

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2010

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:35 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 Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

CITIZENS: Eight (8).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2010 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the following Warrant was approved:

Multi-Fund No. 46-2009-10 \$204,862.32

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: My hat is off to you, Mr. Mayor, in regard to your recent dealings with the DEC. Anaconda, they are knocking those buildings down. It looks great. You ought to tell Joe Sontchi to keep the machines there and take saw tooth building down while they are at it. I do not know if the architects were trying to save that building. But it is a new millennium, we ought to get rid of it and start from scratch. If the buildings were 1700 or 1600 dated, then I would say keep them. But it is going to be an eyesore down there.

There is a storm drain that runs from High Street, through Pulvers Woods, through my property, across James Street to a storm drain going east. The water never stops running, even in a drought. It is running at like 3,600 gallons an hour. There must be springs up there. Last year I told you about West Nile virus found in mosquitoes in Hastings. The pipe is uncovered for 48 feet in Pulvers Woods. Approximately 15 yards from my property is a two foot pipe. They fixed it maybe four or five years ago. They have to fix it again. I am concerned about West Nile, especially at my age. My grandchildren and my children, we spend a lot of time out in the yard. So we would like to see that expert on storm drains at

your last meeting to look at it. It is the only pipe for 48 to 50 feet that is not covered, and it should be covered because every time they fix it they cut big holes in the top, pump water out, cement it, and then put the cover back on in about 10 locations. It is not working, so I hope you can look into that. **Fred Olsson, 3 Glenwood Avenue:** I am going to read this because I have a short memory.

"It was a thrill to see, for the first time, the Hudson River and the Palisades from the vantage point of the station platform. As the buildings come down, the panorama becomes even more beautiful. This beautiful site should belong to the people of Hastings. My wife, Muriel, and I, and our two daughters, Beth and Lisa, came to Hastings in 1962. There was talk about the waterfront at the time, 48 years ago. Finally something has happened, and a wonderful opportunity is before us. My wife and I would like to propose a drive to acquire the waterfront, to buy the waterfront. We will immediately give the first \$1,000 to start the drive. We believe that the fund would come from many sources and a new day would begin."

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Avenue: A very educational and informative meeting was held last Wednesday held at the County Center on the topic of the deer. A gentleman from Cornell came down. It would be worthwhile to contact this gentleman. They have a similar situation: high density around the campus. He dispelled the myth that was published in *The Enterprise* about deer surgical sterilization being between \$750 and \$1000. He says with the facilities they have, and the veterinarian school and the free time and labor, it costs anywhere from \$1,200 to \$1,500 per deer.

On the waterfront, have they utilized a barge to remove materials? The drivers through the Village, from what I have seen, are very professional and courteous. It has been well-done. But I want a clarification later on, on that point.

Trustee Quinlan: I can see the barge from my office window. It was there early on in the demolition. It brought most of the heavy equipment in, and was there about a month ago taking a lot of the steel out. I have not seen it in the last two or three weeks.

Village Manager Frobel: I think the game plan was to acquire the materials, stockpile it, and then bring the barge back when there is a sufficient amount of product to remove.

Trustee Quinlan: It is very difficult to see from the train station or the road because where they dock the barge is behind Buildings 51 and 52. But if you get up to the overlook from the library or from my office, you can see it when it does dock.

Mayor Swiderski: It is about 20 feet north of the water tower.

Mr. Downey: Back to the DPW discussion earlier on, I had discussed great inefficiencies and vulnerabilities in the way we manage our waste. I am not in favor of the law as it was passed. I do not think it will benefit the Village long-term in terms of a technically viable solution. At the same show, there was a gentleman from a company and I have left his business cards here. He has agreed to come to the Village and look at what we have in materials and our space; he works with several municipalities already. It costs the Village \$15 on the front side for disposal of materials. But that is not the true cost because it is subsidized by the county. Maybe we could have independent management of it, as opposed to being part of this pool. Again, I go to the quarry as being a vital space the Village needs, which we do not have because of our lack of space at the DPW facility. I will be meeting with him. If anyone would like to join, or get information as to the outcome, I would be happy to provide that. Let us take it to the next step and see what interest there is in the Village to save money. I believe there is a savings to be realized.

Mayor Swiderski: Tim, there is a deer meeting tomorrow at Greenburgh involving immunocontraception or something like that. Are you aware of that?

Mr. Downey: No, that whole contraception thing I am not interested in. The math was spelled out very clearly by the gentleman from Cornell, and he talked about both the chemical and mechanical means. It was a fantastic presentation.

5:10 KINNALLY COVE – CHANGE ORDER AND PROJECT ACCEPTANCE

Village Manager Frobel: The staff is in the midst of closing out several grants, one of which is Kinnally Cove. We are also closing out a transportation grant, and a grant we received for improvements to the stairs at the tennis courts at Hillside Woods and creation of a dugout.

The one in front of you this evening is on advice of our auditors, who are assisting in development of a program audit. This is for the closeout of a grant we received in 2002 for improvements to the cove in the amount of \$100,000. It is their advice that the Board needs to consider passage of this resolution, which would affirm a change order which occurred in early 2008 in which it was determined that the designers had intended to leave on the site the steel hull of a boat that had been driven ashore. The decision was made to take that out. We felt it would be an attractive nuisance that would detract from the park. The second action in the resolution is affirming that the project has, in fact, been completed. We had our dedication ceremony in June, 2008. The last payment was made to the contractor in November of that year. So if the Board would consider passage of this it would close it out and allow us to process reimbursement for this grant.

Trustee Walker: Your report mentions that the Village plans to add some landscaping in the spring of 2009. I was wondering if that was completed or if there is more landscaping that is going to be added.

Village Manager Frobel: They have been back twice now doing some landscaping, and it is an ongoing project. Ray Gomes, the director of Parks and Rec, consults with two women who are active in the community in landscape plantings. They have been very helpful in telling him what kinds of plantings are appropriate for that site.

Trustee Walker: I would like to see a couple of shade trees, something that will grow to some significant size and provide shade.

Village Manager Frobel: Mrs. Kinnally's class bought one and we planted it. I do not know if there is room for another, but let us keep that in mind.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the Change Order from Xavier Construction Co., Inc. with an increase of \$7,500.00 for the Kinnally Cove Park project for removal of the sunken ship hull, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Kinnally Cove Park Project is accepted as completed.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

6:10 RETURN OF ACCOUNT AND AFFIDAVIT

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Every year I present to you the statement of taxes due as of the December 31. This year we had 198 outstanding parcels, for a total of \$383,000. Reminder letters went out last week to people whose taxes were not paid either inadvertently, or

because of some mix-up in refinancing, or a mortgage company oversight, whatever. We have got a substantial number of payments back so the list that you have tonight shows 138 delinquent parcels, for \$275,000.

