

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAY 1, 2012**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Meg Walker, Village Manager Francis A. Frobels, Village Attorney Marianne Stecich, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Nicola Armacost.

**CITIZENS:** Four (4).

**Mayor Swiderski:** Trustee Armacost was involved in a car accident this morning. She was injured in a minor way. A sprained neck, though the car was totaled and it could have been much worse. So we send her our best, wish her well, and will carry on.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2012 were approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

On MOTION of Trustee Jennings, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, the following Warrants were approved:

Multi-Fund No. 67-2011-12 \$146,244.46

Multi-Fund No. 69-2011-12 \$ 16,300.08

Multi-Fund No. 70-2011-12 \$ 59,178.01

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway:** The reason I attend these meetings is to bring forth some creative ideas, a little watchdog on the dialogue and activities around the Village, and to be a supportive person when and where I can to the efforts of the village government. I realize this is a part-time job, but it is a full time's worth of requirement. It is not easy.

I spoke at a Dobbs Ferry Board meeting last week. Manager Frobels spoke at the end of March and early April about the difficulties with close to 82 percent of the budget being mandated. Similar views were expressed in Dobbs Ferry. I would like to repeat what I

mentioned there. I do not want us to feel we have to be a victim and are being oppressed. Albany does work for us, and it is not the other way around. I asked the mayor of Dobbs Ferry, if you could collectively with the other mayors in the area petition strongly our elected officials to say they have to back off? When 82 percent is automatically dictated and taken away from you, you have to work with the peanuts left over. I would like encourage, from the public's perspective, to do as much as you can to make it we dictate to Albany what is going to go on instead of the other way around.

This year you did a great job keeping the budget increase very low. You inherited a bad situation, both in terms of debt and timing of the economy. Manager Frobel says he is trying a different structure. Before, there was more of a command and control, iron hand approach. That approach, along with timing issues, did not work out the best because we are saddled with \$14 million in debt. He is trying a more creative approach by letting people in different departments come forward and help with the budgeting. He says it is a work in progress.

I wonder if we say we have a 2 percent or 1.75 percent increase for next year and we are going to work down from there. It seems we always working up to a number, then we try and pare it back. How about if we put a ceiling like we would in our own household? I am old school like our parents spoke to us: you have to eat your dessert before dinner, you have to do your homework before you go out and play. We have got to get our house in order fiscally before we can worry about entertainment. So if entertainment has to be pared back for a number of years, it is what we have to do. Part of what may have led to getting us in trouble was that other type of mindset.

Recently, some information came to me about expenses to the Village in the past four to six weeks for sewer cleaning. We hired a service from the outside. The number told to me was \$1,600 a day.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Less than \$1,000 a day.

**Mr. Downey:** Then I will zip up because that is a good bargain.

I heard mention about blacktop in early April. I hate to harp on this one subject, but it is one I know well and did some work on over the wintertime. It was suggested that one of the reasons our blacktop fails, and it is a big expense for us traditionally, 200 to 300 grand a year, is because of drainage. The principal reason our blacktop program fails is several-fold. Number one, the blacktop companies are running a game on you. I have been told this both from blacktop people and the blacktop industry, from a plant operator upstate who had no fear of telling the truth.

They use a material called RAP, recycled asphalt product; they are allowed to use up to 10 percent, generally by contract. Locally here they are using 30 percent to 40 percent. It does not have the bonding strength and the longevity. They do not use the tar. Remember when we were children, on hot summer days you go out and pop the bubbles in the tar. We know petroleum is more expensive and that is one reason. They have watered down the product so they can keep an ongoing, perpetual business going. Sort of like the car companies did in the '70s and '80s: build junk, let it break and fall apart in three years, and buy a new car. That is the addiction they have gotten us into. We need to change how we go about our hiring of this, either by having firmer guarantees, warranties on it. Or, as this gentleman explained to me from the plant upstate, you hire an outside service, consultant engineer, that has proper thermal measuring heat guns. He knows about tack coats, he knows about proper humidity levels. That is something we do not pay attention to a lot here. The trucks roll in, they slap some stuff down, they steam it and roll it over. Three years, we are falling apart. We need to re-gauge, even if we do it collectively with other villages, how we go about this contract.

