

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:35 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Nicola Armacost.

CITIZENS: Four (4).

Mayor Swiderski: Both Trustees Armacost and Apel are out of town for business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 4, 2014 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 51-2013-14	\$161,328.98
Multi-Fund No. 52-3013-14	\$ 14,717.60
Multi-Fund No. 53-2013-14	\$ 15,399.86
Multi-Fund No. 54-2013-14	\$208,706.39
Multi-Fund No. 55-2013-14	\$ 950.00

John Gonder, 153 James Street: We have had 11 storms snow events since December. The DPW has done an excellent job. Mr. Frobels just told me we have plenty of salt. I am concerned with the potholes on Warburton, Broadway, Farragut or Ravensdale. There are big ones out there and they need repairs quickly. On the Warburton Avenue bridge, the Board never looked into someone to speed up the repair of the bridge. Meg Walker, with the commercial district and merchants, would fight like anything to get it done a lot quicker. Could we get someone to get after the county executives to speed up the operation. It will coincide with the Ardsley bridge starting in 2015. That will make a mess for people delivering in the towns around here. Why not double the workforce? Work minimum of two

shifts? Start mid-span and work south and north? There are a lot of options that could be done, do without overtime and work Saturdays and Sundays, and try to do it in a lot less time to help those merchants and also the commuters and people that live in this village.

Jacqueline Lhoumeau, 157 Southside Avenue: Will there be an opportunity for the public to be involved in parking issues having to do with the Warburton Bridge?

Mayor Swiderski: Not beyond what has happened. The change that you weighed in on was one of the few that required shifting things around in a way that required public input. The others, not so much. The Chief laid out as plan that tried to identify as many spaces as we could find. Beyond that, we are talking about March as the start of construction. We have not planned for a public hearing before then.

Ms. Lhoumeau: Is the Chief's plan something that is available for people to look at?

Village Manager Frobel: We can sit down with you, Jackie. The Chief had work sessions here in chambers over the summer months, as I had mentioned to you when we met before. If you would like, I would take the time to go over it with you again. Also, did you receive my note that we would not be discussing Southside this evening? You made it sound like you were uncertain on that.

Ms. Lhoumeau: Yes, I did.

Village Manager Frobel: Just to be clear. But at your convenience, if you would like me to sit down with you we could go over some of the alternatives we proposed. As the Mayor indicated, the only one that needed public action was adding meters to Southside.

Ms. Lhoumeau: The public who is going to be affected by this might like to know more about the idea.

Village Manager Frobel: There were comments offered during those work sessions I just spoke about.

Ms. Lhoumeau: OK. Maybe I did not quite get that.

Mayor Swiderski: As we get closer to the implementation we will be noticing out to the public on what we are doing and reminding people what is going to be available and what the limitations are going to be. It is going to be unpleasant. We can offset some of that, but it is going to be disruptive.

Trustee Walker: March is right around the corner. I wonder if we could schedule a meeting with the downtown merchants. There are going to be a lot of questions, in addition to the residents' questions. Perhaps the Downtown Collaborative could ask merchants and other concerned citizens to a meeting. Maybe this is not the only thing on the agenda, but this would be the main thing. How does that sound?

Village Manager Frobel: Great idea.

Mayor Swiderski: There is not much to modify because there is only so much play we have. But telling people what is going to be happening, that is reasonable.

Trustee Jennings: I see nothing wrong with meetings with people in the neighborhoods that may be affected, or the downtown merchants. But for the general public, having read that article in *The Enterprise* which alluded to a number of things that were apparently not yet known, at least not to the reporter, such as how many spaces in the commuter parking lot would be lost, it would be helpful to have, not just one of your excellent e-mails informing people verbally, but a map of the spaces that will no longer be available, and where the new spaces are going to be.

Mayor Swiderski: That is a good idea. And even leaflets in the windows of cars. To be clear on sequencing, the preconstruction conferences begin in March. Lane-shutting begins a bit beyond that. I do want to revisit if we are comfortable with closing only one lane. It is probably too late, but because of the disruption I wonder if we are not better off at least considering it one last time as an option.