Trustee Armacost: What do we do about the people who do not pay? Do they eventually pay? Does everyone pay?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Some do. When they become tax liens, which is the middle of March, we have perhaps 40 parcels. Those are sold to investors so the Village is made whole. Many of those are redeemed eventually, but some few are not. And then, of course, those properties are subject to foreclosure at some point.

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees certify and approve the Return of Account and Affidavit as attached for the Village 2009-10 tax roll.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

7:10 WAIVER OF VILLAGE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR JUSTICE COURT EMPLOYEES

Village Manager Frobel: Periodically we are required to submit to the county a certified list of our payroll with names and addresses of employees. During that review, it was pointed out to us by the county that the young man who serves as the clerk to the court does not live in the Village. I knew that when we made our recommendation to the Board. It was just something that we were not aware of, that the law required that. At this time we are asking that the Board consider a waiver of that requirement for residency so he may keep his position.

Trustee Quinlan: Is this a waiver for just this one gentleman, or are we waiving it in the future for everyone?

Village Manager Frobel: This is the language that has been recommended to us by the county. It would be for any non-judicial employee who works for the court.

Trustee Quinlan: Is there a reason why we are not just making an exception for this gentleman, and making it something that could go on forever for anybody that is hired by the court? I do not think it is a bad idea to try to get a Village resident to be employed by the Village. I can see making an exception for one person because it is an unusual situation, it was a mistake, whatever. Those things happen, but I am a little hesitant to say forever that anybody who lives in New York State can have the job, when I assume there is a residency requirement for other positions in the Village like, for example the people that work in the office or your secretary.

Village Manager Frobel: I do not believe so. No, there is not.

Trustee Quinlan: So just for judicial employees?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, that is what was pointed out to us. That is my understanding of the law.

Trustee Quinlan: So it is your understanding that only the employees employed by the court have a residency requirement, and no other employees hired by the Village do?

Village Manager Frobel: That is my understanding, and that includes police officers. If you would like, we could do a little more research and hold off passage of it this evening.

Village Attorney Stecich: No, this had to be done.

Trustee Jennings: This is pretty obvious. But just to confirm, obviously the state law is written in such a way that it gives village municipalities the power to waive it. So that brings up the question of can we properly pass a law that names a particular individual and just applies to a particular individual. Is that proper, is that legal? If we did that, would we run the risk of some kind of complaint, or even lawsuit, about discrimination or something of that sort? I would like to have a fuller discussion of Jerry's point. What are the pros and cons of writing general language like this versus specifying a particular employee?

Village Attorney Stecich: I could not say. The way I read the law I am not even sure there is that residency requirement. But it was just an easier way to deal with it and just give them the law. Bruce makes a good point, but you could always undo the waiver at some point if you wanted to. You could vote to reimpose the residency requirement.

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees waive the requirement of residency in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson for any non-judicial employees hired by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Justice Court, and be it further

RESOLVED: that such employees must reside in New York State.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan		X
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

Trustee Quinlan: I do not have enough information to vote on this tonight.

**8:10 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2010
REMOVAL OF HANDBILL AND POSTERS SECTION FROM VILLAGE CODE**

Village Attorney Stecich: This is a provision in the code that was written in 1913 that says that you cannot put up any posters, bills, or notices or anything on any public place without a permit from the mayor. As far as I know, there has never been anything like that so it does not make any sense to have the law in there.

Trustee Walker: I am all for repealing that law. But I have heard from a number of residents about the large signs we discussed at the last meeting. Did they get a permit, why is it so big, who are they, why are they allowed to do this? I explained the discussion we had, and that if we outlaw one we have to outlaw all. This is why we want to change this, because we all agree that these kinds of community signs about events, notices, electioneering and so on, there is nothing wrong with them. I would like to revisit at a time in the future something that will just regulate the size and maybe not even location. A lot of people have said they found it unattractive, even if they agree with what the sign says. I do not think it is urgent, as long as that sign comes down at the end of January, but I think it is something to think about.

Mayor Swiderski: I, too, have gotten an earful.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2010 Deleting Chapter 162, Handbills and Posters, from the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Jeremiah Quinlan	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: Mayor, let me yield my time to the next topic, and perhaps I can help Trustee Walker in discussion of the downtown initiatives.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Downtown Business District Initiatives

Trustee Walker: I would like to give a report on a variety of downtown initiatives, and base it on the action plan that I introduced last April the night that several of us were sworn in. We all presented our action plans for the coming year. My charge was to talk about the downtown. I put up a fairly aggressive schedule and talked about a number of steps that we all agreed were our goals to achieve for the next year, some spilling into the following year. I invited members of the Chamber to join us here tonight so that they could also comment.

One of the goals was to have a more active partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. I think we are going in the right direction. We all agreed that the Village needed to be more proactive in dealing with the downtown. The first step was to start attending Chamber meetings, and talk to them about what they would like to see done and what we would like to see done and what we could do in partnership.

Number one, employee parking: finding off-street parking for downtown employees so they would not be parking in front of their shops and feeding the meters, an option not so remote that they could not easily walk to their businesses, but remote enough that they would not be taking customers' parking places. We have some success on this, and there is still work to do. I have Chief Bloomer and the Village Manager to thank for investigating remote on-street parking spaces where we are in the process of putting up meters. We hope to assign these to not exclusively downtown employees, but that they will be made available to downtown employees who buy a permit. Chief Bloomer suggested, and we all accepted, a number of parking spaces on Warburton on the north end, up Villard, and on Main Street moving a loading zone. I forget how many spaces we got in total. Do you remember?

Village Manager Frobel: I thought the Chief identified upwards of 15, maybe a few more, that would be designated to this business parking. Our thought was to consider recommending to the Board they be designated as business-eligible parking spaces.

Trustee Walker: It does not mean they will not be available to others. It means we will put a blue hat or a band or something on them to designate them for employees if the employee has a permit they can put in their windshield. This should save them money so they do not have to be feeding the meters and free up spaces closer to the downtown.

Off-street parking: we discussed investigating private properties where the landlord might be happy to offer off-street parking for a fee. We discussed talking to Grace Church, to the A&P, and to St. Matthews about what used to be the St. Matthews School. We were even thinking of approaching Overseas Auto because they have some parking spaces that are not always used right on Warburton Avenue. There may be additional on-street spaces we could investigate, but we are off to a good start in finding the 15 that you mentioned.

Directional signage: I worked with Nina Cangiano, who is on the Chamber and also on the Economic Development Committee, and Randy Paradise. We revisited the 2007 Chamber of Commerce signage report, which was very well-done. We also looked again at the 2002 sign manual prepared by the Historic River Towns of Westchester. We proposed last August after getting input from the Chamber of Commerce a sign program for directional signage on Broadway, particularly to direct people into the downtown; also one on Farragut for people coming from Ravensdale Road and also from the Saw Mill Parkway; and additional signage in the downtown to identify certain destinations that people might be looking for like the waterfront, the train station, the library, Village hall, and parking lots. We came up with design recommendations and sizes. The Village applied for a grant through the LWRP last September but we just found out we are not being awarded that grant, so we have to look now at moving forward without that grant. Do we want to do it in phases and pick a few signs that we could do this year, and then a few more next year? Then we might want to put

them in our upcoming budget. The next step, then, is a discussion among the Board whether we want to pay for some. Fran, what was the total cost for the package?