**John Gonder, 153 James Street:** Today, I traveled around the village about 20 percent of the streets, and what do I find? Ten trailers, three boats, two buses and one camper. In 1979, under Mayor Wagner, you had an ordinance that you could not have boats and trailers and buses and campers on property. I do not know what happened to those ordinances. I guess future trustees and mayors did away with them. But our village is getting to be what I will call "honky-tonk" town. To me, honky-tonk was a great piano player, a certain type. They used to play it in dives. That is what I think Hastings is getting; they are going downhill instead of uphill with these trailers and boats and campers and buses. You ought to re-look at your ordinances that you had in the '70s. It was a much prettier community.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We will dig that up for the next meeting. I do not know how much has changed.

### **33:12 TAX WARRANT 2012 - 2013**

**Village Manager Frobel:** Last week the Board adopted the budget for the next fiscal year. The remaining action item is passage of the resolution for the collection and levy of the taxes for next fiscal year.

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Mayor to sign the Tax Warrant for 2012 – 2013.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee Bruce Jennings	X	
Trustee Marjorie Apel	X	
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

### **VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Village Manager Frobel:** We found out just the other day that Con Ed is going to begin a major replacement of the gas main along Southside Avenue. It could begin as early as Monday of next week. We are working on traffic concerns right now. Part of that road will be closed off to traffic during the construction. It could take upwards to two weeks for it to be complete, so I will have to keep you posted. We have got a meeting again tomorrow with Con Ed and public safety officials to make certain that it is smooth. The work will be all the way up to the Station Café, all the way down as far as almost the DPW. There are leaks along the line and they are replacing it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** What about the parking for commuters in the morning?

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is going to be tricky. From 9 to 3 part of that street will be closed off to through traffic but we will be getting cars into the parking lot. The police are involved. We are going to require the contractor to hire police officers to help with traffic control rather than relying on flagmen. We will minimize inconvenience to the commuters. We know that is the critical time, obviously, to get in there and to get home in the evening. So very sensitive to that.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

#### **1. Tree Inventory - Update by the Tree Board**

**Village Manager Frobel:** At the last Board meeting I mentioned the tree inventory. Although I gave a very brief summary, I could tell that there were other questions and the enthusiasm is very apparent. So I asked the members of the Tree Board to come tonight and discuss it in more detail with you. They have got some handouts they would like to give you, and respond to any questions you might have. Brett Schneiderman is here, and Bill Crosby. Jenny Lee could not make it.

**Brett Schneiderman:** Myself and Bill Crosby and Jenny Lee are the Tree Board. We volunteer our professional expertise to help the Village make informed decisions regarding the tree ordinance. It was brought to our attention that the Village was interested in having a tree inventory so we have stock of what we have in the Village. My first reaction was, it is a ton of work and what are we going to do with it. I am a lifetime resident of the river towns. I grew up on Southland Avenue in Dobbs Ferry, but I have been in Hastings for the last nine years. I am a volunteer firefighter and a professional arborist. I am also currently enrolled at Cornell University working on my Masters in landscape architecture.

I am in a fortunate position right now, where I am working with two of the top people in the world who address urban trees and trees' environments in an urban setting. The Tree Board has decided let us go for it and see if we can get a tree inventory for the Village. You have a copy of the inventory without the individual map attached. You have the written copy of how the inventory is going to work. It is a volunteer-driven inventory.

You also have a copy of North Syracuse. That is the final product that we are aiming towards. We are focusing at this point just on the street trees. That is the first piece of the puzzle. We are hoping that this information can help us, first of all, to fill out the grant applications for the DEC. The first question the DEC asks you is do you have a tree inventory. Once we have one, and we can fill out that information, we are looking to see if we can win some grants and apply that towards tree planting and a long-term strategy for arbors in our village.

