

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
the Board of Trustees of the Village
of Larchmont, held on **MONDAY,**
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

PRESENT: Mayor Anne H. McAndrews
Deputy Mayor John Komar
Trustees Marlene Kolbert
Peter Fanelli

ABSENT: Trustee Lorraine Walsh

Also Present: Clerk Finn, Treasurer Brucciani,
Joanna C. Feldman, Esq., representing Village
Attorney's Office

Mayor McAndrews called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM and welcomed those present.

Police Chief's Report

Police Chief John Poleway addressed the Board on the following matters:

1. He reminded all residents and motorists that school is now in session, with the first full day being tomorrow. He urged everyone to obey the 20 m.p.h. school zone speed limits, along with stopped school buses.
2. Anyone caught texting while driving will face stiffer penalties now that new legislation was signed into law on July 1. Tougher penalties will be handed out to junior drivers who text while driving, including revocation of licenses. For everyone, five (5) points will be assessed on driver's licenses for this infraction of the law.
3. The Village's leaf blower law remains in effect through September 30. If anyone is caught violating the law, a court appearance ticket is issued, and a possible fine may result.
4. The Village has an anti-idling law which limits the amount of time cars may idle in the Village of Larchmont. He encouraged all motorists to abide by the limits of this law.
5. The twelfth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center will be remembered at a ceremony in the Town of Mamaroneck on September 11. The Village of Larchmont will be participating in this tri-municipal ceremony. He encouraged everyone to remember the motto, "If you see something, say something", and report suspicious matters to (866) SAFENY, or the Larchmont Police Department at 834-1000.

Mayor McAndrews next administered the oath of office to newly hired Police Officer Lisa Pompilio. Following the oath, Officer Pompilio's son pinned her Police badge onto her uniform.

Oath of Office
Pompilio, L.
Police Department

Mayor McAndrews then presented Police Detective Timothy Brennan with a New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Service Certificate for 25 years of service to the Village.

Brennan, T.
Police Department
Presentation of NYCOM
Service Certificate

Rigano, R.
Public Works Dept.
Presentation of NYCOM
Service Certificate

Mayor McAndrews next introduced Robert Rigano of the Public Works Department and presented him with a 30-year service certificate from the New York State Conference of Mayors.

She thanked both Detective Brennan and Mr. Rigano for their dedicated service to the Village.

Fire Captain's Report

Fire Captain John Caparelli addressed the Board and presented his report:

1. The Fire Department has responded to 579 alarms to date.
2. The Department provided mutual aid to the Town of Mamaroneck during a recent electrical fire at the IHOP Restaurant on Boston Post Road.
3. The Weaver Street Bridge is now reopened. All normal response procedures are back in place.
4. The Department is awaiting three sets of specifications for a potential new fire truck that may be purchased.
5. Fire inspections continue.
6. Firefighter Michael Etere is currently in training to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
7. Captain Caparelli and Lt. Martyn will be attending HazMat training in order to participate in mutual aid responses that involve hazard materials.
8. Fire Prevention Week will be October 6-12, 2013. This year's focus for Fire Prevention Week will be on kitchen fires.
9. Hurricane season is upon us. He urged everyone to take precautions when using generators and to stay away from downed wires.
10. All Fire Department equipment is operational and in service.

Yannuzzi, J.
Fire Department
Presentation of NYCOM
Service Certificate

Mayor McAndrews then presented a New York State Conference of Mayors' (NYCOM) 30-year service certificate to Firefighter Jack Yannuzzi, and thanked him for his service to the Village.

Condolences to the
Keresey family on
passing of former Police
Chief Jack Keresey

Mayor McAndrews extended the Board's condolences to the Keresey family on the passing of former Police Chief Jack Keresey. She read a letter that she received from his nephew, former Police Chief William Keresey, in appreciation for the acknowledgement of his uncle's death. The letter outlined Chief Keresey's life, which included his first attempt at traffic control in the Village at the age of 5. From then on, Police work remained an important part of his life.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Komar, and unanimously carried, a brief recess was called at 8:15 PM.

Upon reconvening at 8:20 PM, Mayor McAndrews updated the audience on the status of the Palmer Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project

Mayor McAndrews explained that the contractor has been declared in default, and the Village is in discussions with the surety company. This issue may come down to litigation, so the project may be delayed until all issues are resolved.

Palmer Avenue
Streetscape Update

She stressed that the Village is doing everything it can to get this project back on track. She reassured both residents and merchants that construction will not take place after the second week of November so as not to interfere with holiday shopping season.