Village Manager Frobel: We had a good estimate of \$13,620 for upwards of 12 or 14 signs of various sizes. As you pointed out, the grant was going to cover that. If we did some this year, and plan for it next year, that was our fallback position.

Trustee Walker: Our fallback position is to pay for it ourselves. We all believe these are really important. It is important to the downtown, it is important to the Chamber, it is important to the businesses that people be able to find them. Perhaps looking at the ones to get people off of Broadway into the downtown and to the parking lots, those signs might be the first group we would want to price out separately and put in for the budget this year.

Trustee Armacost: Have we exhausted all possibilities for grants on this? This does not prevent us from doing what you are suggesting, going incrementally, but I am wondering if there is another source of funding.

Village Manager Frobel: None that I am aware of right now, but we will continue to search. In neighboring communities, Dobbs for example, these signs were paid for by a local businessman. So it could be private sponsorship, as well.

Trustee Walker: This is the first year the Main Street grants are available to municipalities as opposed to non-profits. That might be something to look into.

Village Manager Frobel: I am somewhat aware of that program, but let me look at that.

Trustee Walker: The third item is Business Toolbox and Design Guidelines. Business Toolbox was an initiative that was proposed by the Board. It was eagerly adopted by the Economic Development Committee last summer. Nina Cangiano took the lead and hired two high school students who needed to do community service in May and June. They developed a piece of our Web site that provides a lot of information to businesses considering locating in Hastings. It gives a lot of information about the Village, the demographics, the median house price, the level of education. It provides information that might be of interest in terms of buying power. There is also information about getting approvals from the Zoning Board and the Planning Board and the Building Department. It would be interesting to see if it is getting any hits, but they did a terrific job in getting that up. We may want to revisit it every year and see if we can update it and maybe improve it.

Design Guidelines: The Architectural Review Board has come back to us with a revised version of the Design Guidelines they produced. Over the last two or three years they have

been working on them, maybe even longer. Last summer we had a work session where we reviewed them and made a number of comments, and the ARB revised them. We will probably have a work session soon to review them.

Downtown event: Friday Night Live is alive and well and we are planning for the coming year. We are taking January and February off, and are going to kick off on the first Friday in March, March 5, with a literary event to celebrate Reading Month. We had a brainstorming meeting two weeks ago where we invited anybody who wanted to come. We got a great turnout of folks who had not been to an event meeting before. They came with great ideas. We looked at the calendar. There are a few dates that fall on holiday weekends so we are trying to figure out whether those Fridays should stay on the holiday weekend or be moved off. We tied themes to the dates: art-related themes, music, film, visual arts, theater, magic, dance. We appointed four committees. The first committee is business and fund-raising. They met last Tuesday and came up with a number of great ideas, particularly around sponsorships and fund-raising ideas. The chair of that committee is David Pugh. There is a merchant outreach committee which is working with the Chamber, and also working on ideas for how to communicate with the merchants and encourage them to get involved in Friday Night Live in an active, energetic way. Carl Carvalho is chair of that committee. A third committee we call the creative committee, chaired by Margaret Moulton, is looking at what partners we bring in to help us program these events, especially in the arts. The fourth one is publicity. We are just getting that one together, working with our publicity team that did such a terrific job last year coming up with ideas for how to make it run more smoothly this year. Also, we would like to bring in Lisa O'Reilly as a paid manager. We are not going to be able to pay her very much, but we would like to pay her something. She will be overseeing all the logistics and details for each one, pulling everything together. This is apart from her job for Parks and Rec.

Downtown cleanliness: this is one that the Chamber is very interested in because this year is their clean-it-up year. We spoke at the last Chamber meeting about how the Village could partner with the Chamber in doing a number of things: beautification, cleaning, power cleaning the sidewalks. We understand that it is the responsibility of landlords, and probably they rely on their tenants, to clean and maintain the sidewalks in front of their shops. But it is a big job. It is a very busy area and there is a lot of litter, a lot of gum. One of the things we talked about is could the Village consider once a year power cleaning the sidewalks. The Village owns a power washer so it is the cost of labor to do this. We have to determine how much that would cost and how long it takes and so on. It is something we could consider doing on our end. But on the other hand, we need to enforce the day-to-day cleaning by the landlords and tenants of the areas in front of their shops. It is a quid pro quo. The Village will do something if we get the business owners and the landlords to do something. Likewise, the Village Manager mentioned to me that the Village is acquiring,

with Tarrytown, a machine to remove gum from the sidewalks. This is a particularly onerous thing and difficult to get off. That goes hand-in-hand with this power washing. This is one of the things I would like to explore when we get to budget time. Also paying a DPW person to, on a regular basis, do a number of things more active than dumping of the trash cans. Maybe we buy more trash cans so we do not have to dump them as much for the downtown. Look into getting recycling cans for the downtown. So have some DPW employees who are assigned to look after some of these tasks in the downtown and, at the same time, work with the Chamber closely on how they can help, as well.

We have also talked about reaching out to the landlords, and this is something we have not done yet. The EDC has initiated this discussion, as well. They are collecting the names and phone numbers of landlords who are very hard to reach. We are thinking of having a meeting where we invite the landlords, as many as we can get. We can discuss a lot of the initiatives that we are undertaking in the downtown that, in fact, will be really helping promote their buildings, increase their property values, perhaps increase their ability to find new tenants. A lot of the things we are doing should be helping these landlords rent their spaces and get good rents for them. We want to form a partnership with the landlords. This is one of the things I would like to tackle with the EDC and the Chamber this coming year.

Finally, joint communications. The Chamber wondered if they would be able to use any of the Village communications media, for example the Web site, HoH-TV, and email blasts to promote the downtown. We do have access to a lot of people through email blasts, and so on. Certainly, we are promoting events through our emails and Web site. Can we promote businesses? Can we use it not specifically for one business or two businesses, but a number of businesses? Can we promote the Chamber? I have a question about the legality of that. We have been promoting events. So does that mean we can promote other things? The events are there to, of course, help the downtown businesses. But it is a different kind of thing than promoting businesses themselves.

Trustee Quinlan: One of things that disturbs me the most about the downtown in general is the lack of signs, something that I have been discussing with the Board since I was elected in 2006. The cost is \$13,000, we have a \$13 million budget. We were trying to get a grant, which we did not get. Every other village has signs that I know of. They are attractive, they help people, they promote business, they make your village look good. Come budget time, we are going to be hit by different people for money, a lot of different programs, not-for-profit and for-profit businesses, etc., the Chamber, Little League. So I am wondering if we could get a little creative to get these signs. Does the Village spend any money to promote and put on Friday Night Live?