All the information is out there. There is a lot of progressive work being done concerning trees in the urban environment. That information is at our fingertips. We started this thing, and it is wonderful. We have got over 45 volunteer groups that have signed on to do this. It has been fantastic. I did presentations the last two nights. We have a large turnout of people. There is some enthusiasm

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is amazing.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** We did some research. These inventories, for an outside contractor, they run for a village like this anywhere between \$35,000 and \$100,000. So far, we have laid out about \$200, plus we have had Susan Maggiotto's help with the copying. We are trying to get a ball park idea of what trees we have in our street tree environments. We defined a street tree as the trees that are between the road and the street, and from the street to the homeowner property line. That is a gray area, so we are figuring out some of that as we go. The first instruction of the tree inventory is to be neighborly and to share what you know as we try to gather this information.

When this inventory is complete, we will have some hard numbers about the ecological, economic and aesthetic values that these trees have. When New York City did their street tree inventory in 2007-2008, they determined that for every dollar they invested in their trees there was a \$5 return. North Syracuse has some pretty powerful numbers in there as far as how tree species diversity manages stormwater, controls air quality, aesthetic and property values.

I am fortunate to be working with Cornell to be able to run with this. Cornell usually does this with student weekend arborist teams, students trained to do tree ID and to recognize features of trees and do the measurements. We are doing a little groundbreaking here by doing a volunteer initiative. What we do here can be a model for other communities in the nation and perhaps internationally to mobilize, look at this model and realize they can do this themselves.

Our long-term goal is to get some good information out there so we can develop a long-term strategy for arbors in our village. I did want to point out that Bill Crosby did a lot of work in sustaining our status as a Tree City USA. That is a big accomplishment. It is the 28<sup>th</sup> year of Tree City USA for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson.

The inventory runs from May 1 to June 2. The volunteers are going to go out and collect the information and we will communicate with all the volunteers so we can get the most accurate and precise recordings that we can. It is going to take about two months to process this information, and then I will appear before you hopefully in September with a very similar document to North Syracuse, except it will be specialized for Hastings-on-Hudson.

**Trustee Apel:** What is the training?

**Mr. Schneiderman:** Two volunteers are professional arborists. But the training was pretty much the training packet that is in front of you. It starts with the chart that will be filled in by volunteers. And then there is the guide. There is something which I designed and I call it the game board. It uses a Monopoly-style game board to explain how you walk through the streets and can identify a street tree, what is not a street tree, and what is out of bounds. We spent about an hour and a half the last two nights with our volunteers and an overhead projector talking about the scope, the commitment we are looking at from volunteers, how we can give them help, and sort of throwing it out there. This is a learning opportunity for everybody, and we are going to use the resources we have to get an accurate count and provide this resource for the Village.

**Trustee Walker:** Is there a way to accurately map the tree location so that in the future we could put them on a GIS database map?

**Mr. Schneiderman:** There is. This can be done with a GPS. If you look at the chart on the front page, it is done by street. When trees are measured and identified, the house that they are in front of is marked on that chart. There is a map that goes with each territory. People, with a pen, will mark on the map. Once this inventory is all put together and organized, we can always send other teams out there to follow along the work that has been done, and then take GPS coordinates. So this can be an up to date, modern inventory. But who is going to operate that GPS equipment? We thought that would be best handled at a later date.

**Trustee Walker:** That would be great, because we have not been using them as much since Google Earth came out. But we have pretty good GIS maps from the county and database sets. So that is one way in the future to think about mapping them.

I think this is a fantastic project. I want to applaud you and Bill and Jenny and all the volunteers. First, you guys for organizing it and getting all the volunteers. It is just tremendous. It is a big effort, and I do not think it has ever been done, to my knowledge. Thank you so much for doing this. It is a major help to the Village.

