

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2
OCTOBER 6, 2009

A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:44 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan, Trustee Meg Walker, Trustee Nicola Armacost, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Administrative Assistant Kevin Hay.

CITIZENS: Eight (8).

Mayor Swiderski declared the Board in session for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing in accordance with the legal notice that appeared in the October 2, 2009 issue of *The Rivertowns Enterprise* to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2009, amending the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, Chapter 282 Vehicles and Parking, to Eliminate Certain Loading and No Parking Zones and to Create New Parking Meter Zones, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, as follows:

I am going to tell you what is being eliminated, and what is being added. In Section 1, Paragraph B(2) of Section 282-21, which are loading zones, we are deleting the fragment that reads “the south side of Main Street, starting at the point 137 feet east of Warburton Avenue and extending 46 feet east of that point,” and replacing it with “The west side of Warburton Avenue starting at a point approximately 42 feet south of West Main Street and extending south for approximately 45 feet from that point.”

The second section being modified is 282-25.A. This is parking. We are deleting two different clauses. One is (41) “Warburton Avenue, on its east side between Villard Avenue and along Warburton Avenue around the curve to Broadway.” The other is (48) “Villard Avenue, on the south side between Whitman Street and Broadway between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on days when school is in session.” The subsequent paragraphs are being numbered accordingly.

We are adding in Section 282-35 the following new paragraphs, which represent new parking meter zones:

“N. North side of Villard Avenue starting at a point approximately 81 feet east of Warburton Avenue and extending east for approximately 90 feet from that point.

O. East side of Warburton Avenue starting at a point approximately 156 feet north of Villard Avenue and extending north for approximately 44 feet from that point.

P. East side of Warburton Avenue starting at a point approximately 220 feet north of Villard Avenue and extending north for approximately 45 feet from that point.”

Section 4 stipulates that all ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof, inconsistent with this local law, are hereby repealed.

Section 5 says that this local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State.

Village Manager Frobel: This creates some additional parking opportunities along Warburton Avenue. It also creates metered spaces on parts of Villard that are now free, but moves those further up Villard, closer to Broadway. The elimination of parking near a school is a reference to when St. Matthew’s School was in operation. This recommendation comes after some work by the Police Department, advising that we look to add some parking spaces for the merchants and shoppers who use the downtown area.

Mayor Swiderski: Are there any comments from the public?

Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue: I have no specific comment about the location of the meters, but I have been doing a lot of thinking about where meters should be located. One of the things we should think about, not necessarily at this meeting, is how those meters serve the different retail operations. As an example, somebody who is going to run in and get a bagel is going to be looking for a different parking situation than someone who is going to eat at, say, Tony’s. So when we look to locate new parking meters, we should look at the businesses those meters are serving and try and make a determination about whether they are being placed properly. I would like you to consider the advisability of parking meters back in Boulanger. I know that is an issue that has been put to bed, but it is still something that a lot of people in the Village are talking about. At some point we may want to have a small committee to investigate that.

David Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue: I do not have any specific objection to the proposal, but I have two questions. Do you know who previously would tend to use these spaces? It is a little unclear. In a proposal like this some kind of diagram would make a big difference in being able to visualize. I am not clear whether some of these spaces were previously prohibited from parking and others, where parking was allowed, had no metering. Is that the case?

Village Manager Frobels: That is the case along Warburton. It was prohibited but, at times, people would park there.

Mr. Skolnik: I know on Sundays they were allowed to park there.

Village Manager Frobels: There is no parking allowed on the northern part of Villard, the south side of Villard. That was once the drop-off for school buses. So no parking is allowed there today.

Mr. Skolnik: That remains.

Village Manager Frobels: No, we are going to have free parking up there. We are swapping the lower section that is on the north side and moving it to the south side of Villard, north of Whitman.

Mr. Skolnik: You mean past the church.

Village Manager Frobels: Past the church, yes.

Mr. Skolnik: Do you have a sense of what constituency was availing itself of these? Did you have the sense it was more commuters?

Village Manager Frobels: Villard was more commuters, and Warburton was more business personnel or people who owned shops downtown.

Mr. Skolnik: So you feel the local people who would be affected by this in any way are pretty much aware of this?

Village Manager Frobels: I met with the Chamber of Commerce on two occasions, most recently last Wednesday, and explained the situation to them. They have supported this proposed change.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: I am against parking meters in residential areas, such as Maple. In front of the police station, I can see it. I can see Warburton, Main Street, and down Spring Street, Why can you not put them on the Warburton Avenue bridge? I do not see any there. Is there some reason, because it is county, or something else? There you could make 20, 30 spots. That would be access to a lot of stores, and would be a lot better than in a residential.

Village Manager Frobel: There were some concerns about drilling holes in the bridge decking area, but we may be able to explore that in the future with the county.

Mayor Swiderski: And also, when you put in stripes you maximize where the cars can use it. Right now, no striping, there are more gaps than necessary.

Trustee Walker: Actually, it is the other way around. You maximize the number of cars when you do not have stripes. They tend to park as closely as they can.

Mayor Swiderski: I stand corrected. I would have guessed the opposite.

Village Attorney Stecich: One other thing about the bridge, one of the reasons the Chief recommended moving the loading zone from the street to the bridge was because you could not put meters on there otherwise. So you move the loading zone there, and then what was the loading zone is available for parking.

Elisa Zazzara, 68 Southside Avenue: I do not know if I heard Mr. Gonder's comment. Was it to put meters on the bridge? I would highly recommend not putting meters on the bridge. Living in that area, without a parking space or a garage, the bridge is sometimes the only place we can park. That would take a lot of residential spaces away.

Village Manager Frobel: The next step is consideration of having these meters on Warburton designated for prepaid spots for business owners. The concept is that a shop owner could come to Village Hall and purchase, perhaps, a six month or 12 month permit,. It would not be guaranteed to the person, but would allow some flexibility where a shop owner would know there would be a parking space for his employee. We are exploring that possibility, but this is not scheduled for tonight. There is no action on that this evening.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Swiderski asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski closed the Public Hearing at 7:52 p.m.