Trustee Walker: Last year the Village gave Friday Night Live \$1,000, and the Chamber did, as well. We raised over \$11,000 last year. Only \$1,000 of that came from the Village and the rest of it came from private residents, local businesses, and corporations.

Trustee Quinlan: So for the signs, we could get creative and look for private funds. Have we instituted charging any rent, and it does not have to be a lot, for the Farmers' Market for use of the municipal lot and the Community Center?

Village Manager Frobel: For the Community Center but not for the municipal lot.

Trustee Quinlan: And what do we charge them? What is it, once a month a couple of hundred dollars?

Village Manager Frobel: I really do not know.

Trustee Quinlan: Maybe we could dedicate that money for the signs. These are just creative ways to think about it. Or even if we charged them for the use of the municipal lot. I know this is a hot-button issue but I do not think we should give anything away for free. Even \$100, and that would be for six months, that would be \$600. Maybe we could dedicate the parking passes for these new parking spaces that the merchants hopefully would buy to save money, and dedicate that for the signs. It is just crazy that we cannot find \$13,000 to get signs, and we have been talking about it for years. We could have a public-private partnership. And it could be part of the budget, even if we could get half of it and see if they could get the other half.

Trustee Walker: But it would be nice to do it all at once.

Trustee Quinlan: There has got to be some way to do it because, to me, it is just something not that expensive, considering our budget. The benefits far outweigh the cost.

Trustee Armacost: The one topic I heard from merchants before I became a Boardmember, and after being a Boardmember, was why do we not have signs, we have been asking for this for years, what is the blockage? Apparently, the blockage was that we were applying for a grant which we did not get. So I think Jerry is right: any creative solution we can find. I love the idea of public-private partnerships, creating a matching fund scenario, where the Village provides, through these various creative means, half the funds and the other funds come from either somebody in the Village who cares about it, or a collective of merchants. This is a great way of addressing this issue. But we have to make a commitment to getting whatever everyone agrees, by consensus, are the key signs. Prioritize which signs are non-negotiable, which ones we would like to have, and which ones are less of a priority.

Trustee Quinlan: If you charge, let us say, the Farmers' Market \$100 a week for the municipal lot, and they knew that that money was going to be dedicated for downtown signage, I think they would probably embrace the idea.

Trustee Armacost: Exactly. That is what I was just about to say.

Trustee Quinlan: We could put a sign up. If you told people what their money was going for, instead of into a general obligation fund where they do not know where it is going, that they might be more inclined to say, I can throw in \$1,000. Mr. Gonder, I know you would not like this, but we could even get BP/ARCO to give us \$1,000 for downtown signage. It is a healthy economic program. Niki you bring up a good point: matching funds. We will give you a dollar for anything you can raise, from the Chamber, from the parking, anybody.

Mayor Swiderski: You have done a sick amount of work in the last nine months on your agenda. Let us just cut to the chase. It is an A-plus on effort. You pursued a bunch of initiatives and if it was not for lack of funding would have hit every one of them. I do not think there is any question that there is movement and life in the downtown that there was not, and it is entirely due to the efforts of you and an almost equally sick group of volunteers who back you on Friday Night Live and the other efforts, where people are just putting in thousands of collective hours on this. I do not think everybody realizes how much work those events take. To commit doing that monthly is an ongoing and major commitment. First of all, thank you and congratulations. It is a killer first nine months. I do not know how you can possibly hope to sustain it.

With that said, on the signage issue it is right up there with police and fire. We expect to have street signs pointing to where our houses are. You would expect to have a sign pointing to where the downtown is. It is, to me, the equivalence in terms of what a village should provide. I have no problem with matching it. I have no problem with a direct budgetary line item. It is a one-time event. Those signs last for 15 years and up. So it is not a recurring \$13,000 hit. It is a one-time hit for something that is an embarrassing absence.

Trustee Quinlan: You could even have a sign for the police department. You cannot even find the police department. We do not have a sign for it. And the court.

Mayor Swiderski: The Friday Night Lives have been hugely popular with people. How to make that an ongoing, sustainable effort that does not involve the blood, sweat, and tears of 100 volunteers, but collapses into something more reasonable and manageable, is a major issue. You can only squeeze blood out of rocks for so long before people get sick of it and step away. We have to figure out how to make it sustainable because it is such fun and those

who participate so enjoy it. So it would be nice to see it institutionalized in a way that does not break the bank but somehow, like the Farmers' Market did, becomes self-sustaining.

Trustee Jennings: I also commend you, Meg, and everyone who has been working with you on this project. In addition to everything else that has been accomplished that you have described, the Friday Night Live activity has mobilized so much volunteer effort, so much productive effort. Not just wasting time in meetings, but really getting things done. And it has put the downtown back into our consciousness as a village in a way that is extremely healthy and very promising. So thank you for that, all of you. I would like to add my support for setting priorities of things that need to be done. Important things for the Village cost money. We should put them in the regular budgetary process if they have a high enough priority. If we raise grants, if we raise private donations, that is fine. Then budgeted monies can be shifted elsewhere. But we should not say we are going to do this if, and only if, we get a grant, because then it never gets done, or might not get done, and too often does not get done. Too often the grant process either is unsuccessful or is delayed over many years. That is nobody's fault. We have seen that pattern for a long time. As long as I have been paying attention to Hastings politics and government, for a decade or more, that has been a pattern. We need to break out of that pattern. It is very important that we set priorities and that we look at everything in the budget. We say \$13,000, we do not have an unlimited amount of money, the signs are important, what is less important. Maybe that should wait for grants, not the signs. That is the exercise of budgeting. Going forward that is very much going to be more what the budgetary process in this village will be like. And I applaud that.

Trustee Armacost: I do think, Meg, that Friday Night Live has been phenomenal. The feedback that I have had has been all positive, from the usual suspects who you would expect to say that it is positive, and also from some people who may have been more skeptical. You should take that as a huge success, and congratulations on that. On being creative about grants, on fund-raising and on prioritizing, what stays in a budget and what has to get cut, I would love to be helpful on that.

Susan Lewenz, President, Chamber of Commerce: Trustee Jennings, I do not think I could have said it better than what you just said. Everybody has talked about the parking and how important it is with the signage in town. We have been talking about it for four years, you said. Our letter is three years old as of a couple of days ago. If we all agree it is such a priority that every normal town has signage, then it should be a normal part of our budget. I know, Trustee Quinlan, that you mean well by the creative funding. But let us just put it in the budget. Use creative funding, as Trustee Armacost said, as nice-to-haves. But signage is not a nice-to-have. It is a must-have, and we are four years late on it.

Let us get to the positive stuff, though. We have a very aggressive, great Chamber agenda. We have got an active Chamber growing, a lot of people getting involved, and a lot of it thanks to the activities of Friday Night Live and how visible that made the downtown. In general, the feeling on the merchants was very positive. Yes, there were some mixed reviews, as you can always expect any time you have that number of people involved. But, by and large, very positive, very supportive. The Chamber is very behind it and we want to continue it as a partnership. We did creatively come up with an agenda of items that I am going to run through quickly. The next question, just to close on the signage, is when. I know we have been talking, but let us do something creative. Let us say by April we will have signs up. We could actually go on television right now and say by April.

