

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Of the Board of Trustees of the  
Village of Larchmont, N.Y.  
**held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

The Board of Trustees held this meeting via Zoom with Mayor Walsh calling the meeting to order at 7:31 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 Riley, Attorney Staudt, Administrator Datino, Treasurer Gutwein

Mayor Walsh welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

The Mayor said tonight's meeting is starting on a sad note because Trustee Malcolm Frouman who has been on the Board just about five years shy of five years, has decided not only to not run for re-election in November, but to resign early. The Board did move the date of elections in September to November and he gamely joined us in that in that vote, but in his mind, he was planning on finishing up this spring. So he has tendered his letter of resignation effective at midnight tonight. We will be planning an appropriate gathering and laying on of accolades, hopefully in the fall. I appointed Malcolm as a trustee in the Village to replace myself. When I became mayor, I still had one year left in my term as trustee, and Malcolm was my replacement. Malcolm was recommended to me, and I didn't know him at all. I reached out to him and we got together. We talked and within just a couple of minutes, I realized how valuable he was going to be and how much he had to offer the Village. Also I found out what a wonderful person he was and how it was going to be nothing but a pleasure to work with him and have him join our Board of Trustees. My premonition and first impression was absolutely correct. It has been really five years of friendship, collaboration and hard work. I could not have asked for somebody who was more dedicated, purposeful and serious about his commitment to being a trustee on the Village Board. For those of you who don't know, Malcolm has been the liaison to many of our land use boards, the Planning Board and Architectural Review and the Historic Preservation Task Force which was formed three years ago. Malcolm has worked really closely with all of those organizations and been really valuable with bringing back information to the Board and helping with the smooth operations of, of our committees.

Mayor Walsh added that Malcolm is also the in house design guru and aesthetic. So many of the things that we have undertaken over the last couple of years, like the Welcome to Larchmont sign on the bridge, the new Welcome to Larchmont sign at the Post Office, all the banners that advertise village events, the village newsletter and the photographs that we post on social media for at all of our events, would not have been done in such a professional and attractive and impactful way without the work of Malcolm Frouman, who brought all of his design skills to bear. Malcolm really helped us figure out how to brand the Village of Larchmont. So we thank him for all of the things he's done for us and with us. We will miss him on the Board. But I'm happy to report he has offered to remain as the design person that we can go to anytime we need something. I also want to let the community know that of course now we have a vacancy on the Board of Trustees as of midnight tonight. And so, tomorrow I will be officially appointing Brigid Brennan to replace Malcolm and to fill out the remainder of his term. Brigid Brennan is a longtime resident of the village of Larchmont, she's been here about 20 years. She has three children that she has raised here. She was a volunteer for I think 12 or 13 years on the village recreation committee. For those of you who have been here a while you may remember Bridget at the Fourth of July races at Flint Park. She was in charge of those for many years. She has served on a number of other groups and committees throughout the

Village for Park Conservancy, the first major renovation of Flint Park that was done way back when my kids were little she was one of the co-chairs of that. She's been on the Junior League, and the PTA. Brigid is on leadership committees at St. Augustine's Church. She is someone who has been intimately involved in many aspects and avenues of life in the Village of Larchmont and she is going to be a wonderful addition to the Board of Trustees. So we look forward to her joining us officially tomorrow.

Trustee Herman said Trustee Frouman is thoughtful, respectful and made the Board better. He is also the most artistic member of the Board.

Trustee Bauer echoed the Mayor's and Trustee Herman's words on Trustee Frouman. She added it was a pleasure to work on projects with him.

Trustee Fanelli said it was fun to serve with Trustee Frouman who is an excellent listener and presents himself with dignity. He also spoke of his tireless efforts with the Hunger Task Force.

Trustee Frouman thanked everyone for their kind words. He said joining the Board five years ago was an opportunity to give back to the community he loved. Residents should know the Village is in good hands under the Mayor's leadership.

#### POLEWAY

1. On October 12, 1976 Larchmont Patrolman Arthur Dematte was brutally murdered in the line of duty. Officer Dematte served the Larchmont community for 20 years and was also a resident of Larchmont. Officer Arthur Dematte was shot and killed while attempting to remove a transient from the New Haven Railroad tracks. The suspect was able to gain control of Officer Dematte's service weapon and then used it against him. Officer Dematte fled after being injured but was pursued and executed. His assailant, Anthony Curtis Blanks, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 25 years to life on February 2, 1978. Officer Dematte was, and still is, survived by his wife and four children. Anthony Curtis Blanks will receive a parole hearing this March 2021 to determine if he is eligible for release from prison. The Larchmont PBA is once again asking for members of the public to follow the link <https://doccs.ny.gov/form/letters-in-support-or-opposition>, complete the form and request that the NYS Parole Board deny parole for this convicted cop killer.