Village Manager Frobel: When it was at 10, 20, 30, 40 percent completion we were under the assumption it would be closed completely. It was only at the end when the fire chiefs raised a concern about always wanting it open. The last time we went through a project of this size on that bridge it was closed completely. It will move it along quicker. It will cut it in half. But the sequencing now is two years and have one lane open at all times. I have a meeting scheduled with the fire chiefs at your next meeting. I can add that to the agenda if you would like to revisit the issue. If you recall when we met with the county planners, they will be preparing a flier because it is their project. We can add on to that, on our Web site, some of our parking issues. We can show a plan as to the additional spaces on Factory Lane and what is happening at the tennis club etc. We also know with some precision how many parking spaces will be lost. We have told you about this whole process. I know the reporter did not know that, but we know that.

Trustee Jennings: Then that story will begin to prompt questions. A lot of people do not even know this is going to happen yet.

Mayor Swiderski: And they are not registering the impact on their lives. The moment it happens no matter what we do there will be plenty of people surprised. It is just the nature of what happens here.

Michele Porter, 17 Washington Avenue: I was here when Dave Bloomer proposed all the parking spots that are possibly available. From what I remember these are commuter spaces. They are not resident spaces. We brought up the fact there are a multitude of people that are going to be impacted by the lack of parking. Is there anything that can be done? If we are making spots on River Street and down the train station, can they be for residents? I do not mind walking two blocks if I know I can park my car. I am lucky. I have a driveway that will fit two to three cars. We have three cars in our family. I make every effort to keep at least one off the street, or two, but it does not always happen. I know is it not your responsibility but it is a densely-populated area. You have people that live in 101 Southside, you have people that live in 8 Washington; there are multi-family units, and some concessions need to be made. I believe, at that meeting, something was going to be brought up to the country regarding possible parking or possible solutions or possible something.

13:14 APPROVAL OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2014 AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE TO ADD STOP SIGN AT SOUTH DRIVE AND TERRACE DRIVE

Village Manager Frobel: Mayor, you have heard from the Police Chief, Safety Council, and public hearing. The action tonight is to authorize the placement of that stop sign.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2014 amending the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, to provide for a stop intersection at South Drive and Terrace Drive.

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

Section 1: Section 282-16.A (Through highways) of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is hereby amended by adding the following new paragraph:

(60) The intersection of South Drive and Terrace Drive is hereby designated a stop intersection, and a stop sign shall be erected on South Drive at its intersection with Terrace Drive.

Section 2: All ordinances, local laws, and parts thereof inconsistent with this local law are hereby repealed.

Section 3: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State.

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

14:14 BOND RESOLUTION – EMERGENCY GENERATOR

Village Manager Frobel: I have kept the Board informed as we proceed in our effort to bring emergency power generation to the Community Center. We have gone with a design-build notion. We opened bids earlier this year. Deven Sharma, our Building Inspector, has headed up the team. What is appropriate now is for you to consider authorization for the borrowing of the money to buy that generator. We need to have this in place before we pay for the item, but it is best that we have it place before we even come to you with a recommendation to award that project. I expect at our next meeting we will be at that point. We received five bidders; we did very well in our response. We are comfortable in saying that we are going to be able to get it accomplished for the \$125,000 or less. The bid is less than that, but we like to have a contingency in there on the outside chance we run into any unexpected concerns during the project. So at this time, we are looking for the authority to borrow that money and award the project.

Mayor Swiderski: It has been a priority. I note that there is a little controversy.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees adopt the resolution as attached to authorize the issuance of \$125,000 serial bonds of the

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York,
to pay the cost of the purchase and installation of an emergency
generator for said Village.

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

**15:14 APPROVAL OF NEW YORK COOPERATIVE LIQUID ASSETS
SECURITIES SYSTEM (CLASS) AGREEMENT**

Village Manager Frobel: The Village has had a business relationship with the New York Cooperative Liquid Asset Security System, or NYCLASS, since 1994. In your packet is a memorandum prepared by the Village Clerk which summarizes what this is about. I view it more administrative in nature, but the organization that we invest in requires action by the Trustees. WE have some securities with them, not much with the exception of the money we have for part of our Waterfront Trust Account.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: What the Village can do with excess funds is very limited. We cannot invest in stocks or any risky things. Our return is limited in the same way This CLASS organization was formed with the idea that by putting a lot of monies together from a lot of municipalities we would have more buying power in the limited things that we are able to buy in the market. We could park our money there, which is then invested by this cooperative purchasing group. We did it for quite a few years. We could transfer money in and out on a daily basis; the money was completely liquid, and we would earn a little more than we could in our Village accounts. But in the past few years, the earnings have been abysmally low. I did not bother with it; we left our money with our regular banking accounts, where we got some return on it.

