,470 Sq-Ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/29/2023	444.60 245,000.00
51541400	23-032	HALLORAN MEGAN & ROBERT Megan & Robert Halloran 815 GAGE ST Interior Renovation (750 Sq-Ft)	Building C.O. Pending	Granted 03/29/2023	135.00 20,000.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Sign
Approval status included: Granted
Occupancy status included: Any status
Decision dates included: Between 03/01/2023 and 03/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
26507303	S23-002	K & E HOLDINGS LLC K & E Holdings LLC 1404 EAST RD East Road Market And Deli	Sign C.O. Not required	Granted 03/02/2023	20.00 150.00
50544800	S23-004	MAHAR MARILYN C TRUST Chris Blume 620 -622 MAIN ST Replacement Sign - Blumer's Barbershop	Sign C.O. Not required	Granted 03/07/2023	20.00 770.00
36515801	S23-005	100 NORTHSIDE DR LLC SB Signs, Inc. (Courtney) 100 NORTHSIDE DR KFC TACO BELL	Sign C.O. Not required	Granted 03/31/2023	40.00 5,000.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Subdivision
Approval status included: Granted
Occupancy status included: Any status
Decision dates included: Between 03/01/2023 and 03/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
04015400	23-018	HENRY HOUSE VT LLC Henry House VT LLC 1338 MURPHY RD 2-Lot Subdivision	Subdivision C.O. Not required	Granted	03/22/2023 400.00
50506500	23-019	DIONYSUS LLC & BGB HOLDINGS LLC Dionysus LLC & BGB Holdings LLC 120 DEPOT ST 2-Lot Subdivision	Subdivision C.O. Not required	Granted	03/22/2023 400.00
07016301	23-020	WICKS WILLIAM L Jason Wicks 3347 WEST RD 2-Lot Subdivision	Subdivision C.O. Not required	Granted	03/22/2023 400.00

Town of Bennington Planning and Zoning
Detailed Permit Report

Permit types included: Fire Alarm
Approval status included: Granted
Occupancy status included: Any status
Decision dates included: Between 03/01/2023 and 03/31/2023

<i>Parcel number Land Record Book and Pages</i>	<i>Permit number</i>	<i>Owner's name Applicant's name Location</i>	<i>Permit type Cert. of Occ.</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Fee paid Cost of project</i>
50502000	F23-002	SACRED HEART/ST FRANCIS PARISH CH Monument Electric 238 MAIN ST Emergency Replacement (7 Defective FACP). Remove	Fire Alarm C.O. Granted	Granted 03/17/2023	50.00
Conventional FACP & Replace w/Equivalent MIRCOM					