PLEASE NOTE THESE LETTERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FEBRUARY 17th 2021

DIN# 78A0538

LAST NAME: BLANKS

FIRST NAME: ANTHONY

MIDDLE: CURTIS

2. The number of coronavirus cases in New York fell a hopeful 28% last week, outpacing the national drop and potentially signaling that a winter surge is on the decline. But New York also saw a steady increase in the UK variant as the state hit 59 cases late last week, including 4 in Westchester, which was up 17 cases from the last reporting and the biggest jump of any state in the nation. Across New York, cases fell in 60 counties with the largest declines in Queens, Kings, and Suffolk counties. Despite the drop in cases, New York is still ranked seventh among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis. As a result, Covid is still a very real and significant issue in New York State and Westchester County and everyone should continue to 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.

3. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression, creating an opportunity for scammers to steal unemployment benefits. You don't have to be unemployed to fall victim to unemployment fraud. Many unemployment insurance victims do not know they have been affected until they file for unemployment insurance benefits—and some may not know until tax season rolls around.

Fraudulent claims are contributing to major backlogs at state unemployment offices. This is creating delays for people who are legitimately attempting to claim their unemployment benefits and those trying to clear any fraudulent claims from their name.

There have recently been at least four reports in Larchmont of attempted unemployment fraud where unemployment benefits accounts were set up using an unsuspecting victim's personal information. When someone collects unemployment insurance (UI) benefits by lying to the Department of Labor, he or she is committing fraud. It is a crime that affects businesses and workers. It drives up UI costs to law-abiding businesses, and it leaves honest workers unprotected. Any person who commits fraud will have to pay back the money and he or she will be penalized, and may be arrested and prosecuted. If you have reason to believe that someone committed UI benefits fraud, please contact the New York State Department of Labor. You may remain anonymous.

You can report UI benefits fraud three ways:

- Visit the NYS Department of Labor website at [www.labor.ny.gov/agencyinfo/uifraud.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/agencyinfo/uifraud.shtm)
- Call the fraud hotline toll-free at **(1-888) 598-2077**
- Report by mail to:

*NYS Department of Labor  
Office of Special Investigations  
Bldg 12 - Room 200  
W. Averell Harriman Campus  
Albany, NY 12240*

4. As we continue into winter and the possibility of more storms, please be reminded that residents and business owners are responsible for clearing any sidewalks in front of their property of snow and ice after the storm. Village law dictates that this is done within 24 hours of the precipitation event, or the responsible tenant could receive a court summons for a lack of compliance. Village Law (245-11) specifically states that there "should be a free and continuous passageway for a width of at least 3 feet within 24 hours of the time the snow event ends. Failure to comply could also result in the Village DPW removing the snow or ice and the cost of the labor can be assessed against the person responsible for the property. So for safety reasons, please be responsible and shovel your sidewalk.

5. As you are aware, Village Code section 273-35.1 is an "anti-idling law" which prohibits vehicles from idling for more than three minutes, if parked or standing, when the ambient temperature is in excess of 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The area's most often affected by idling vehicles and the fumes they produce are the schools and the train station. Please remember to turn your vehicle off if you are going to be stopped for more than three minutes to minimize the negative impact created by idling cars and the carbon monoxide they emit.

I would just like to take a moment to wish Trustee Malcolm Frouman good luck. I have had the pleasure of working with many trustees and mayors throughout the years and I hold Mr. Frouman in high regard among that group. He has always been supportive and gracious in his efforts and interactions with the Police Department and it has been a privilege to have collaborated with him. I wish him and his wife continued health, happiness, and peace in all of their future endeavors.

I also would like to welcome Trustee Brennan to the Board and I look forward to working with you to address the needs of the residents and the community of Larchmont.

6. I would like to remind everyone to stay vigilant in reporting any suspicious activity that may be observed. 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 Caparelli made the following report.

1. NYS has expanded the list of eligible persons for the COVID vaccines as of yesterday to include those persons with certain comorbidities. Go to [www.COVID19VACCINE.HEALTH.NY.GOV](http://www.COVID19VACCINE.HEALTH.NY.GOV) to check your eligibility.

2. FF. Pilla and FF Murnane after completing the 18-week Westchester County Career Chiefs Fire Academy and another 4 weeks of in-house training are now working alongside fellow firefighters on a regular schedule adding to the firefighters serving the residents of the Village of Larchmont.

3. A few meetings ago I mentioned that I applied for an AFG-COVID Supplemental Grant for related equipment in the event we experience another COVID type health emergency. I am happy to report that the Fire Department was awarded over \$ 22,000.00 for PPE and related equipment which will allow us to cover all Village departments, all contractors working on Village property and all visitors to Village Hall with protective PPE should the need arise.

4. The newest volunteer Amber Ali will be attending training for BEFO this month. When complete, she will add to the ranks of exterior firefighters available to respond to alarms.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT:

1. Continuing organizing and inspecting outdoor dining structures. Working with Public Works Supervisor Rick Vetere to remove unused barricades to open up more parking.

2. Enforcing the removal of snow from our sidewalks as per Village Code 245-11.

All Apparatus and equipment are fully operational.

Thank you to Trustee Frouman for all his help. It has been an honor and a privilege working with you.

Welcome to Trustee Brennan. I look forward to working with you and wish you the best of luck in your new role.

Attorney Staudt thanked Trustee Frouman for his service on the Board and for the way he could gather facts in a gentlemanly manner.