I know property lines and the right of way vary throughout Hastings. Sometimes what you think is a street tree might be on somebody's property and vice versa. Is there a way of checking that later? You would have to look at everybody's surveys.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** The one piece you do not have is the territories that each individual will have because I am still developing that. We worked with the Village tax map, which was laid over a Google Earth image and then divided into 75 sections; we will create territories and then reassemble. During that process, there is going to be a lot of checking and rechecking to make sure the information is accurate. I spent time with Mike Gunther driving around, looking, discussing his experience with the right of way, and eyeballing difficult corners and areas. And also working with Fred Callett at Cornell University, who did his PhD on this, troubleshooting what our greatest challenges would be.

We came up with a 3-foot rule. If you are on the sidewalk a tree lawn is between the street and the sidewalk. Almost always, that is the right of way. But from the sidewalk to a private property and the property line, it is a gray area. We encourage people to be neighborly and talk to people because a lot of residents do have an idea of where their property ends. But for the sake of keeping it simple and having this inventory, we are going to record everything that you can touch within 3 feet.

I have talked to the volunteers about putting their comments and their observations down. I have advised them to take time to just be in your area, be on the streets. Most of these

people, it is their neighborhood so they are going to be able to get a good feel for it. Once you start going down one street, it starts to make sense. They have also been advised not to go on private property without permission from the owner, and to explain what they are doing. We issued a press release for that. But it is a little of a gray area. We are going to be digesting this information and checking it over a long period of time to get as close as we can to being accurate.

**Trustee Walker:** I spoke to you about this before, if you knew of other towns where they have an Adopt a Tree program so a property owner can either plant a street tree or take care of the street tree, and then what is the long-term implication of that. People are interested, frequently, in taking care of the trees in front of their houses or even planting them when they are missing. What are their responsibilities if they do that? If we had some policy guidelines that would be helpful.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** That is a great comment. I brought with this with me. Cornell University puts out a book of recommended street trees. If you have overhead wires or a heavy salt content, or if it is a small tree pit or tree area versus a large area, the book is a handy guide to finding the right tree for the right spot. The three of us here have been discussing it. We are starting to look at long-term arbor strategy. We would like it to be where residents are involved and can be passionate about their neighborhoods. We are going to look at other cities and towns to see what is working. Again, this is the tip of the first step for this long-term strategy in seeing what makes sense for us. We are going to bring in a lot of ideas, and then we will see what sticks.

**Trustee Jennings:** It sounds very exciting. I wanted to ask if it would be possible to alert the volunteers to a couple of things such as making note of things like sidewalks that are in upheaval from the root systems. It makes sense to get as much good information out of this process as we can without undermining their work in identifying the trees and the species and the health. Also, it would be helpful if you could ask your volunteers to note anything that seems to be dangerous in terms of blocking the view of a side street coming out on to a main artery. There are a number of places where the growth of plant life, not so much trees but bushes and things like that, are an issue in terms of visibility. We rely on individuals who drive, property owners, others to alert the Village to these situations. Police drive around, the DPW people drive around, they observe. We have a multiple process of becoming aware. You are going to put 50 people on the ground, and I would hate to lose the opportunity to use those pairs of eyes for this purpose also.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** That is a good recommendation. We can add those in. Most of this work elsewhere has been done by professionals so we wanted to make it as simple as possible for residents. We wanted to encourage people to get out there with their kids and



get involved. But those observations, we can add those. There are other observations that, over the long term, do need to be made as far as the structural quality of trees. That, I would reserve for a professional assessment.

**Trustee Jennings:** What I have in mind does not even require an assessment, simply a notation. Then the DPW people, the police will follow up and assess.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** That we can certainly add.

**Trustee Apel:** It is wonderful and I thank all those volunteers. One of the concerns that I have is that there are going to be people milling around outside your house. Could the people that are doing this have something that shows what they are doing, and they could show it if somebody asks.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** Susan Maggiotto actually made badges for us.

