

Village Green Committee
Thursday August 12, 2020
Zoom meeting at 2:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Gail Cromwell, Connie Kieley, Felicia Sartell, Carol Mamczak, Peggy Cournoyer, Honey Hastings
Absent: Robin Downes

Gail called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM and noted that we were meeting with special rules under NH RSA 91-A. She confirmed that the meeting is publicly accessible. All voting is to be by roll call.

Roll Call attendance was conducted.

Purpose of meeting is to decide what to do about Cam's (library trustees chair) recent email. Gail described the events so far including phone and email exchanges. She read the most recent email from Cam and invited feedback. The letter that follows was entered into the Zoom chat and a printed copy was provided to Peggy before the meeting.

August 9, 2020

Gail,

I distributed the VGC documents you sent yesterday, but as yet have had no word from Trustees. I see from your e-mails you are expecting to meet with the library trustees Thursday the 20th to go over the plans. This is not possible. Board members need a chance to look them over and then the Trustees need a chance to discuss them at the board meeting. Our next meeting is indeed the 20th, but our agenda will be furtherance of the search for a director, review of VGC plans, and discussion of how best to meet with members of the VGC to exchange observations. I would never agree to a joint meeting without the assent of the board, nor before the Trustees have had a chance to look over the documents you provided. I wanted to let you know as soon as possible so that you can notify your committee.

My phone is presently out of service, so I unable to receive any calls or texts.

Cam

Felicia asked if this is a deal breaker or do we have alternative ways to respond. Gail listed some choices:

We withdraw our ideas if they can't meet.

Go to the trustees meeting and express our desire to meet and discuss the proposal and seek a vote from them.

If they don't want to vote:

We cancel.

We go to the Select Board and ask for permission to proceed.

We write to all five trustees and invite them to a meeting.

Felicia felt they might not want us to go to the meeting based on Cam's statements. Gail stated that it is in their last agenda that they would discuss. Honey stated that the trustees plan to discuss at Zoom meeting and cited the agenda. She suggested a fourth option to give them a date after the trustees meeting. Trustees are employed and do not meet at the last minute the way the VGC does.

Connie posted a suggested letter to the trustees in Zoom chat:

Cam & Trustees:

We are baffled by Cam's most recent email and are unsure how to proceed. When Cam said the Trustees were unable to meet with the VGC on August 6, she suggested August 20th as an alternative. We complied with her request to submit our plan and narrative ASAP by sending it on August 7 assuming 12 day was ample time for the Trustees to read and consider our proposal. It is the responsibility of the chair to set an agenda and we accepted her offer of August 20 in good faith. We understand you have pressing issues dealing with Covid and searching for a librarian. In fact, it is for those reasons we have moved forward hoping to relieve you of the responsibility of the care and maintenance of the landscaping in front of the Library. We are also baffled by Cam's suggestion that the Trustees needed to discuss "how best to meet with members of the VGC." We are both small committees who have a unified interest in improving the library landscape.

Connie stated we should plan to attend their meeting. We could be expending energy on something else. Finds Cam's emails offensive and off-putting. Do all trustees feel as she does? She is not willing to accept that other trustees feel this way.

Honey has a sense that a majority of trustees are not ready to support our proposal. Wants to consider the fourth alternative. There is time pressure finding a library director.

Connie stated that we have made a generous offer. They are smart people who can quickly assess and give us an answer.

Carol stated that she was offended by the tone of emails and feels we should find what other trustees want and not take the word of the chair.

Connie noted they will have had the plan for 12 days, and they may have questions that we can answer.

Felicia suggested we could give them an alternative time and asked what is our last opportunity to do this project.

Gail reviewed all the tasks to be done in a short time frame.

Gail read Connie's proposed response as posted in the Zoom chat. We would like to send to all members. Honey objected that we not send to all trustees, just send to chair who will

distribute. She proposes 9/17 to reply.

Gail said letter will be addressed to Cam and trustees, but send to Cam.

Discussion of alternate date for response. Should we wait until next year. Some feel that we should not expect to do it next year if they are not interested. Carol favors getting an answer by the 20th or find out if the town owns the land and possibly ask the select board if we can proceed with our plans. Honey brought up her experience with the town hall annex garden and stated that the deeds are all in the name of the town. Peggy agrees with Felicia that we should know by the 20th how to proceed. It was felt by all that the town is tired of this mess, but it is not worth starting a battle. Honey felt there has been miscommunication between chairs.

Motion by Carol, 2nd by Felicia to have Gail send the letter that Connie composed (above) to Cam but address it to all trustees.

Roll call vote: Connie - y, Carol - y, Peggy - y, Felicia - y, Gail - y (unanimous)
Honey, the alternate, chose not to vote in Robin's absence.

Connie would like a meeting ASAP after decision to discuss how to proceed.

Other business - Gail talked to Tim Fiske and Peter Caswell about working with Kent on the water line under 45. Main Street is to be paved this year and it would be great to have this project done before paving.

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Motion by Felicia, 2nd by Gail to accept the minutes as written with one correction.

Roll call vote: Connie - y, Carol - y, Peggy - y, Felicia - y, Gail - y (unanimous)

Connie says the letter should come from Gail as chair. Send to all VGC members but use BCC so we don't respond to each other.

Next meeting will be set after the trustees meeting on August 20th.

Gail stated that she appreciates all our efforts.

Motion by Connie, 2nd by Felicia to adjourn.

Roll call vote: Connie - y, Carol - y, Peggy - y, Felicia - y, Gail - y (unanimous)

The meeting concluded at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mamczak
VGC Secretary