Mayor Swiderski: We have budget season coming up.

Ms. Lewenz: That is why I picked April. I thought it seemed like a good target date. But instead of being vague, let us all believe in it, let us go on record and say by this day signs are going to be up. I challenge you to consider that. It just struck me, \$13,000 for 14 signs seemed awfully high. I am not a sign person, but in the market today every business is hurting, which is a good thing for you because it means they are going to work with you. There is a lot of competition, and people are cutting their costs. So you might find you could get a much better price today than you got when you got your original quotes.

Next item up for us is the clean initiative. Our theme this year is going to be "Clean It Up." We want to do something very visible to the town. The major thing that every resident talks about is how dumpsy the town looks. So how great will it be if we take on some initiatives that people can visibly see a change to the downtown. We are planning a seasonal campaign. We will have our spring, our summer, our fall, and our winter Clean It Up campaigns, and each one will have its theme. What is very important is that it is not just let us plant some flowers, have a couple of press shots, and forget about it. It is something we want to see on a continuing basis. We applaud the sandblasting of the sidewalks. Please, get the gum off. I can tell you that this would have an enormous impact on the residents because you do not realize how negative it is, with all that black on the sidewalk, psychologically.

Replace the missing trees. Again, I know that means finding money. April might be a good target date for that, as well. People see things growing, it is a very positive thing. We, on our side, are planning to fund and do a project to plant flowers and things around town. We will provide watering pots for each merchant to water his assigned flower pot. Things like that are a relatively small effort to fund, but will make the downtown look very nice. We all remember the film that was done with Meryl Streep, and how nice our downtown looked for a little while with all that planting. I do not think we need Hollywood. We can do that ourselves. That is part of our spring campaign.

We also would like to see the Village remind owners of their responsibilities. I would also like to encourage that effort to keep the area in front of the VFW clean. Really dumpy at times, just really nasty-looking. I bet you if you put up a couple of garbage cans, which we are lacking, there are not enough garbage cans, that you would see people keep them cleaner. If we cleaned up the garbage cans themselves and made them look fresher you would have more usage. I am a big believer: I do not think you can have too many garbage cans. The more garbage cans you have, the less you will have on the ground.

Dog waste removal. This is my big bugaboo. I am just nuts when I see, on those little square tree lawns, the way everyone leaves their dog waste. I am a dog owner myself. We would like to, again as part of our initiative, put little signs up and little fencing around them just as you have seen in Manhattan, to tell people that it is not allowed. Your dog is not in the woods just because there is a patch of dirt here. If we do that, and we make it look nice, you will have people think before doing that. And maybe also have some fines going on. We are going to be working with Hastings Beautification on this, and we have looked into bringing in some student interns as well to work on our Clean It Up campaign. We will be doing that over the summer.

Parking. I like that there has been this movement on the 15 spots. We would love to know when there will be further movement. One thought I had to add to your parking concept is, on the sides of Villard and a couple of other areas there are spots but there are no painted lines, you will find there is quite a number of wasted area because people do not know where to park. You probably would have one or two more spaces there if there were lines painted. I do not know how much it costs to paint lines, but you might find it squeezes another spot out of that area. We had some issues with holiday parking this year, and we would like to encourage planning in advance. We are already thinking about next year's holiday. We would like to let you know that Hanukkah starts on December 1 next year. You may be looking at an entire month of parking. I am sorry, Mr. Mayor, but it may come to that. But in any case, we thought it would be good to let you know that now. We would like to participate in those discussions long before. Again, in keeping with our Clean It Up campaign, our winter will be all about the Christmas holidays and working with that theme. In keeping with the discussions with regard to the parking and loss of revenues, ideas that we had for that were that we might consider making some changes in how we handle our Christmas decorations. Instead of having guys spend two weeks putting them up and taking them down, we might look into something that we stick to a tree and there are the lights. Take it down, it is done, much like White Plains has done. Again, sort of some cost savings that could be a more effective way to run our Christmas decorations, and hence not feel the need to cut the week or two of free parking.

One of our initiatives this year is to work with the Village to give you creative fund-raising suggestions: how can we help you not raise taxes, but raise money. You have ownership of a lot of great media. I am not a lawyer, but I think you should not be too afraid of money with that, like offering advertising space running possibly at the bottom of the screen. Or advertising on parts of your email blasts, which everybody is doing. It would help your merchants because you have got a great captive audience, all the members of the Village, and it does not have to be done like spam. It can be designed and done very nicely. Revenue for the Village using some of the things you have and you are helping out your merchants. You have a new Web site coming up. Have we considered offering appropriate-looking ad space there? We plan to work and continue to make suggestions throughout the year on things like revenue generation, and are always open to come in and consult on that.

I would be amiss if I did not mention our favorite item: an idling vehicle initiative. It is a law, and we would like to look at ways to have particularly municipal vehicles, which certainly should be upholding the law, as well as delivery trucks and things, to understand that idling is not supposed to happen, and ways we could have some of the guys walking around town, the cops or what have you, make it known that letting the truck idle is not the way we should be doing things.

Trustee Armacost: Should there not be a sign near the train station? There is quite a lot of idling that goes on as people are picked up and dropped off near the train station.

Trustee Quinlan: And do not forget the school. I have a suggestion for you if you bring it up at your next meeting, which I know will never happen. Do you know that at Zinsser field we have a big parking lot and it is free? No one makes use of it, and it is a five-minute walk.

Ms. Lewenz: I raised that a year or two ago when I said I wanted you to get better lighting. It is a very dark place, when I work late at night, to walk there and get my car. I would be happy to use it.

Trustee Quinlan: But it is safe. There is not crime that I can think of. We could ask the police department, but it is not a high-crime area.

Ms. Lewens: I am just not as young as I used to be, and lighting is useful.

Trustee Quinlan: But you know what it really is? People do not want to walk. I will give you an example. I have three or four employees in the Village, and I walked them over there. They were complaining about the tickets they got, and there is no place to park. I walked them over there and I said this is a five-minute walk. None of them have ever parked there because they do not want to walk.

So maybe you could talk to the Chamber and say, as an employer, I will give you a bonus. Maybe I will buy you lunch, maybe I will give you \$5 a week, maybe I will do something if you park in the Zinsser lot. But the bottom line is I do appreciate all your suggestions, but there are probably 30 free parking places within a five-minute walk of the downtown and no one uses them.

Ms. Lewens: Okay. Noted. But I do think the darkness and the safety is what people have raised. We had discussed the Zinsser lot. You can say there is no crime, but if the perception is that it is dark, I work until 9 o'clock, I do not want to go walking into a dark parking lot. It is a perception.