Treasurer Gutwein added it was a pleasure to work with Trustee Frouman and he was a true a gentleman.

Trustee Fanelli made the following report.

1. Paddle Permits are available for \$150 and will be valid till September 30<sup>th</sup>.

2. The Fire Department needs volunteers. Stop by the firehouse and speak with the Chief or call Trustee Fanelli at 403-2387.

3. Flint Park Day Camp will happen. Details to follow.

Trustee Herman gave the following report.

1. The Arbor Day Foundation announced that Larchmont will be named Tree City, USA, for the 40<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Plans are in the works for an 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in the fall.

2. The Parks and Trees Committee this week did something special. There was a guest speaker who spoke on the use of native plants on public grounds. Kathy Ludden, who has held positions with Greenberg Nature Center and the native plants that are Westchester Community College. She is now leading the native plants subcommittee of planting Westchester. It was a well-attended zoom presentation, with over 18 attendees. We will be posting that presentation or circulating that presentation on the village website.

Trustee Frouman made the following report.

1. The Historic Preservation Task Force has finally received a much anticipated draft of the Historic Resources Survey. And I have to tell you, having taken a look at it, and in the process of reviewing it and offering comments that it's very, very impressive, well documented survey with an incredible amount of information that undoubtedly will help inform the Board as to what sort of decision it makes regarding any sort of historic preservation ordinance. So you should be receiving our annotated draft report very soon.

Mayor Walsh announced that Dog Beach is open again. There was a big storm that washed a lot of sand away and that the drop from the seawall down to the beach was way too high and we needed to replace the sand. Apparently, you can't just go out and buy the appropriate sand, you have to get permits from the DEC that took several months for them to tell us finally what permits we might need. In the meantime, Mother Nature and several additional storms did the

work for us and brought the sand back up onto the beach. And so according to our foreman of the DPW, the beach was reopened today, and it'll hopefully stay that way going forward.

Administrator Datino said about Trustee Frouman, the dynamic between the Board, staff and me particularly is always one that is delegated. And I think you've been a great asset to the team and the Board and you've made my life easier from an administrative point of view and, and just a delight to work with. And on a personal note, your volunteerism really is something that I aspire to. Hopefully, as I have more time in different stages in my life, I'll be able to volunteer and give back in a way that you've done because it's done with all the right intentions. And you do it as a professional and gentlemen, like everyone's echoed, so cheers to you.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that a Public Hearing is hereby scheduled by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Larchmont to be held via Zoom on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7:30 PM to review a local law authorizing the Board of Trustees to adopt a budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in the General Municipal Law §3-c, as attached hereto and made a part hereof; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said Public Hearing.

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

**RESOLVED**, to authorize Administrator to request and accept Request for Proposals with a deadline date of May 10, 2021, for Railroad Station Parking Lot #1.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, on or about July 13, 2020 the Village of Larchmont Board of Trustees, pursuant to applicable law, adopted a resolution changing the annual date for Village elections from the third Tuesday in March to the date of the "general election" in November of each year, beginning in November of 2021; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, pursuant to applicable law, in the year 2021 Village elections will not be held in March. Instead, the end of the Village Official Year has been extended by operation of law to December 6, 2021, and elections for Village Offices which would otherwise have been held in March, 2021 will be held on November 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Election Law Section 15-104.1.d., terms of Offices that would have expired following the holding of a March, 2021 election are extended until December 6, 2021, the end of the current Official Year; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Larchmont Village Justice currently held by the Honorable Thea S. Beaver would have been subject to election in March of 2021 but for the change in the annual election date to November, 2021; and

WHEREAS, to assure proper operation of the Village's Justice Court, the Village Board wishes to have absolute certainty that the current term of office of Justice Thea S. Beaver is extended until the end of the current Official Year on December 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Court Administration has recommended that, to be absolutely certain of the continuation of Judge Beaver's term through the November, 2021 election, the Village Mayor and Village Board appoint Judge Beaver to serve as Village Justice for the period running from the time her term of office would otherwise have expired following a March, 2021 election (April 5, 2021) until the end of the Village Official year following the November, 2021 election, to wit, December 6, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted and resolved as follows:

1. I, Lorraine Walsh, Mayor of the Village of Larchmont hereby appoint Thea S. Beaver to the Office of Village Justice of the Village of Larchmont for the term commencing at noon, April 5, 2021 and ending at noon, December 6, 2021; and

2. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Larchmont hereby confirms, ratifies, and appoints Thea S. Beaver to the Office of Village Justice of the Village of Larchmont for the term commencing at noon, April 5, 2021 and ending at noon, December 6, 2021.

On motion of Trustee Frouman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that a Public Hearing is hereby scheduled by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Larchmont to be held via Zoom on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7:30 PM to review a local law to coordinate and expedite approval processes for certain building façade improvements in the Village of Larchmont Business District., as attached hereto and made a part hereof; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said Public Hearing.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, with the submission of Michael Gottfried of 16 Ocean Avenue to be attached, the minutes of January 11, 2021.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Town of Mamaroneck Board held on January 20, 2021.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Frouman, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to approve the minutes of the work session of January 25, 2021.

On motion of Trustee Frouman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:28PM.