

Bantam Civic Association

P.O. Box 22 • Bantam, CT 06750 • Incorporated 1947

Bantam Civic Association Minutes

Wednesday January 10, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Bantam Civic Association was called to order at 5:01 p.m. at The Bantam Borough Hall by Paul Griffen, President

Members Present: Dick Sheldon, Jeanie Sanford, Jane Golding, Terry Szymanski, Kyle Towne, Val Caron, Dan (Boomer) Parsons, Jeff Porter, Wendy Westcott
Public: John Caron, Leslie Caron

Previous Minutes: minutes reviewed. Val corrects public John McKenna to member John McKenna and spelling of Mark Caron. A Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Val and 2nd made by Dick. Motion carries.

Paul reads a prepared statement. See attached.
Dick reserves field for 10/19/24 for Pumpkin Festival for Firehouse.

General Discussion:

Jane suggests person by person vote to have accurate count of votes.

Paul: prepared sheet for this.

Boomer: procedures on Approving expenditures and Treasurer's Report: previous month's expenditures to be approved and voted on. Regular meetings cannot be randomly moved, cites by-laws. Need a majority to move a meeting.

Paul: by-law are outmoded.

Val: Dick ran meeting in Paul's absence when Paul was unable to be present. No need to change meeting date.

Dick: Reminder that the Community Field is for benefit of community, the young folks, show community we are cohesive group and its important to keep group together, work together to continue the good progress made thus far. Bills must be paid on time. Regular expenses, ie Chatfield's, Electricity not required to be reported.

Treasurer's Report: Jeannie: income \$16,500 from the Seher Thoss, bills paid out, balance remains at \$31,363.53. Dick:AARP funds used for deposit on shed.

Shed:

Terry: Where will shed be located? Zoning must approve the location of the shed. What if zoning does not approve? Questions issuing checks for permits.

Val: Questions permits and cost. \$400.for shed that is not needed at this time & does not match Pavilion. A lot of money going out. Never was a permit for shed. Discussion on location/permitting.

Paul: This BCA has brought in more money than in past twenty years.

Jeff: proposes association must approve expense over \$500. Voted and approved. Discussion on expenditures continues. Kyle: Officers have authority to make purchases?
Paul: Second signer person required on checking account. Suggests Lauren Sage who he has approached. Dick makes motion to appoint Lauren as second signer, Jane seconds, all in favor. Motion passes.

Tractor:

Val: Questions need for tractor when the field is looking good for what it is. Pay volunteers who have done so much of the work. Dick: continued mowing, mulch.

Terry: Debris etc always must be brought off site and dumped anyway. Questions what can be done with tractor equipment as opposed to other equipment, review what has to be done before spending money on tractor. Kyle removed Jersey barriers, more important to have fencing before spending on new tractor. Discussion continues on holding off purchasing of tractor.

Paul: Grant was put in for tractor. Town soccer, baseball and poss softball league approached Paul to use fields.

Terry: Tractor grant turned down. Dick: going to allocate from other funds for tractor.

Jeannie: prioritize one thing at a time. Paul states he has made the list.

Jane: parcel out projects, Terry and Kyle have been generous. No need to empty the pot at once.

Kyle: it is a lot to spend in quick fashion. Didn't get grant for tractor. Has a lot of experience with equipment, can buy a lot, suggests zero-turn, not jumping on this, make long term plans, questions maintenance and if mower doesn't work, back up?

Val: found Hustler zero-turn for \$7100 with discount for non-profit. Wants what is best for field. No one knew what tractor was going to be.

Dick: Sit on it. Think more. Will lose the shed deposit if we don't go ahead with building.

Boomer: "flat and green" lawn is what is needed. Suggests 2 zero turns, back up if one goes down.

Jeff: As board members, are we responsible to maintain the property?

Wendy: capital projects vs routine maintenance. Should distinguish between what is needed regularly as opposed to what is needed for one time projects.

Val: Motion not to buy tractor at this time. Boomer seconds, all in favor. Motion carries.