**Trustee Apel:** And maybe a little prep card, like, here we are doing this, maybe you want to join us, too, or something like that. While you are out there you can market it. We might get phone calls like there are people walking and they're writing stuff down. I think the more they are notified, and also it is for the protection of the person that is doing it.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** Ann Van Buren, who is working with them, is writing the article for *The Enterprise* so there will be nice publicity in the newspaper.

**Mr. Schneiderman:** We did send out the e-mail over the Village Web site. We have a couple of posters in town. We have more posters in the back of my car. I have been overwhelmed with this, but we definitely wanted to get people out there and aware of what is going on, and encouraging people to participate. This is a great time of year to do it. The leaves are emerging, trees are still in flower. When you come home from work, the weather is just phenomenal so it is a great time to be out and doing this.

**Trustee Jennings:** Is it your feeling that we have some situation with the trees of Hastings that we should be concerned about? Do we have groups of trees that are succumbing to various sorts of lethal conditions, are a lot of trees around the Village dead or dying, in your observation? The bottom line here is the care and health of our trees in our village and what our public policy needs to be in the future. Do we have a problem?

**Mr. Schneiderman:** We have elements to be concerned about. Again, the focus of this inventory is to get us moving in a direction so we can have some funding from outside sources to look at a long-term strategy and to look at some tree planting. But we also want to

look at the long-term strategy for arbor maintenance, and also the training of town employees to do maintenance and emergency storm work. In the last couple of years, every time we have a storm we have many trees come down. The trees that do come down, more often it is because of the human element. We have built in that area or we have done something. Some of them are on private property and some of them cross the border into public property. There is a protocol where you can start to assess these things to begin to tackle those issues.

**Trustee Walker:** Is there any plan to look at trees in the parks?

**Mr. Schneiderman:** There is. I tried to come up with the most focused thing we could do. This specifically will allow us to fill out those grant applications. If this is successful and people are excited about it, we can move on to public parks and public open spaces.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Thank you for your time, thank you for the effort. I do not recall a time where we got 35 volunteers or 40 volunteers. It is great.

## **2. Stormwater Management Annual Report**

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is that time of year again, where we are obligated to report to the Board on our efforts in compliance with our stormwater permit. Susan is in charge of the group of employees that are responsible for monitoring our success and our action items, and this evening she would like to offer her report, which will be forwarded on to the agency.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** The annual report for the year ending in March, 2012 was sent to you electronically. It is on the Web site, it is in the library, it is in Village hall, and there are copies here. We are trying to disseminate it as widely as we can for anyone who is interested.

It reports on our efforts during the past year to educate and manage our own stormwater. We welcome any comments on it. The report has to be sent to the state by June 1. If anyone here, anyone who is watching, has any comments on the report or on this general effort, please direct them to us so we can include them in our report.

I am happy to say we had our first audit. We have been at this stormwater management for a number of years. The state auditor came and sat with Deven Sharma, Mike Gunther, myself, and our consultants who help us with this project. We received the highest rating, which is unfortunately only "satisfactory." But it is better than the alternative. We had a couple of recommendations for things we might address, but we were very pleased that we are meeting all the requirements.

There are six areas where we are making efforts to educate the public and clean up our own act. We are doing a pretty good job of it. The one comment I want to make, and I cannot make it often enough, is that the stormwater system is an open system. What goes down those drains that you see in the street is not treated in any way. It goes right out to the nearest body of water, whether it is the Hudson River or the Saw Mill River, in other places to the oceans.

It is different from our sanitary system, which is a closed system that goes to treatment plants. That is why we have to be so careful of what goes down those drains. We have to keep our street cleaning up and try not to have trash thrown down. This is my favorite poster. All the things you see there, when your pets go on the ground or when you fertilize your lawn or when your car is leaking oil onto the pavement or even when you wash your car on a hard surface, anything that goes onto a hard surface, with rainwater, will then wash into the drains and will end up in our bodies of water.