Mayor McAndrews next referred to the Village's new Hazard Mitigation Plan, stating that the Plan has been reviewed and approved by FEMA. The Village was even complimented by FEMA on the Plan's inclusiveness.

Hazard Mitigation Plan/
Village Hall Generator

Once the written approval from FEMA has been received, the Village may proceed with the installation of a new generator for Village Hall. The Village received a grant for \$125,000 to replace the 1960's generator that currently exists for the building. An engineering study has been completed for the generator installation.

Mayor McAndrews next addressed the subject of Village management, stating that the Village Clerk has announced she will be retiring in the coming months. The Board has been consulting with a representative from the New York State Association of Managers and Administrators to determine the best course of action to take to ensure proper management and staffing of Village Hall in future years.

Village Management

Mayor McAndrews reminded the audience that parking permits for 2014 will go on sale November 6 for Village residents and November 7 for all other residents.

2014 Parking Permits –
Sale begins Nov. 6

She also noted that the Democratic Primary will be held from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM on September 10.

The Board next discussed the possible permitting of motorcycles and scooters when they are parked at the Railroad Station.

Police Sergeant Ronald Knudsen addressed the Board, stating that motorcycles and scooters are parking in undesignated spaces and causing an impediment to those individuals who want to access the walkways and platforms at the Railroad Station. The Traffic Commission will be discussing this topic at their meeting on September 10, but their discussions will be limited to space delineation for these vehicles. The Board of Trustees is being asked to consider whether permits should be issued, or whether the individuals parking there should be required to pay a daily meter rate.

RESOLUTION
Auth. to sell permits for
Motorcycle/Scooter
Parking at Larchmont
Railroad Station

Following further discussion, on motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Komar, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the issuance of parking permits to motorcycle and scooter owners, at a rate of \$200 per vehicle per year, for parking in special delineated areas at the Village of Larchmont Railroad Station parking lots. Said permits will be required beginning January 1, 2014.

Christopher Cassese and Carolyn Dilworth of the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce next appeared to request permission to hold the Chamber's Sidewalk Sale Days on September 19-21, 2013.

Following a brief discussion, on motion of Trustee Komar, seconded by Trustee Kolbert, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLUTION

Approve Chamber of Commerce Sidewalk Sale Days – 9/19-21/2013

RESOLVED, to authorize the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce to hold its Sidewalk Sale Days on September 19-21, 2013, with the understanding that the appropriate insurance certificates are filed with the Village prior to the start of this event.

Palmer Avenue
Streetscape – Trees and
Pine Brook Park
restoration

Mr. Cassese also advised that many individuals are inquiring through the Chamber of Commerce about the status of the Palmer Avenue Streetscape Improvement Plan and whether further tree cutting will take place. They are requesting that no further tree cutting/removal work be done.

Mayor McAndrews explained that in 2009, every tree was inspected by an arborist and a landscape architect for the Village. One question did come up about a particular tree in front of 1890 Palmer Avenue. It was re-inspected and determined that it could be left standing for now, but that it should be monitored for further deterioration.

Since 2009, some of the trees are no longer thriving. Before re-starting the project, each tree will be re-evaluated for soundness. She added that when this project is completed, the Village will have eliminated 29 trees and planted 35 new trees to replace them. Also, 37 new streetlights, as well as new benches and recycling containers, will be added along the street.

The trees to be planted along Palmer Avenue will be 3" to 3 ½" in caliper, and will stand 7' to 10' at the start. There will be a combination of Elm, Locust, and Hawthorn trees planted. As the environment is a difficult one for tree growth, a Cornell Mix soil will be used when the trees are planted. This type of soil mix also prevents sidewalk slabs from being uprooted.

Issues came up with a tree in front of the former Espana Restaurant on Larchmont Avenue, and the Village was forced to remove the tree. It was declared by an arborist to be a dangerous tree as limbs have been falling from it. A new tree will be replanted there.

Regarding repairs to the Pine Brook Park baseball diamond, Mayor McAndrews assured Mr. Cassese and the audience that the park will be returned to its original condition. The curbing that is being retained there will stay, but the area will not be used as a staging area again when the project restarts.

Parties that spoke in connection with the tree removal that has already taken place and the project going forward were:

Diane Dardelli – Questioned who is evaluating the types of trees to be planted since the reported ones do not have large trunk sizes. Mayor McAndrews stated that the Village and its professionals are evaluating the types of trees that will be planted. The trees can only be planted in

mid-to-late Fall, or in the Spring. Trustee Kolbert pointed out that the Village of Larchmont is a Tree City USA and trees are very important to the community.