Fencing:

Paul: Atlas fencing is meeting Paul and Kim Friday to give quote.

Kyle: know Mitch at Alibozak, not a fence guy. Jane and Wendy obtained quote from Cape Cod Fencing in Canton for 10x10 posts. \$55.67 per linear foot. Award based on price per linear foot. Will check measurements before order. Franklin Fence higher than Cape Cod.

Jeff makes motion to accept Cape Cod quote once Kyle measures to confirm linear foot price, if Cape Cod price better than Eagle Fencing. Dick seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Kyle: set ground rules for capital projects/expenditures. Obtain 3 quotes. Makes motion for all capital projects and expenditures over \$5000. Must get 3 quotes. Boomer seconds, all in favor, motion passes.

Paul: Corporation has the right to vote electronically.

Status of Grants:

No updates.

Annual or Bi-annual meeting etc

Typically September. Set terms and length of office. Set annual meeting to vote new members. Boomer: has historic BCA information from past meetings, events at the field, newspaper clippings to share. Should catalog this information and organize current BCA info and bylaws. Wendy to assist.

Public Input and Correspondence:

Leslie Caron: Not all agendas and minutes on Borough website. Husband Val Caron continues to get intermittent emails where not each member is cc'd. Each committee member should get all responses. Work together. All member responses should "Reply All". Suggestions are ok in emails, decisions never made via email.

Dick: spoke w Denise re insurance. Litchfield agreed to cover insurance, keep under Litchfield policy \$75. Per year. Dick suggests one time donation to Social Services of \$200 as thanks for insurance coverage. Farmer's Market: cooperate w Litchfield Farmer's Market and new signage. Wants to acknowledge Mrs. DeGrasse for her generous donations- sign on bench at field?.

Val: Add new membership item to agenda, as we missed new member vote in 2023. Leslie Caron and John Caron would like to be members. John has been involved w BCA for years. Motion to add item to agenda. Kyle seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Jeff makes motion to vote in new members Leslie Caron and John Caron. Terry seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Adjournment: 6:36pm Dick makes motion to adjourn. Terry seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Westcott
Clerk
1/14/2024

We started in July 2022 stepping up and taking over when asked for help and to keep things going. The association was failing in both membership and funds. WE came in with enthusiasm and excitement to keep the BCA active.

We committed to being involved and have made Great accomplishments in a year and a half including a new roof on pavilion, information board, new playground equipment, a better entrance, new signs and more interest in using the fields. The Playground is a huge hit and is used daily.

In June I spoke about group decisions meaning to keep people involved in the decisions of purchasing equipment and starting projects. As President I take exception to some of the comments like "we're out of control" " why the rush" or the suggestion that it's being run like a monarchy. (you don't really understand what a monarchy is).

We did not ever discuss that ALL expenditures be voted on. I've purchased mulch, cement, supplies. Under that assumption we would have to vote to pay bills like the elec and porta pot. so we need to set a limit for expenditures without a vote to reduce red tape. The president or CEO of any organization has some authority to make decisions without needing a vote for every action. There is nothing wrong being done here, we have only moved forward.

The tractor and shed were first discussed at our July meeting, there were no objections and it seemed a good decision and we decided to move forward with getting quotes. This was discussed at every meeting thereafter. Val got first quote on shed, Dick got another for next meeting that was less. Jane, Paul and Val got quotes on tractors we rejected the higher shed quote and thought the John Deere was too small and only then did we start to get objections.

We have not rushed, we talked about this for 6 months, we are not out of control, we've gone about this in an organized way getting quotes, bringing to meetings for discussion, getting more quotes when asked to and documenting everything we do.

We the core group spend many more hours than most realize. It's not just mowing, we put in hundreds of hours, we use our vehicles and gas not asking for anything in return. We do this simply for the satisfaction that it is a good thing, that people enjoy our efforts, that kids play outside and these fields will continue to provide for the community.

Moving forward we will hold more controlled meetings. He who has the floor speaks; everyone else must respect the floor. Anyone who wishes to speak will have the opportunity.