So that is what we are really trying to educate people about: to take any measures they can. I remember when people would change their oil and throw it down the storm drain; I do not think that happens anymore. But washing your car, when the kids have a car wash in front of the high school that is not a green activity. There are better ways to do it, and we are going to work with the Conservation Commission of the high school and get some green car washes going. If you are going to wash your own car, at least try to do it on the ground and not on the pavement so there will be some filtering mechanism going on. Carwashes have to manage all that. Going to the carwash is the best thing you can do.

We are trying to prevent pollutants from going into our bodies of water, and we are trying to make our best efforts to do everything that we do as a village to contribute to that.

### **3. Update on the Waterfront**

**Mayor Swiderski:** We have initiated the first meeting around disposition of the property with BP. That is not a discussion that will be carried out in public. It is simply notifying that we have begun those talks. Similarly, we have had contacts with Exxon to discuss exactly what is going to unfold over the next two years in terms of the cleanup with Chevron, which is managing the Uhlich site. Documents are beginning to flow back and forth and when there is something worth reporting, I will report to the public.

### **4. Other**

**Mayor Swiderski:** I want our attorney to answer Mr. Gonder's question about campers and trailers, which is in the law.

**Mr. Gonder:** Boats, too.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** Boats, and what are called trailers as including campers and stuff. They are in the same section of the code. They are allowed to be parked on private lots in a driveway. There are a couple of restrictions. They have to be at least 10 feet from any side or rear lot line and 20 feet from the front lot line. They cannot be parked in a required yard. So they can in the driveway, but they cannot be in a required yard. In that district, there is a 30-foot front yard setback. They cannot be used to live in or for any other purpose. You cannot use them for any purpose, they can just be stored there. So they are allowed within those restrictions.

**Mr. Gonder:** What is the date of that ordinance? Because in '71 they were not allowed.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** I was going to check that. This code was adopted in '94. I thought it was earlier than that. But it was not a lot different from the previous code. I have the old code in the office.

**Mr. Gonder:** I went to every meeting for one year to get no parking on James Street. It took me every meeting for one year, and this was the discussion over several months.

**Village Attorney Stecich:** I do not have the old code with me so I cannot tell you. But the truth is, it is allowed with those restrictions. If it were commercial, it has to be in a garage. You know that from previous discussions.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And then an item not mentioned under Board discussion, but we would like to raise preliminarily. Trustee Apel, the Comprehensive Plan.

**Trustee Apel:** I was given the task to come up with some ideas of how we can implement the Comprehensive Plan. I would like to propose that we have a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. I would like to read the suggestions that are here. They should be posted on the Web site for further discussion. They are not going to be voted on now; maybe we could discuss it at our next meeting.

Let me read what has been written. The Comprehensive Plan was passed by the Board of Trustees in March of 2011, after two years of work by the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The Village would like to begin a process to review, schedule and begin implementation of the plan. The effort would be shepherded by a new Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee composed of seven residents selected by the Board of Trustees for the effort.

The committee will be charged with reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, with the objective to generally prioritize and schedule the strategies contained in the plan. The steps would include, 1) Review of the plan: the committee would review the Comprehensive Plan and generally prioritize the recommendations within each chapter. 2) Schedule: the committee would loosely schedule which priorities would occur in which year over a five-year period. Some projects may be scheduled beyond that, or dropped entirely. 3) Public input: they would be charged to hold a public meeting, and reach out to the community by e-mail, to get input on the prioritizations, adjust prioritizations where appropriate based on public input. 4) Assign responsibility: identify the entity responsible for implementing the recommendation. This could include a Village committee or board, the Board of Trustees, the Village government, or the committee itself. 5) Cost estimate: roughly assign a cost to the project scheduled for the next two years. 6) Trustee approval: submit the project to the Board for review. 7) Distribute work: meet with the appropriate committees and distribute the first projects. 8) Monitor the project implementation and report out to the Village and the Board.

