

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees of the
Village of Larchmont, N.Y.
held on Monday, November 16, 2020

The Board of Trustees held this meeting via Zoom with Mayor Walsh calling the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Instructions to join the meeting were published on Village website calendar and meeting agenda.

PRESENT: Mayor Lorraine Walsh
Trustees Carol Casazza Herman
Peter Fanelli
Malcolm Frouman
Sarah Bauer

Also present: Dep. Clerk Rilley, Attorney Staudt,
Administrator Datino, Treasurer Gutwein

Mayor Walsh stated that there has been a surge of reported cases of Coronavirus here in Westchester County. We are also seeing a rise in cases in the Village of Larchmont, specifically in the first 10 days of November we've had as many cases as we had the month of October. And October was more than September and August we had zero cases. So we're definitely rising. On our regular municipal call with the county executive George Latimer today, we heard about how the caseload in the county is increasing as well. I believe that just over the past week, there's been 1000 new cases countywide. We have the city of Port Chester is now considered an orange micro cluster zone. So they have restrictions to their operations for businesses and schools that we don't have in the rest of the county. Today, the village of Larchmont circulated an email to all those who have signed up for email notifications. In that we explain a little bit about the micro-cluster metrics for designation and restrictions and there's a link to the state website so you can see exactly what that means. We also included information about downloading the New York State app, which is called Alert New York. This then allows people to be tracked and contacted if you've been in close proximity to someone who ends up testing positive, but you can also receive daily updates as far as the positivity rates in the county. I just want to let everybody know, please, we don't want to shut down. We really went through a bad time in March, April and May. It's going to be hard enough as it is just going into winter. Please, please, please follow the rules. No gatherings indoors of more than 10 people, keep social distance. And I think everywhere that you go outside in public or indoor and public spaces, you must wear a mask. I have seen increased compliance with that over the last few days. I think fear is a powerful motivator. But I ask every resident to please wear a mask all the time. Also recently this week, the CDC published research that shows that not only do masks protect others, which is what we have been operating under that presumption that we're protecting others when we wear them. They also protect the wearer so that you receive a lower viral load, you're less likely to become infected and if you do become infected, less likely to become very ill because you receive less of the virus. So now it's not just that you're protecting others, you are also protecting yourselves.

Mayor's statement
Covid-19

Mayor's statement
Covid-19
Con't.

Can't put too fine a point on that, please, we don't want to go backwards. We want to keep our lives at least at the level they are now, which is not normal. But it's better than shut down. And some great news this week in terms of vaccines, Pfizer and today Moderna came out with very encouraging results, 90 and 94.5% effective rates. These vaccines will apparently receive emergency approval and be ready to distribute to small segments of the population by the end of the year. Those would be first responders, frontline workers in the health community, etc. and wider distribution into the spring and summer of next year. That's wonderful. That's a great light at the end of our tunnel. It does not in any way mean that we can relax ourselves because there's a vaccine. Because between now and the time when most of us will be vaccinated, another 200,000 Americans are projected to potentially die unless we turn this thing around once again. So let's all keep that in mind.

Police Chief's report

Chief Poleway made the following report.

1. New Seat Belt Law - Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently signed legislation (S.4336/A.6163) requiring all passengers in motor vehicles over the age of 16 to wear a seat belt. Recently, passengers aged 16 and older were only required to wear a seat belt in the front passenger seat next to the driver. We've known for decades that seat belts save lives and with this measure we are further strengthening our laws and helping to prevent needless tragedies. The injuries you can sustain from not wearing a seat belt can be deadly, and that's a fact whether you sit in the front or the back of a vehicle. Seatbelts are a proven way to make our roads safer and lower the number of automobile fatalities. This legislation will go a long way towards achieving that goal and ensuring that all passengers are safe when traveling. In 1984, under Governor Mario Cuomo, New York became the first state to pass a mandatory seat belt law and in the same year, according to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, approximately 16 percent of individuals wore seat belts. By 2008, 24 years after the law was enacted, the compliance rate was up to 89 percent. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee has indicated 30 percent of highway deaths in New York are occupants unrestrained by a seat belt. Safety experts believe that the use of a backseat seat belt could prevent over two thirds of fatalities and serious injuries resulting from crashes. This legislation seeks to reduce automobile accident fatalities and casualties by requiring all occupants of a motor vehicle to buckle up. The new law takes effect November 1.