But apparently they never updated the agreement to allow it to take full advantage of what municipalities can do under New York State law. The agreement was changed to make them a little more competitive in what they can invest in but, again, very limited. There is no risk of Village money in any way. And we can choose to use it or not. If we see that they are starting to get a better return on the money, then fine, we will send some money there in those periods of time that we have extra funds sitting around.

Mayor Swiderski: It is. Do you have a sense of what the rates are?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Below a tenth of a percent.

Mayor Swiderski: I get the bank statements every month, and we have a chunk of money, a million and a half dollars. And it makes \$200 a year? It is so miniscule that it feels like robbery. So anything we could do better than that would be good.

Trustee Walker: I understand the desire to keep it liquid and have access to it. But could there be a chunk that does not have to be as liquid and could go into something?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: We used to put some money into CDs, but the return on CDs is terrible.

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

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o, empowers municipal corporations [defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages] and districts to enter into, amend, cancel and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective functions, powers and duties on a cooperative or contract basis; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson wishes to invest certain of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to a municipal cooperation agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson wishes to assure the safety and liquidity of its funds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Cooperative Investment Agreement in the name of and on behalf of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson.

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

16:14 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED 2014-15 VILLAGE BUDGET

Village Manager Frobel: In fall I lay out the budget development calendar, beginning with the distribution of my budget manual to department heads. Traditionally we hold the public hearing earlier than is required by state law to allow the maximum opportunity for citizen input and for the Trustees to react to that citizen input. That is why I put down the date that I did, April 8. Last week I sent out a note to the Board asking you to get back to me with dates that are bad. That night Trustee Jennings and Trustee Apel are not available.

Mayor Swiderski: In the interest of moving it along, let us set it for April 8 for now. We have plenty of time to shift it if we can agree to a better time between now and then.

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, 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, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter to consider the proposed 2014 - 2015 Village Budget.

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

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: I want to acknowledge and pickup on Mr. Gonder's thoughts that our DPW has done a very good job during this winter storm season. February was a very difficult month for everyone. You still see cars buried in the snow. The Chief and Mike

Gunther and I are putting together a recommendation to map out changes in terms of a local law regarding allowing overnight parking on some of our streets, addressing some of the concerns about our public spaces for commuter lots and shoppers' lots. There are some improvements we have to make. We are learning. Certainly, apologies to anyone that was inconvenienced, and I know a number of people were inconvenienced by equipment failure. We had two dump trucks break: a large one, which we really depend on, the transmission went on that. You probably saw the garbage truck with a plow on it. Not the most efficient way of removing snow, but one that we had to rely on. We also had one of our small dump trucks break. The small dump trucks are really the workhorse of the operation because most of our streets are very narrow to begin with. With previous storms and cars parked on the streets, those small trucks are the only vehicles that can get around. So you lose one of them, and one of the big trucks. And then our payloader, the one that is in our capital improvement plan for replacement, broke down. That took about 48 hours for our mechanics to get the parts and get it back together. In the meantime, we did bring in a private contractor and machinery to help out. But it was very tough. I remember when you asked me, because I do always brief you before the storms, my thought on that middle storm. I said when you have got a combination of snow turning to rain and sleet, with no prospect of thawing in the next 48 to 72 hours, you have got a problem. And those are traditionally the worst storms.

The men did a nice job. They are very tired. They have been working not around the clock but, certainly, 12 to 15 hour days. But they have held up well, perhaps better than our equipment. There were a few accidents, none involving any personal injury. But again, you are navigating some narrow streets.

Mayor Swiderski: If a plow clips a car what is the story on that?