Trustee Quinlan: All right. We will take a look at that. I walked down here tonight. I am going to walk home at 11 o'clock. I am going to feel perfectly safe. Maybe I will take a detour and go by Zinsser, see how dark it is. But Hastings is a safe place. You can walk around at night, in the dark. I would not say it on the Aqueduct. But on the main streets you are fairly safe. There are always excuses. I totally appreciate everything you say, but there are parking places if people would just walk to them. In the summer it does not get dark until 8 or 9 o'clock. In the winter maybe they have an excuse, but for four or five or six months they have no excuse.

Elisa Zazzara, 68 Southside Avenue: With regard to the parking in Zinsser, what came to mind is a sign: free parking, 98 or whatever steps to Main Street ala the Farmers' Market campaign. Maybe starting that in the summer might get people. At our next Chamber meeting we will see if we can get people to pledge to park in the lot. With regard to signs in general, it seems a safety issue to direct cars and traffic to go to particular places. Are there state, county, other funds that we can avail ourselves of? Do we have an arrangement with the Village of Greenburgh or Westchester County to, say, get all of our stop signs from them? Is that something that has been investigated? Or does it exist?

Village Manager Frobel: We do get our signs from the Town of Greenburgh, but those are the traffic signs. The signs we are talking about tonight are information signs. These are custom signs that are multi-colored and very descriptive. They are not traffic signs.

Ms. Zazzara: But if it just a Parking Here sign, is that part of the signage?

Village Manager Frobel: That is very achievable.

Ms. Zazzara: I disagree entirely that we need more garbage cans downtown. To the psychology of that, we can get into the psychology of people to stop littering. I mentioned

this at the last Chamber meeting. We can all take it upon ourselves to pick up a piece of garbage as we walk downtown. That is where it starts as well. If we are walking on Main Street and there is a piece of garbage in front of us, and the garbage can is down the road, we can pick that up and put it in the garbage can. I suggest we try that, on occasion. The garbage cans can be placed in better places, and certainly recycling bins are something we should get into. But when it comes to garbage cans, I do not think anything should be done unless we speak to the department that manages them. For us to say we need more garbage cans, I do not know that we necessarily know what we are talking about.

Love the idea of parking at the A&P. Can we not use the back of their parking lot? I do not know what our relationship is with them, but it seems that that is the obvious place to have some employee parking. I do not know what payment would need to happen.

Email blasts to the Village from the Chamber. I would like to remind us that we not only just promote events, we do promote businesses through the email blasts. The Farmers' Market is a business. They do get promotion through the email blasts. I do not know if there is a legal thing about that, but the Chamber should certainly be able to avail themselves of the email blasts.

Mayor Swiderski: It is great to hear the level of energy and activity out of the Chamber. It would be fair to say that three years ago that was not the case. Whatever the dynamic is, it is clearly a good one. Clearly, you guys have some wind in your sails. It is good for us and it is good for you, and congrats.

Mr. Gonder: Holiday lights. They are still lit. Maybe by the 7th you could knock off the power on the lights. The same thing last year. That is a few dollars saved for their signage. That bridge, Warburton Avenue bridge over the ravine, there are 18 cars on either side. You can put meters on the pipes up there somehow and get some more money that you could use for signage, or the blue meters for some of your people.

Trustee Walker: I have been thinking about the tree pits. I have seen some creative solutions: beautiful tree grates, which would prevent dogs from using them. Of course, there is potential for planting. In many cases, the sidewalk is so narrow that people are trampling over the plantings in the tree pits. But in some cases, they are fine. So you have to be selective about where you plant. But I have seen some interesting use of attractive stone pavers as tree grates, and not the pavers we used to have around the trees. I am not sure the fence is the right solution, only because as an urban designer I have to think about the way people walk down the street. Nowadays, people are looking and talking, and I am afraid people are going to start tripping over those little fences. We should look at some good solutions, certainly replacing the trees, we should look into what that is going to cost.

Carl Carvalho, Vice-President, Chamber of Commerce: What is the approval process for us to work on the tree wells? Is that something the Village needs to approve? I understand what you are talking about with safety, but even a narrower, circular fencing just around the base that could be filled with gravel, and the rest of it with the pavers. I think that would look great. Who owns that property, who governs that property? We would like to know that so we can move ahead rather quickly with our plans.

Village Attorney Stecich: It is Village property so you would have to have the approval of the Board. I would have to check the Code on who would grant the permit, whether it has to go before the Board or whether it is a permit that can be granted by the Building Inspector or the Village Manager.

Mr. Carvalho: So we can come up with a written proposal and submit it to the Village Manager, and go from there. Would that also apply to dog waste signs, and so forth?

Village Attorney Stecich: Yes, any signs on public property.

Village Manager Frobel: We have looked into the tree grates. They are very expensive.

Mr. Carvalho: A lot of talk is about creative solutions. With this economy there are plenty of opportunities for creative solutions and partnerships. There are probably other ways to save money and come up with creative revenue streams for the Village using the Chamber and the expertise that we have, not only just the creative talent we are using for Friday Night Live, but also the business talent and economic talent that we already have in the Chamber and in the Village.

Village Manager Frobel: Just for the record, and I do not want to get defensive, we do a pretty good job of tree replacement, Mayor. We replace, on average, four a year. And they are upwards of \$3,000 apiece. We just replaced a bunch of them on Southside. Not all of them may be noticeable to everyone, but we do a pretty good job of tree replacement. I am very sensitive to that, and I am not aware of any dead trees. But if there are, point them out to us because that is what we do: replace the dead trees.

Ms. Lewens: Empty patches on Warburton.

Trustee Quinlan: Three thousand dollars for a tree?

Village Manager Frobel: No. What is it, Susan? What was the last price?

Trustee Quinlan: We are talking hundreds. Maybe three, four, five, six-hundred for a tree?

Village Manager Frobel: Well, there is labor to remove the ball and to get in the tree. We usually get the larger trees, upwards of eight tall.

Trustee Walker: Yes, the larger trees are expensive.

Mr. Carvalho: We are talking about tree wells that are empty. There are no stumps or anything, and they are just dirt. We would like to see some growth there.

Ms. Zazzara: Thank you, Trustee Armacost, for bringing up the no-idling signs, too. When the law was passed in Westchester County, it was a three-minute limit with some parameters on temperature and type of vehicle, if it is an emergency vehicle, and such. It is my understanding, when that was passed, it was left to the municipalities to enforce it, and we can assign whoever we like to enforce that. For instance, meter folks can be enforcing that. I also believe that Hastings can set its own idling regulation. I know it was advocated, when the Westchester County rule came out, that three minutes was too long and it should be a minute. So that could be a revenue stream in ticketing people who are idling. I think, for instance, Chase Bank breaks that regulation every day with their drive-through. And I do not believe drive-throughs are exempt from the regulation.