2. Buckle Up New York – In addition to the new seat belt law, the 2020 Buckle Up New York Click It or Ticket campaign will take place from November 16th – 29th. This initiative will be markedly different this year, yet the intent is still the same, saving lives by getting people to wear their seat belt. There has also been a dangerous trend of motorists using excessive speeds on our roadways since the beginning of the pandemic. Since early spring, many businesses have reduced their hours or closed altogether and working remotely is more the norm than not. One of the unintended consequences of these factors is the reduction in the number of vehicle miles driven on our roadways. Regrettably, many drivers have chosen to use the more sparsely traveled highways as their personal speedway and embraced risky behavior behind the wheel. As a result, it is imperative that motorists be mindful to obey the posted speed limits, wear their seat belts and follow all other traffic safety laws. For more information about Buckle Up New York please visit the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee website at trafficsafety.ny.gov

Police Chief’s report
Con’t.

3. Leaf Blower Law – Local Law 6-2020 has now been approved by New York State. This new leaf blower ban is in effect and is now regulated under Chapter 180 of the Code of the Village of Larchmont. It essentially states that internal combustion or electric leaf blowers may now only be used during the month of April and October 15 through December 15th of any given calendar year.

During the months when leaf blowers are permitted to be operated in the Village of Larchmont, they may only be operated during the following hours:

- A. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays: between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- B. Saturday: between 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- C. Sundays and holidays: property owners only between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

In the event of a hurricane, tropical storm, or similar extreme weather event, the Mayor of the Village of Larchmont, in their sole discretion, may temporarily suspend provisions of this Chapter to allow the use of leaf blowers for debris cleanup.

The following parties shall have committed a violation of this law if it is not complied with:

- 1) The party operating the leaf blower, and
- 2) The party who employed the person to operate the leaf blower at the time of violation, and
- 3) The party who owns the property where the violation occurs.

Penalties - Any person violating these provisions of this local law shall be subject to fine upon conviction thereof, not exceeding \$250 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for the third offense and any subsequent offenses. Conviction for violation of this law shall be deemed a violation, not a misdemeanor nor a felony.

Police Chief's report
Con't.

Also part of this law includes that no internal combustion leaf blower shall be operated in the Village of Larchmont at any time after January 1, 2022. Until such date, no internal combustion leaf blower may be operated in the Village of Larchmont without a properly functioning muffler. Also, Local Law No. 7-2020 "Noise" that amended Ch. 195 of the VOL Code to no longer include "Leaf Blowers" which may now be found in Ch. 180. Both laws were sent today to General Code.

4. Thanksgiving holiday / DWI – While it will surely be different this year, Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, I would like to remind everyone that if you are going to drink alcohol – please do not drive. Historically, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Thanksgiving weekend are some of the most active times for our bars and restaurants. Although gatherings and outings will undoubtedly be reduced this year due to the challenges of the Coronavirus, if you are going to consume alcohol, don't drive. Please choose a sober designated driver or call a car service or taxi to ensure safe travel. The police department will be on patrol over the Thanksgiving weekend to enforce driving while impaired and all New York State V&T laws in an effort to keep all of our motorists and pedestrians safe. Social Distancing – Covid cases in New York State and Westchester County continue to climb and everyone should be aware that we are still contending with the coronavirus and that physical distancing is not only important but necessary to contain and prevent the spread of the virus. Crowds amplify the spread of the virus so please keep a proper distance in any situation when you are out in public. Also, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all people in New York are required to wear a mask or a face covering when out in public and in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.
5. Holiday Foot Posts – As we enter into the holiday season, there will be an increase of police officers on foot patrols in the business districts in an effort to interact with the public and business owners and create a safe environment for people that are conducting business and shopping within the village. Business owners are reminded to contact the police if they would like an escort while making bank deposits for their businesses at any time during the day.
6. See something – Say something – I would like to remind everyone to stay vigilant in reporting any suspicious activity that may be observed over the upcoming holiday season. If you observe something that may be suspicious, please, do not keep it to yourself – call the 24 hour NYS Terrorism Tips Line at 866 SAFE-NYS (866-723-3697) or call the Larchmont Police Department at (914) 834-1000 or simply dial 911.

Chief Poleway said Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

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

RESOLVED, to approve the application of Amber Ali as a volunteer member of the Larchmont Fire Department.

Chief Caparelli gave the following report.