Village Manager Frobel: That goes to our insurance company for investigation. I will not make a decision or a recommendation. But there are some principles in law that involve storm removal operations and accidents that occur, where the liability rests. Some homeowners really try to get the vehicles off the streets. I personally have some experience with people that I do not think work as hard as they could in trying to get that vehicle off the street. I see that in my own neighborhood. Be that as it may, we work around that. But we are coming back to you with some recommendations. This was an exceptional winter. Mike Gunther, our superintendent, tells me it is the worst he has seen since 1996, perhaps not in the amount of snow, but the frequency and the type of storm that he has got to fight. We did get a salt delivery on Friday and two loads on Monday. So we have almost a full shed right now. That will get us through at least one storm, maybe another one. We have got another 400 ton delivery on order. As you might well imagine, our snow removal budget is completely ...

Trustee Walker: Yes, decimated.

Village Manager Frobel: We plan on about \$60,000 for purchase of salt; already we have spent in excess of \$90,000. But we will make adjustments in the budget during the year. We do manage our budget. When we see things like this trending, we will take steps to adjust it. We carry a fairly large contingency on the outside chance that we get hit with a winter like this. But, of course, we are always very cautious in going to our contingency. We will try to make adjustments throughout the budget to cover that but, again, a word of thanks to our crews that have done a nice job.

Trustee Walker: Yes, it has just been an extraordinary amount of work and I know that people are very appreciative. They really deserved our thanks.

Trustee Jennings: Absolutely.

Trustee Walker: And you, too. It has been unbelievable.

Mayor Swiderski: There is a real relentless quality to this winter.

Village Manager Frobel: It is stressful in the fact that they do go about the job very conscientiously and they really do want to do a good job. When we get the calls, the complaints about the cars that are socked in, that frustrates them, too. They would like to see the streets clear and open, they would like to minimize the inconvenience of having to remove snow from the downtown in the early morning hours. But from an operational point of view they are fighting a storm, and it is an around-the-clock effort.

Mayor Swiderski: I looked at the statistics a couple of days ago, and the average snowfall over the last 40 years has been 26.5 inches. We have breached 60 inches so far this winter. So we are more than double the usual snow load. There have been two other winters, '96 and two years ago, that were of this order. But two years ago it came it two big dumps, and here it has been this relentless every few days. It wears down the people, the equipment and the patience of a lot of residents who at the end of their wits. Then, the pothole issue is going to be a hot one. It is just a disaster.

Village Manager Frobel: It is. We tried in between these storms; Mike Gunther was focusing efforts in early February. He was making good progress, with two men out there the entire day. They are going to have to go back. Some of the streets mentioned tonight, Broadway, Farragut and Warburton are state and county roads. They were out, as well, in early February. They will be back. But there are some tremendous holes there already. The thaw over the next few days will exacerbate that problem.

Mayor Swiderski: I know you are in the midst of the budget cycle, but I would not be surprised, nor object, if the usual paving budget was a little higher than it has been in the past few years, because in my memory I just have not seen it this bad. It is atrocious.

Trustee Walker: But it makes for good traffic calming. Everybody has to drive very slowly.

Trustee Jennings: I understand that different streets in Hastings are the responsibility of different jurisdictions. Broadway is state. If the state people are not coming, and we determine that there is an area that is a hazard, do we have the authority to fill it ourselves, or do we have wait for the state or the county to act?

Village Manager Frobel: Mike will take action. For example, he has been known to fill the potholes at the intersection of Broadway and Farragut and Main, even though it could be state or county. Obviously, their crews are stretched. But if he has got enough product on the truck he will take steps to fill those.

Trustee Jennings: I can think of one place on Ravensdale, and a place on Broadway where there are so many potholes so close together that it is impossible to avoid a pothole by swerving unless you have to swerve into the other lane. Perhaps we could target those places.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Update on Deer

Mayor Swiderski: The project is on. We are still working our way through the last license with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. But they are cognizant of our desire to start on March 3 and working with us to make this happen. We are planning under the assumption that we will have a license in hand by March 3. The darting professionals will be in town starting later next week. We will be having the delivery of feeders and everything else. The darting will begin early in the week of March 3. We will be starting, in all likelihood, first in Hillside Woods, then in other locations as identified.