Large efforts of this sort usually require a dedicated champion to push the process along. Trustee Marge Apel - here I am - would lead the effort, assisting the committee where needed, and ensuring that communications necessary with the Board or other committees or groups would happen in an expeditious manner.

This is just the beginning. We will bring this up for discussion next time we have a meeting.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Is there anything anyone wants to say in immediate reaction, or do we want to shelve that until the next meeting?

**Trustee Walker:** Bruce and I both have a couple of thoughts. It is a good idea to have a committee prioritize and organize and schedule. But I do want to point out that there are a lot of projects, and elements of the Comp Plan, that are already underway and that we do not want to jeopardize them. The Conservation Commission has taken a number of the projects, for example the green building code, and are almost finished with it. They have started some of the other elements in the sustainability section. I have been working on the downtown.

We may need to meet with this committee in the beginning and point out things, because they may not be aware as we are of what things are already in play. They can either take them off, or they can say maybe we push this, maybe this is more of a priority, maybe we should move this a little faster. They could make comments about it, but we want to make sure that we do not jeopardize stuff that is moving. We, as a Board, are probably the best people to do that right now because we have a sense of what is going on.

Then I think there are a few things that need to move really quickly. We have been talking about reforming and recharging the Economic Development Committee to be a downtown-focused committee, downtown revitalization committee. That is something I would like to push forward more quickly, and not wait until a committee comes back and tells me when we can do it.

They may have other ideas that they can add to or that they pull out of the Comp Plan, but there are some things we should move quickly with. It is a good idea, and there are certainly tons of projects in that document, which is why it was so daunting to tackle. There are so many pieces to it, and it would be great to have other eyes look at the pieces and say this is something maybe we should push ahead right now, we have not been talking about it. It would be great to have that done, and to have a matrix that we could use, everything on a few sheets of paper, with the projects going down one side and the schedule going across the top. That would be terrifically helpful.

**Trustee Jennings:** There is a distinction to be made between an implementation plan and implementation coordination. We probably need a little of both, but in line with what Meg just said, we do not need a plan for implementing the plan. What we need now is coordination, and things are already in motion. This group ought to feel that it should be helping and coordinating. The things that are falling between the cracks will need attention and then priority-setting. But there other things where the function of this group might be to oversee and connect the dots and be helpful to other groups that are already doing something. In that spirit, then, if they are coordinating, who are they coordinating?

One aspect of their coordination is that some of the already-existing boards and commissions, and the Conservation Commission is a good example of this, have already picked up on the Comprehensive Plan. What we are really trying to do is make sure that there is good coordination among the various entities in the Village that are beginning to act upon the Comprehensive Plan. That is the way it should be, and it is not a competition.

That is the situation we face, and I think that is a good situation. The Comprehensive Plan Committee did not, in effect, take the last step. No reason why they should have, it was not part of their charge. But the last step is to take the plan and then put it into the chart that Meg just described: here is what we do this year, here is what we do next year, here is what we do in year three. That is the combined planning and coordination this group needs to do.

My second observation is that what you have laid out here is a very logical sequence: set priorities, come back to budgetary estimates, and so forth. In reality, though, as you well know, this gets smushed together. The setting of the priorities is not really possible absent some sense of what we can afford and where the money is going to come from.

The priority-setting, the action item chart, is going to be the low-hanging fruit that we can get in the first year because here are the grants that we can get, and this is how long it will take to get them, and things like that. It is not going to be theoretical priorities, but practical realities that they will have to face up to with the prioritization. It may be that what we would all agree to be absolutely the most important thing cannot possibly be done until year three; the exigencies just dictate. So the priority-setting is not necessarily from most important to least important. It is from what we can do quickly to what is going to take us longer. The Marines: The hard we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer.