I did notice two new trees were planted on Maple across the street here directly under Con Edison power lines. So I do not know what kind of consideration is made when trees are replaced, but it seems to me that those trees should not have been replaced. If you wanted to plant new trees they should have been maybe across the street. In another three years we will have another public hearing on why they cannot.

Village Manager Frobel: They do not grow tall if they are designed for an urban setting.

Ms. Zazzara: These currently are already in the lines.

Village Manager Frobel: The tops of them are, but they will be trimmed back. They will come back in the spring. We really push the envelope, but we plant them very late in the year. They will be back to trim those appropriately.

2. Use of Styrofoam on Village Property

Trustee Jennings: It is a very simple proposition. Styrofoam is not a good material to use. There is no reason we have to use it; there is no reason the Village should condone the use of it, and support the use of it. There are alternative materials readily available. It would not

undermine any of the functions that take place that are sponsored by the Village or on Village property. It is a no-brainer. It is overdue. Styrofoam is out. Even McDonald's understands that. We are behind the curve. We can catch up.

Trustee Armacost: I agree with Bruce. I think it is a great idea.

Trustee Quinlan: Yes, I think it is a great idea, too. It came to us from the Conservation Commission, something they discussed and sent along to us for our thoughts. Bruce rightly took it on as our sustainable trustee, and it is a no-brainer.

Trustee Walker: I like the idea, too.

Mr. Gonder: How are going to enforce it?

Mayor Swiderski: It is not a question of enforcing. It is a question of rules set for anyone who uses it, especially the Community Center. When you sign a contract to rent the place for four hours, it will be clear that if you are holding a party please know it.

Ms. Zazzara: We have had further discussion on this at the Conservation Commission. Styrofoam is the trademark name from Dow Chemical for this type of polystyrene extruded stuff that McDonald's, in 1990, stopped using. It is used in a lot of businesses in town, as we know, when we take stuff home. Polystyrene also is number 6 plastic, which is sometimes a very rigid glass cup you will get that you see at a lot of events. The commission believes, that both number 6 and Styrofoam, the extruded foam, should be included in this. The suggestion from the commission was for municipal events, whether they happen on or off of municipal property, and anything that happens on municipal property from within the municipality or from outside vendors. So if someone comes on to the ball field with their Styrofoam Dunkin' Donuts cup they are not going to get arrested, but if the vendor at the ball field is selling coffee in a Styrofoam cup that is what would not be allowed. Berkeley, San Francisco, New York State in some areas, are looking at a ban for all businesses to use Styrofoam. I am not suggesting that here, but if the municipality does this, it would go a long way to get businesses to move in that direction willingly. I will suggest they do.

Mayor Swiderski: When you buy this stuff, is it apparent? How easy can you tell that it is number 6 when it is packaged in number 1? You cannot get at the stuff.

Ms. Zazzara: It is not always easy. Typically they are marked with the chasing recycling arrows, and it has a number 6 in it. Ron Cascone, a member of our Conservation Commission, could probably pick up any plastic cup and tell you what it is made out of

because that is his business. But a lay person is not going to know. Clearly, there will be instances where the rule may be broken but we will not know. It is not going to perfect.

Mayor Swiderski: I am not worried about the enforcement. I am worried about me going into the A&P and not necessarily knowing that the container full of plastic cups I am buying is number 6. Are we creating something where people fail because we have created something a tad more complex than Styrofoam?

Ms. Zazzara: I do not think so. I would suggest that if you are unclear do not get it. Find the alternative that you know is not breaking that rule. And there are alternatives, from durable goods to paper, that can be used.

Trustee Jennings: It is important not to think about this type of ordinance simply from the point of view of "gotcha," an enforcement and punishment. There is a culture-changing and educational value to this kind of statement by the Village that will make people become more aware over time of the nature of the materials that they are buying for their events. Whether we want to try to pass a law that would ban merchants from selling certain kinds of merchandise is a much more complicated question for another discussion. But even short of that, this type of statement by the Village about what should happen on Village property and at Village events I hope will have an interactive effect with the local merchants. After all, many of the people who have parties and events at the Community Center purchase their stuff at the local supermarket or the party stores that sell these goods. Their customers are going to want to not buy Styrofoam and not buy certain kinds of plastics. I would hope that the merchants will either hear from their customers, or put their ear to the ground and hear what we are saying, and start stocking in different kinds of materials for their customers. Is that not what a good businessman does? The market is there, we are helping to create a market for a different kind of product. So they are going to start buying those products and having them on the shelves even without a law that tells them they have to. I would hope there would be a virtuous feedback loop going on as a result of this over time.

Mayor Swiderski: What does the rest of the Board think about that additional layer of complexity with the number 6?

Trustee Walker: It is an educational step. We might not be able to enforce it and we all might transgress at times, but at least we will start to be more cognizant of it and start to turn it over and look at the bottom. I think it is helpful.

Trustee Quinlan: I agree with you, Peter. I will have to start looking at what number 6 comes with. I am not going to drink my beer out of a paper cup, I will tell you that. But a nice plastic cup, is it number 6, is it number 5, is it number 4, I do not know.

Ms. Zazzara: A nice glass bottle.

Trustee Quinlan: No, I will have to look and see what number 6 is. But I am not against it. I am not for it, but I have to get a little bit more educated about exactly what is number 6.

Mayor Swiderski: But is that a comment on the policy, or your own personal predilection? And how do you feel about a policy that incorporates number 6?

Trustee Quinlan: If everybody else agrees with it, it is fine with me.

Trustee Armacost: I think it is important to include number 6 because we need to become more aware. When we ran the Take it to the River festival we had a mini-drama among ourselves about whether the cups and the plates we were choosing were acceptable, and whether Elisa would ever talk to us again if we chose the wrong ones. It was helpful to be cognizant and to make the right choices. I think we made the right choices in the end. But you need to have something to encourage you to go in that direction. There will be a period where people are making mistakes, and then we will start to notice that people are making less mistakes. Before we know it, in a year, we will actually only be using 1's, 2's, and 3's. We will not even be using 4's and 5's, let alone 6's, and we will all be much more cognizant. So I would like to support that.

Trustee Quinlan: Nicola has totally convinced me. So number 6, no.

Mayor Swiderski: I will never stand in the way of my Board: no it is.

Mayor Swiderski: Do we need a resolution?

Village Attorney Stecich: It could just be by resolution. A local law is something that has to be in the Code book. It does not seem necessary, since it is something that the Village is going to be administering. So I think you can do it by resolution.

3. Update on Deer

Mayor Swiderski: You heard that we are going to get this permit. I should not say anything as positive as that involving the state, but they put some requirements on us. Jacques Padawer generated some documentation around how the four metrics would work. I polished that and passed it out to the two people who have said they would work on it a little further, as well as to the Board. Once it has been refined, it will go off to the state, I am hoping, within a week.