His paramount concern is safety. And if he feels a particular location puts drivers at risk or has the risk of putting a panicked deer into traffic he is going to look for a better location. So we may land up at one of the smaller parks or a private home, if it means it is safer. He is looking at the map and working through what the best places will be for this to happen. We are organizing the volunteers. It is a last-minute scramble.

Over the next two weeks, there is going to be a public campaign to tell people about what they can expect. I want to have an article in *The Enterprise* and leaflets, culminating in the days before the effort. It is going to be startling for people to see deer potentially come staggering into their front lawn and keel over, and then have somebody coming and injecting it. There is a bit of drama associated with this, and people need to be steeled for what is going to be happening here. But it is exciting, it has been a long time coming and I, for one, will be eager to see it start and see it finish so we can move on to other business.

Mr. Gonder: Mr. Mayor, at the last meeting I believe Andrus Home was not on board yet.

Mayor Swiderski: No, the nursing home is on board and the Children's Village is board. The Children's Home has not yet communicated back. A month of radio silence is never good news. We are planning on alternate locations in the vicinity, but it is not ideal. We need their participation, long-term, for success. We are calibrating our expectations for this year. It is the starter year, and if we are half as effective as we would like to be, but we get going and learn what works and does not, that would be a successful year.

There is going to be a lot over the next few days. We are going to have a protocol for safety out to the police and to the darter for them to review and update, and that will be posted on the Village Web site. We have a dedicated page off of the left-hand menu. You will see something called "Deer Issues," and that will take you to a page that has licenses and documents and a press release, and everything else that we are going to be producing and putting up there. It is one-stop shopping for all the public documentation on the project.

Trustee Walker: Do you have a team of volunteers to help with the fliers?

Mayor Swiderski: No, not yet. I plan to meet with the advanced placement environmental science class next week, which has an obligation to do several hours of work, and to recruit volunteers out of that. They will go door-to-door in the immediate vicinity of where we are going to be. Those kids will also be recruited to help initially as guides in the woods. There is probably nobody better suited to provide guides in the woods than our pool of teenagers. We also have about a dozen individuals who have offered to do that, and many others who are doing other things.

Trustee Walker: So you have all the volunteers you need?

Mayor Swiderski: No, we could always use more. The darting effort can be done with the two professionals we have on hand. They will welcome help, they do not require it. Technically, we could get by with no volunteers, but it would require then more participation by Parks and Rec people to seal the park and police, and we would rather minimize impact

on overtime. I would rather not rely on them any more than we have to. That is in regard to the safety protocol around the effort. It is just a mistake to rely on volunteers as mandatory for that effort. It is optional, they will help, we are making room for them to help. But if they are not available at a given moment we are not going to stop the project because of that. We have something like 60 volunteers mobilized on the various metrics. We have 40 households identified all over Hastings that will be hosting hostas. That will be used as a proxy for damage to property. The woman organizing it has made sure that they are evenly sprinkled throughout the whole Village so it is a statistically meaningful sampling. We have a Web site, where we gather sightings. The guy who programmed it is sitting here in the audience, Richard Ryan. Over time, the data from that will show us, hopefully, a drop-off in fawns. Statistically, because it is self-reporting, it may not be accurate for where the deer are. But as a percentage of sightings, if this year 25 percent of the sightings in August have fawns and next year 10 percent of the sightings in August have fawns, that is meaningful regardless of the number of people reporting or the distribution.

Those percentages are apparently meaningful. I did talk with Professor Rutberg, and that is good data. We have certainly 40 reporters at least who can enter data. Probably 20 are active. But we have got hundreds and hundreds of entries so far. The Web site has a heat map generated from that data. And then the environmental teacher, Melissa Shandroff, will be running an effort to create these exclosures in Hillside Woods where we will do the species counts over time to see whether there is regeneration of the understory over time if the population comes down. She got a grant out of Hastings Educational Foundation, entirely independent of this project, to run an exclosure. We are folding her effort into our project, and the kids will be participating as well. So a lot of intelligent public participation in this, overseen by scientists so it is statistically rigorous and valuable. I am sure there will be bumps, but so far what we are seeing is it is working out nicely.

Trustee Walker: Because this is kind of scientific research, everything is being documented including community participation.