**Trustee Apel:** I agree with both of you. Obviously, they have to assess what has been happening already and then see where it fits in with what is going to happen in the future, and put it all together. For us it would be wonderful to see that spread sheet because then we get a better sense of what is going on. We talked about our budget and that we want to have a strategic plan. This would fit in perfectly with that. We could figure out in year three, five, six or not at all. And if we want to do it, how are we going to do it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I want to expand on a subpoint brought up by Meg about the EDC and the downtown. There is an issue with empty storefronts. That is not something that can await the six-month output from the committee. It is something we should move on quickly. Meg has always been tasked with responsibility for the downtown. What you are doing here on this implementation committee, I am going to ask Meg to come up with a similar charge for the revamped EDC. We will have a call for volunteers for that, as well. It is different skill sets, but we will need it anyway as an implementation group for the downtown recommendations that will follow on top of the short-term need to figure out what, if anything, we can do about the empty storefronts. That can happen in parallel with this without endangering the intent or the effort. As long as its actions are informed by the Comprehensive Plan, the two groups will talk to each other and it will be like the Conservation Commission, sorted out through dialogue.

This will sharpen over the next couple of weeks as we talk it through. These divisions of labor will work. But I am pretty convinced without people pushing this along it will not get done. Given the success of the Tree Committee and infrastructure committee on getting volunteers, I do not know what is going on in this village, but we have dozens of people cutting vines, and the biggest turnout yet on the garbage cleanup day. There is a spirit in this village that maybe is coming out of hard times, people realize this is something important. I think we will find the right individuals to staff these two efforts. It is a nice, encouraging moment.

We have a bunch of committees, as well, that we have not necessarily in the past charged with things to do. Part of what is exciting here is the Comprehensive Plan spits out so many ideas that a number of them will land up in the laps of committees who have either been quiet or working on their own, and will suddenly have something important that the Village has asked for to be done. This will revitalize existing volunteer committees, as well. So this is an exciting moment for the Village. There are a lot of things going on, and a lot of people becoming engaged. I worry about our ability up here to manage it all because. But we have divided the work among ourselves and we are all excited by it, so I hope it comes to pass.

**Trustee Walker:** It is terrific that suddenly there is this surge of energy, and it is important work. This is the best way for a democracy to function, at the local level.

**Trustee Apel:** So will this be posted as is as the working document?

**Mayor Swiderski:** As a working document. And whoever is behind the camera can reach out to you for the copy.

**Trustee Apel:** Put it up there, and we will bring it up for next time. If you are out there and you have suggestions or ideas please let us know. We would love your input. This is the Comprehensive Plan for the Village, for all of us. So if you have any thoughts, please let us know.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Talk of volunteers is a nice segue to an item not on the Board discussion. This Saturday, we had a remarkable rescue in the Village. An individual cutting and trimming trees in his brother's backyard took a tumble, hurt himself with the cutting implement, and fell down a slope into a sharp ravine on Ravensdale Bridge trail where he lay for two hours before he was discovered. Lost over three quarts of blood. Wife went calling for him for dinner. When they found out where he was, our police, fire and ambulance sprung into action. Our very new, and apparently quite capable, Officer Pacheco, lowered himself down to the injured man and staunches the worst of the blood loss. Then the ladder truck went on Ravensdale Bridge trail up to the point where he had fallen, extended the ladder up to him, and a team went up and retrieved the victim in a basket. They brought him to the trail where the ambulance was waiting, and whisked him off to the hospital, where he is recovering.

You had all three services working incredibly professionally and calmly, and a life was saved. Something remarkable like this happens every year. Speaking of volunteers, the fire department and ambulance are our golden volunteers. Chief Sarfaty and Chief Bannon were on site. Laurie Bannon was manning the ambulance. Thanks to all the men and women who worked together to save this man's life.



**Trustee Walker:** Friday, May 4, our first outdoor Friday Night Live of the year, Dancing in the Streets. We are closing Main Street from Whitman to Warburton, and also closing Boulanger parking lot. There will be a DJ, Mike Allen. It is going to be free-form dancing. There will be a few performances. Restaurants will serve food and drink in the parking lot. It should be a warm and beautiful night, a great way to kick off the spring.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Walker with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:50 p.m.