The four metrics that we are proposing, at least in this draft, are the current police records for deer-car strikes; taking a sample patch in several woods and doing a species count a couple of times during the year, before and after the cull, to see whether there is greater species diversity and taller plants and undergrowth returning; an animal and bird species count; and volunteer observations, which you have started. We would be providing you and other observers throughout the Village with a formal notebook and schema that would tell you to note the number of deer, type of deer, what shape they are in, and when you saw them. Everybody will have the exact same pad and scheme so we can collect this quarterly, and see patterns and herd sizes, etc. both before and after the cull, or the event.

Mr. Gonder: Do you want me to continue what I have been doing?

Mayor Swiderski: Do not until I get you a pad with the scheme layout so you do not waste your time. Carolyn Summers, one of the two people I am working with, is reaching out to academic and conservation organizations to see if somebody would partner with us and help us run the metrics so that we have an outside neutral observer imposing some rigor on the process. As a result, whatever we send up to the state will go with the caveat that some university might come in and blow it up and replace it with something far different. My bet is not, only because we are not going to pay for this. It is going to have to be relatively low-tech and straightforward. What we are proposing so far is exactly that. It can be done by volunteers who currently live in the Village and have the experience and ability to do this sort of species count, observational data like you have collected, and what the police do anyway.

Trustee Quinlan: If I could get one of those notebooks. I started my own in Hillside Park. I am there almost every day so I started jotting down the number, the type, and where I saw them in Hillside Park. If you do not think it would be a conflict, I have already started.

4. Update on the Waterfront

Trustee Quinlan: There was a technical meeting last week between BP/ARCO, the DEC, and our representative, Malcolm Pirnie, on what type of bump-out there might be on the northern part of the waterfront and some of the problems. They would be creating some land on the very northern end out into the water of the waterfront. They call it a bump-out. The reasons why they would do that would be to prevent the PCBs from moving into the aquifer when they take the steel sheeting for the bulkhead and drive it into the river. That would be far enough out that it would miss the aquifer but, more importantly, not so much where the aquifer is because they are not quite sure. But it would be further out that they found the DNAPL, which is the slightly mobile or mobile type of PCBs, that could become mobile if

disturbed. I participated in that meeting by telephone. The next meeting will be February 12. So those things are ongoing, and they will be ongoing for the next four or five months. We are hoping for some progress. As we say, "progress, not perfection," so we are starting work on that.

The other news is about the demolition. I invite anybody in the Village to take a look at the waterfront and you can see for yourself exactly where we are in the demolition and how much further we have to go. We hope it is completed in the next few days, if not a week. I went down to the waterfront today and took a look at it. I know I am personally involved in it so I have a stake in what is going on down there, but I found it very exciting and very interesting.

Mayor Swiderski: In rush hour when I commute everybody is lined up on the platform looking away from the train tracks toward the site. It is all that people are talking about because it is such a startling thing to watch.

Trustee Armacost: It is beautiful.

Mayor Swiderski: So there are going to be some people who are going to get awfully used to nice views.

Trustee Quinlan: The only thing that is left is the eastern wall of the large steel building, number 22, the top floor and the roof and the girders.

Mayor Swiderski: A detail apparently for what is holding up these last pieces on the eastern side is that Metro-North wants to have men in place with flags to stop a train just in case, in pulling that part of the building, part of it may fall on the tracks. It is an interesting little bit of the story that here these guys are worrying about that sort of possibility and we have to plan for that. I am loving that that is what we are worrying about. Excellent. Like I said to Meg, you have put in ridiculous hours and the results speak for themselves. It is an amazing moment for the commuters alone, and that is 400 or 500 people every day on those platforms. It is a qualitative difference.

Mr. Gonder: Are you losing any taxes when they knock those buildings down?

Mayor Swiderski: They do pay some taxes, but it is for the property. They may very well certiorari down the road because the value of the property does go down. But the buildings would have had to have come down in short order anyway because most of them are either on or near pollution. But it is a good question. It is a fair question.

Trustee Quinlan: Good question. But we are trying not to remind them to do it. Hopefully they are not watching this telecast. No, BP/ARCO has been very good about the certiorari. They have not brought any certioraris against the Village at the first demolition, and we hope that they will not do it on the second one. But we do not know. They do have the right.

5. Update on the Comprehensive Plan

Trustee Quinlan: The Comprehensive Plan and the LWRP are trying to work out a meeting to talk about the law and that chapter of the Comprehensive Plan on the waterfront. We are hoping it happens sooner than later, and we are hoping for a positive benefit. The Mayor and Meg are both are working on that. I appreciate that plus, obviously, the work you have done on the downtown, Meg. That is the last big sticking point and, hopefully, you can solve it.

6. Other

Trustee Quinlan: This is a comment basically to you, Mr. Frobel, about the budget and the way it has been presented to me in the last three years. The first time I heard it articulated was from Trustee Jennings, about the way that we are presented the budget. There are more creative, less time-consuming, and more of what Bruce talked about today of grasping what it more important as opposed to how the budget has been handled for years, which, in my opinion, is that each department comes in like cheerleaders for their budgets. That does not really help me. To me it is not effective. It is too time-consuming. There has to be some way to present the budget in a better, more cost-effective, less time-consuming way so that we could really find out what the priorities are, and go for them and sort out where we are. I do not know what that is, but it is something we have to think about. Bruce, you brought it up at one time and I would like to hear what you have to say about it.

Trustee Jennings: We need to focus on our priority-setting. In terms of the budget review process, we will have to talk with the Village Manager and others about different approaches, maybe figure out how other municipalities handle it. I would like us not to review every line item necessarily, but focus on those things that we have to have: certain expenditures, debt service, and some other matters of that kind, so we would know what are the discretionary items. That is the way higher levels of government think about, analytically, their budgets. We need to focus our attention on what is discretionary, how much we have on the revenue side that is realistic and how we can best make hard choices in a transparent way on the expense side. It has been time-consuming, but I think that many of the assumptions and choices have come out well the last year. We faced a significant question about whether or not we wanted to draw down on our capital reserves and how that would affect our bond rating and our financial position. That is a fundamental question that was made very clear to us. We have done some things quite well last year, but we can build on those and focus our

discussion even more this coming year. All of us on the Board are desirous of doing that. The public deserves that because that is really accountability and transparency. We need to have everybody understand the nature of the real choices we face with our budget.

Mayor Swiderski: To that end, I would propose that Niki and I work with Fran to come up with a schema that, in the next month before we get to this process, we can vet with the Board to make sure that everybody's time is well spent. We do not want to waste Fran's time by setting him off in a direction that only nominally provides guidance. If we can come up with something that is doable, present it, and proceed in that fashion it would probably be good for all of us.

We have the proposed Design Guidelines for the Central Commercial District from the ARB. We should talk about scheduling some time to review it.

[Discussion of Dates]

Mayor Swiderski: Let me reach out to Bennett Fradkin and the ARB. Assuming they are available, let us schedule a work session for February 9.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION of Trustee Quinlan, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled an Executive Session immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss negotiations and personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Quinlan, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:35 p.m.

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