David Conn – Expressed his concern that the Village cuts down trees for aesthetic reasons and not just safety reasons. He added that it is hard to replace trees that are 80-100 years old. In his opinion, preserving trees is more important than planting new ones. Trustee Kolbert noted that the Parks and Trees Committee plants 40-60 trees every year around the Village. When a tree is cut down in the Village, it is done after obtaining the advice of a reliable arborist.

Monica Hoffman – Ms. Hoffman asked about the arborist’s report from 2009 concerning the trees along Palmer Avenue. Mayor McAndrews stated that no official report was ever prepared. As they went tree-by-tree, notes were made on a set of plans concerning the condition of each tree.

Ms. Hoffman believed that the removal of 29 trees is a huge number of trees to be removed. She hired her own arborist to review the trees along Palmer Avenue, and her arborist concluded that the trees are healthy. Mayor McAndrews responded and said that there may be some trees that appear healthy, but many have been “hacked” by Con Edison. As they are attempting to improve the streetscape through this project, some trees may have to be removed to improve its overall look. By the end of the project, 29 trees may have been removed, but 35 new trees will have been planted.

George Steckler – Mr. Steckler stated his belief that the Village Board did not execute the contract properly. He believed that actual architectural renderings should have been ordered before the project was begun as the drawings that accompanied the contract are not complete. Mayor McAndrews explained that renderings would have added \$3,000 to \$5,000 to this project’s expense. Mayor McAndrews stated that she made the decision not to order renderings, citing that the money could be better put to use elsewhere in the project. Trustee Kolbert added that the plans have been before the public since 2009 and have been publicly displayed and discussed at many Village Board meetings and work sessions since then.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Komar, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the request of Anne Avenius of St. Augustine’s Church Social Action Committee to hold the “Walk for Habitat” walk on November 3, 2013 at 1:00 PM, provided that participants remain on the sidewalks during this event.

RESOLUTION

Avenius, A.
St. Augustine’s Church
Walk for Habitat
11/3/13

Trustee Kolbert reported on the following:

1. The Westchester County Mobile Shredder will be coming to Larchmont on September 21, 2013, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The shredder will be parked in Lot #1 at the Railroad Station.
2. She reminded the audience that the Plastic Bag Law will go into effect on October 1, 2013. She encouraged everyone to bring reusable bags

Trustee Reports

when they shop as plastic bags at points-of-sale locations will no longer be offered.

3. She advised that the Police Department will be hosting another drug collection day in the coming weeks. She said that once the date is finalized, the information will be put on the Village’s website.

4. Trustee Kolbert announced that the Friends of the Library will be having many exciting events coming up in September and October. She said that information will be available on their website shortly.

Trustee Komar reported on the following:

1. He expressed his appreciation to Village employees for their dedication and long-time service to the Village and its residents, as indicated this evening with the presentation of several NYCOM service awards.

2. He congratulated Chief Poleway and the Larchmont Police Department for recruiting high caliber individuals such as Officer Pompilio to serve in the Department. Officer Pompilio graduated from the Orange County Police Academy on August 16 and was President of her class there.

Trustee Fanelli reported on the following:

1. The Larchmont Committee on the Arts will be holding its Fine Arts Festival on September 28 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Constitution Park. The rain date is September 29.

2. Big Trucks Day will be held behind the French-American School on September 28 beginning at 10:00 AM.

3. The Ragamuffin Parade will be held on October 19, with a rain date of October 26. Line-up will begin at 12:30 PM at the intersection of Larchmont Avenue and Palmer Avenue.

4. He reminded the audience that school officially opens on September 10 and encouraged everyone to drive carefully.

Mayor McAndrews announced that the Larchmont Public Library has received a grant of approximately \$35,000 towards a repair of the Library roof. For the Village’s portion of this roof repair, and on motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Kolbert, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLUTION

Auth. bond for reconstruction of Library Roof

RESOLVED, to authorize the issuance of \$101,000 serial bonds for the reconstruction of the Larchmont Public Library Roof in and for the Village of Larchmont, New York.

The vote on the above resolution was as follows:

AYES: Mayor McAndrews, Trustee Fanelli, Trustee Kolbert, Trustee Komar

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Walsh

On motion of Trustee Kolbert, seconded by Trustee Komar, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, that Abstract Audited Voucher No. 3, dated September 9, 2013, in the amount of \$109,189.95, per copies filed with the Clerk, be paid, subject to confirmation and approval by Trustee Walsh.

On motion of Trustee Kolbert, seconded by Trustee Fanelli, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.