1. FF. Pilla and FF. Murnane of the career staff are on week 12 of a 16-week fire academy. 2 positive COVID tests at the academy caused a 14-day quarantine of the entire class. During this time the cadets worked on class room material so as not to fall too far behind. Barring any more delays, they should graduate on December 18, 2020 and begin service to the residents of Larchmont shortly thereafter.
2. Annual Hose testing is complete with few failures of current inventory.
 - a. Annual personal escape system, bailout, recertification is complete.
 - b. Annual fit testing of our breathing apparatus masks is complete.
 - c. All apparatus have undergone annual preventative maintenance, thanks go to Village Mechanic Mike Schnabel.
3. Annual Fire Inspections are nearly complete and are on schedule to be completed by years end.
4. I filed for an AFG grant for Supplemental COVID PPE for all Village Departments.
5. A reminder to all residents that daylight savings time was two weeks ago and we all should have checked our smoke detector and Carbon Monoxide batteries. Have your fireplaces and heating units checked for proper operation. Please place all fireplace ash in a metal container at least 10 feet from combustibles.

Code Enforcement:

1. I have spent most of my time on the Winter Dining procedures and protocols for restaurants in the Village. Ensuring safe structures, heaters, snow removal and overall compliance with CDC COVID Guidance.

Chief Caparelli wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Trustees Frouman and Bauer wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Trustee Herman made the following report.

1. The Parks and Trees Committee have planted 8 of 35 new trees and shrubs from Larchmont Nurseries with the help of DPW.

Trustee Bauer wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Walsh thanked Joanne Grossman of Larchmont Nurseries for her generosity to the Village over the past year.

RESOLUTION

Ali, A. Vol member
Fire Dept.

Fire Chief's report

Trustees reports

Trustee reports
Con't.

Trustee Fanelli gave the following report.

1. Paddle Permits are available for \$150. You need a permit to play at Flint Park.
2. Paddle Tennis clinics sign-up can be found on the Village's website. No permit is required to attend a paddle clinic.
3. The Spooktacular Halloween window painting was a big success. Thanks to the Recreation Committee.
4. Pro firefighters had a candy chute on the back of fire truck. All the kids had a great time.
5. Thanks to the Volunteer firefighters for their Halloween Safety Awareness Campaign.
6. The Fire Department held the annual Inspection on October 29th. In the current climate it is good to have this long standing tradition continue. Congratulations to Theresa Fanelli for receiving the Tom Dixon Award and Myron Joseph who received his 40 Year Pin from the Fire Department.
7. The Volunteers will hold another awareness campaign and recruitment drive on November 28th in front of CVS from 10AM- 2PM.

Administrator's report

Administrator Datino gave the following report.

1. Village employees will take part in a webinar tomorrow, November 17th, to learn about the Employee Assistance Program from Westchester County.
2. Residents are asked to place their leaves out on the curb in the street, not half on the sidewalk.
3. Congratulation to Village mechanic Mike Schnabel on the birth of his second daughter MacKenzie.

Water use report

Administrator Datino added that since the installation of the remote water meters in 2016, the Village has been able to gather important data on use and water unaccounted for. Two years ago the rate was at 40% and recently it is down to 11%. That is a significant drop in usage and an increase in financial savings.

RESOLUTION

Public Hearing
12/21/2020

Traffic members

On motion of Trustee Bauer, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing is hereby scheduled by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Larchmont to be held virtually via Zoom on Monday, December 21, 2020, at 7:30 PM to consider and take public comment on the proposed local law to amend the Traffic Commission law of the Code of the Village of Larchmont, Ch. 64, to decrease the membership of the Traffic Commission from seven members to five members; and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said Public Hearing.

Work session
resolutions

Mayor Walsh announced resolutions adopted at previous work sessions.

1. Resolution to create school employee parking zones.

Michael Gottfried of 16 Ocean Avenue asked Mayor Walsh if and when the sanitation budget would be available for public viewing. The Mayor asked Mr. Gottfried if the budget was on the Joint Sanitation website. Mr. Gottfried replied it was not. Mayor Walsh said it will be put on the Village website.

Gottfried, M.

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

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the regular meetings held on, September 15, 2020, October 5, 2020 and October 19, 2020.

RESOLUTION

Minutes

9/15/2020

10/5/2020

10/19/2020

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the work session meetings held on, September 17, 2020 and November 2, 2020.

RESOLUTION

Work session minutes

9/17/2020

11/2/2020

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

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the Special Meetings held on, September 21, 2020 and October 26, 2020.

RESOLUTION

Special meeting

minutes

9/21/2020

10/26/2020

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, that Abstract Audit Voucher#17, dated November 16, 2020, in the amount of \$61,807.95, per copies filed with the Clerk, be paid, subject to review by Trustee Herman.

Mayor Walsh wished the Board, Village employees and residents a Happy Thanksgiving.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.