Mayor Swiderski: Everything is documented, it will all be posted on the Web site, and it is all going to be monitored by Professor Rutberg and a couple of other people who have done this for a living. They will be tweaking their protocols to make sure they are valid. The hosta protocol is lifted from work done by a Cornell scientist in that area and is modeled entirely on that protocol: distribution, and how the data will be collected. We are not making it up. We are being driven by what the DEC wants us to do and what we think makes sense scientifically to come up with something useful here.

Trustee Walker: Thank you for the tremendous effort.

2. Update on the Downtown

Trustee Walker: We have planned for a number of outdoor Friday Night Lives coming up, beginning in May. We are also hoping to work with the Upstream Gallery and the Hastings Arts Commission to do something on the Friday before the River Arts studio tour, to kick it off with an arts celebration on Main Street. For a couple of years in a row we did art walks the weekend of the studio tour. But it was difficult for artists to participate in that as well as have their studios open the following weekend. So we are looking for other ways to celebrate the arts. That is something we have been doing jointly between the Friday Night Live committee, the Upstream people and the Hastings Arts Commission.

The Downtown Collaborative has been also thinking about art and meeting with the Hastings Arts Commission, starting to have some discussions about public art. Another thing we worked on at our last meeting was to come up with a list of physical improvements we would like to see in the downtown. I asked people on the committee to go out between snowfalls and photograph things they would like to see repaired, improved, changed. Some of them are big-ticket items like the stair from the Steinschneider lot to the train station. But others are things that would not cost a lot of money but could make some aesthetic improvements. I am going to put that list together so the Board can see it. I do not think it is going to make a big dent in our upcoming budget talks, but I wanted to do it before budget talks, just in case.

Mayor Swiderski: The addition of the Upstream Gallery is huge. It is a major addition to our village.

Trustee Walker: The Downtown Collaborative can take credit for it because it was people on our committee alerting Upstream that this space was available. We found out because we have our ears open. They heard right away that that space was going to be opening up, and they told Upstream and the wheels started turning very quickly. And the owner of the building has been very cooperative and really helpful.

3. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Swiderski: The DEC will be here Feb. 27 to speak about the remediation, answer questions about the proposed remediation plans they have completed with the DEC, and converse with the public. Beyond that, it has been pretty quiet. It is winter and the site is covered. There is not much going on. We have not heard anything in regards to Building 52. We are still waiting for a good date where we can schedule the Infrastructure Committee to do their presentation. We need to wrap that up.

Trustee Walker: I had a discussion with the Pratt Institute professor whose students would like to present. We are hoping to do it on March 18, but I need final confirmation. I said we would meet an hour earlier, 6:30, and give them an hour to present. Does that sound OK?

Mayor Swiderski: I would be happy to do it.

Trustee Walker: I just need a final confirmation from him

4. Other

Ms. Lhoumeau: Snow in the downtown has been pretty hard. The DPW has been doing a tremendous job. Do we have the funds to outsource snow removal and particularly cutouts in the downtown? We end up having sidewalks that are clear, but then the plow comes through and piles up snow at the corner and you cannot get through. The snow has been very heavy and icy and beyond the power of somebody with a shovel to get through in certain spaces. There are places on my block on Southside where it was seven feet wide, four feet tall to try and get to your meter. That would be between your sidewalk and your car, and the meter is in the middle of it. Cut-throughs, is that the landlord's responsibility, or the homeowner? Or if it is a cut-through for a meter, is that the Village?

Village Manager Frobel: You would have to cite an example for me, Jackie. We have done all the crosswalks. I have watched them do all of them. They removed snow from all the streets. We used the payloaders for the last few storms. When you say "cut-throughs," I do not know what you mean.

Ms. Lhoumeau: I will send you a photo.

Trustee Walker: To get to the meters, to access meters?

Ms. Lhoumeau: Yes, like parking meters along Southside on the restaurant side. In front of the St. George it has been cleared, but north of that you still have mountains of snow. And that corner at Southside and Spring was behind a wall of snow. Now there are couple of areas where it is not clear yet, but with the rain I think it will get clear.

Mayor Swiderski: One more thing. We have retirement of Chief Bloomer on March 7. We will be announcing both the new Chief and the process around that in the next few days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m.