

Village of Derby Line, Vermont  
Trustees Meeting  
April 19, 2022  
Derby Line Village Hall

**Call to Order:**

Present were Trustees Richard Creaser, Sarah Webster and Sandra Garratt.

Also, present were Brian Fletcher, Road Foreman, Jaret Judd, Andre Ricard, Melody Ricard, Nancy Olney, Shannon O'Rourke, Laurie Sanville, Village Clerk & Treasurer, and Madeleine Roy, Assistant Village Clerk.

The regular meeting was called to order by Trustee Richard Creaser at 6:30 pm.

**Additions or Deletions to the agenda:**

- 1) To elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
- 2) Freedom Convoy group request for use of Baxter Park
- 3) Outdoor fitness equipment in Baxter Park
- 4) PACIF Grant

Sarah made a motion to waive the reading of Rules of Procedure. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of the March 15, 2022 Meeting & April 12, 2022 Special Meeting:**

Sarah made a motion to accept the minutes of both the March 15, 2022 meeting and the April 12, 2022 Special Meeting as written. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

**Tabled Items:**

- 1) Stanstead Sewer Treatment Plant – nothing new on this issue
- 2) COVID Relief Funds – to be discussed in this meeting regarding adult outdoor exercise equipment in Baxter Park

**Election of Board of Trustees Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:**

Sarah nominated Richard Creaser as Chair. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

Richard nominated Sarah as Vice-Chair. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

**Request from Dan LaBarron for Use of Baxter Park for Adult Softball League:**

An email was received on April 12, 2022 from Dan LaBarron requesting use of Baxter Park this summer for the Adult Softball League and to ask if the village would have a load of fill brought in for repair of the ball field as was done last year. Laurie confirmed that there is money in the park funds for this fill. Brian and Jaret confirmed that they would monitor where the fill would be dropped to avoid damage to the grass area in the park. Brian also suggested that they wait a couple of weeks to let the park dry out. He also asked that the league be reminded to take down their fence after each game so it will not be in the way when our crew is mowing. It was also suggested that they provide their games schedule so it can be clearly posted in the park. Laurie agreed to so advise LaBarron.

Sarah made a motion to authorize the village to acquire a load of fill for the softball field and to request their games schedule. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

**North American Unity/Freedom Convoy Request for Rally in Derby Line/Baxter Park:**

Laurie noted that she has received a request from the Freedom Convoy group that protested in Ottawa earlier this year and in other places across North America to hold a similar rally in Derby Line. There would be upwards of 50 semis parked along our streets. They might bring in vendors. Sandra mentioned that such a rally would create problems with emissions, blocking our streets, trash, noise, etc. Richard noted that there would be no value to Derby Line if this rally is allowed. If needed, we would have to pay the Sheriff's Dept. out of our budget to patrol.

Sarah made a motion to deny North American Unity's request to use Baxter Park and our streets for a rally. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

Richard agreed to draft an email of this decision to send them.

**Baxter Park Fitness Park:**

Richard stated that he has done more research on this adult fitness equipment that we might consider in Baxter Park with ARPA funds. It consists of 8 to 15 stations on a 38' x 38' pad with each station built to withstand outdoor weather. There is signage and videos that can be accessed via a QR code on mobile devices to learn how to use the equipment. However, the cost runs in the vicinity of \$180,000. There might be grants available next year through health insurance companies such as MVP and some donated labor might be available. There are other companies that sell similar equipment, but they do not provide the signage and videos on how to use it. Discussion followed regarding the village's liability and whether we would be allowed to include this type of structure in the park given the restrictions placed by the original donor of the park to the village. Andy Ricard suggested that instead of spending such a large amount as \$180,000 for something that we don't know if it will be used or not, why not put in a pickleball court. This is a very popular sport. Madeleine suggested that a survey of the village residents be done to see if there is interest. The three Trustees agreed to draft the survey questions within the next week to be available in hard copy as well as online. Mention of the survey will be included in the Spring newsletter to go out with the upcoming water and sewer bills.

**PACIF Grant:**

An email has been received from VLCT indicating that because of its contribution level, Derby Line is eligible for a \$2,500 grant reimbursable at 100%. A list of eligible equipment and services was provided with the email. Richard noted that if the village road crew can come up with an eligible project up to \$2,500 and since the grant would reimburse at 100%, for them to go ahead and apply.

**Business from Trustees, Treasurer and Road Foreman:**

Village Clean-up: Brian noted that clean-up of streets is nearly done.

Ambulance Building on Beach St: Brian noted that a neighbor of the ambulance building recently saw some local kids go into the building. They have broken all the windows and smashed toilets inside, etc. Brian reported it to the Sheriff's Dept. and the State Police but nothing has been done about it. No one seems to know who owns the property now. The town should find out who owns it as they probably should be collecting taxes on it since the ambulance group no longer exists and is not providing a service.

Place House on Caswell Ave: Brian asked that we find out if anyone is living in that house now that the owners both died. The grassy area on the sidehill going up that driveway is not being mowed and if there is someone new living there, they should be informed that the village is not responsible for mowing that section.

Delinquent Water & Sewer Bills for Shut-off: Brian asked Laurie to provide him with a list of those property owners that are far behind in their water and sewer payments so the shut-off process can begin.

**New Business from the Audience:** None

**Old business from the Audience (5-minute limit unless otherwise directed):** Melody Ricard asked if anything can be done about their neighbor who has piled up brush and old furniture outside his house. Richard noted that without a type of junk yard ordinance, it is nearly impossible to tell someone to clear up their junk or to go on their property and take it away. Taking the junk away for them would set a bad precedent. Furthermore, a Junk Ordinance would require going through very long legal procedures that would definitely not be worth the effort. We might just ask them if they would like help in finding a trash hauler.

**Executive Session:** None

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on May 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm here at the village hall.

**Review and Sign Bank Statement:** No

**Warrants were Reviewed and Signed:** Yes

**The Last Check Printed:** #17031

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Madeleine C. Roy, Assistant Village Clerk