

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 6, 2014**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 7:50 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

**CITIZENS:** Twelve (12).

**APPOINTMENT**

**Mayor Swiderski:** We are appointing Adam Anuszkiewicz to the Zoning Board to replace a position recently vacated by a resignation. He is being graduated from alternate into a full-time position.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2014 were approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

Multi-Fund No. 69-2013-14	\$109,480.15
Multi-Fund No. 70-2013-14	\$ 77,296.75

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**John Gonder, 153 James Street:** You had a Waterfront Infrastructure Committee last Thursday; Alligood and Mayor Kinnally did an outstanding job. Is there an open hearing, or do you just make a decision and accept it?

**Mayor Swiderski:** They will take comments. There were not many comments that would change the substance of the document. Modifications necessary to that document will be made. Then they are going to submit it to this board. We will review it, hold a public comment period on it, and then accept it and send it on to BP and the DEC.

**Mr. Gonder:** Not anything was mentioned about Building 52. We have gone another year or so. I do not see any money to protect that building you have in your hands, a million, whatever it is. Is there any information on that? What about the PCBs near and under Building 52? Has a decision been made by ARCO? The community has not heard anything about that. I heard that if that building went on fire, the fire department would not go inside. They would only fight it from the outside because it is a danger to them. What about the foundation of logs under Building 52? No information on that. And what are BP's plans? Do they talk to you about Building 52? And what about the water tower? Is there any decisions on that? When will we get some information? Quite a few years have gone by.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I will be providing updates to some of those questions during the waterfront portion of the Board discussion.

**Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway:** Regarding the leaf blower ban law, due to the late nature of spring, all the little white petals, magnolias dropping now, evergreens with a lot of burnt leaves that continue to come down as the new ones push forward the new growth, it is still very messy out there. There is no way you clean up Kwanzan cherry blossoms, the big fuzzy oaks that rolled around on Memorial Day weekend, with a broom. It would be nice to have those tools until, say, just before Memorial Day. I would like the Board to consider that possibility, given the nature of what nature is doing this year. It is later than in the past.

I wanted to speak to you about the blacktop work recently done. I was thankful for the replacement of the roads jumping up in the calendar. But I would like suggest that going forward we consider shopping value instead of price. We saw two days afterward the blowout on Ravensdale. It was patched and repaired, but we do not know the integrity. We have seams now in there, a point for continued pothole or breakage in the future. It is my understanding the Town of Greenburgh last year engaged ELQ out of Port Chester, because they have a better product. The company we have been working with uses a high percent of recycled material, which does not hold up. They also thin down the mix, where they use very little of the binder, the tar, the emulsion whatever is in there to make the stone adhere together well. Also, when this bidding goes out, you can see the collusion that goes on. You will have Petrillo enter, then Core will enter. But you will see when Core gets a job, Petrillo's trucks are running. They have got the gig wrapped up when it comes out of that plant down there. It may be less expensive to go with the company we have been going with, but we get three years out of it, whereas if we went with a better company with a better product we might get 7 to 10 years out of it. We need to start having a discussion about value as opposed to price going forward.

**Mayor Swiderski:** This year for the first time we are considering expanding the joint bid process we do with the six river towns to include the unincorporated part of Greenburgh,

which has typically done their own bidding, in part because their capital budgets are approved much later than ours and we did not want to wait. This year, it has been approved earlier. So we are in discussions. Nothing is firm yet, but that may happen. It will double the size of the bid and, potentially, give us a bigger pool of applicants looking for the work, including the one you referred to.

**35:14 TAX WARRANT 2014 - 2015**

**Mayor Swiderski:** This is mechanical: implementation of the budget.

**Village Manager Frobel:** It is. You adopted the budget at the last meeting. Effectively, you have told us how much we need to raise in taxes, and what this action does is set the warrant in authorizing the levy and the collection of taxes, beginning June 1.

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Walker 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 2014 – 2015

<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	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

**36:14 APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – TEAMSTERS**

**Mayor Swiderski:** A lot of work went into this.

**Village Manager Frobel:** As you note, a great deal of effort went into this. The parties have been negotiations for quite a while. The contract expired almost a year ago. Like most negotiations, a lot of give and take on both sides. Neither party got entirely everything they would have liked, but that is part of it. My recommendation is approval. I think it is a fair and affordable contract, and one that I hope the Board will support this evening.

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 collective bargaining agreement as attached with Local 456, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, for the period June 1, 2013, to May 31, 2017, and authorize the Village Manager to sign the agreement.

<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	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

**Mayor Swiderski:** The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is the union that represents the DPW workers in Hastings. This involves the contract that we establish with the DPW workers that sets such criteria as the raises over time, increase or changes in benefits, work schedules, et cetera. As the Village Manager mentioned, it is has been a lot of work on both sides, and it is much appreciated that we have come to an agreement.

**37:14 APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

**Village Manager Frobel:** Again, time and effort went into it. The parties have been in negotiations for nearly a year without a contract. This, too, is a fair contract. I am pleased that it is a multiyear arrangement, as was the DPW agreement. I think it represents something that is reflective of our appreciation for our employees and one, again, that I hope the Board can support.

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the collective bargaining agreement as attached with the Police Benevolent Association for the period June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2018, and authorize the Village Manager to sign the contract.

<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	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

**Mayor Swiderski:** This reflects, again, almost a year of hard work, and provides both the police with the level of raises appropriate and commensurate with the caps we live under, and the Village with the guarantee that those raises are affordable, given the sort of caps we have been seeing.

I do want to say, in both cases, that while these negotiations are never necessarily easy they were always cordial and civil. I would like to think the relationship between the union members and both Village management and the Trustees is cordial and a good working relationship. We appreciate the nature and cordiality of that relationship. It is not always like that elsewhere, and when it degenerates it is a bad thing for all parties. We really like it the way it is, so thank you.

**Mr. Downey:** In light of what is going on with the conversation with Dobbs Ferry and the DPW, can the public understand it, to what degree it is public record?

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is all public record.

**Mr. Downey:** Where can one read the changes and what the changes meant?

**Mayor Swiderski:** We will post them on the Web site. It is public record, and nothing either party is uncomfortable having viewed publicly. It is percent raises, changes in amount of contribution to the health care, things like that. That is a request to Raf, who may be watching, to have that posted.

### **38:14 TRAFFIC AND CRIMINAL SOFTWARE SYSTEM (TraCS) AGREEMENT**

**Village Manager Frobel:** This is an issue that the Chief had brought to our attention. It is a program run in part by the state, one that will greatly speed up the opportunity for a police officer to work from his car, from his desktop, by scanning licenses and inputting it almost instantaneously into our system.

**Police Chief Visalli:** We would be using the police vehicle laptops to scan driver's licenses. That data is then instantly sent to the court and to the state. A much more efficient system. Also, the defendant would be issued a ticket at the scene. It would be printed out in the car.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And the cost associated with that?

**Chief Visalli:** We put a grant in for it. We are waiting for a response. But pretty much everything should be covered by the state. We are hoping.

**Mayor Swiderski:** When you say paper tickets, will there be a printer or something?

**Chief Visalli:** Yes, we would have a scanner/printer in the cars. After they swipe the license, all the data would go into the summons, and then they would just have to enter a code for what the violation was for. Print it out, give it to the operator.

**Mayor Swiderski:** So it populates the screen with all their data.

**Chief Visalli:** Yes. Accident reports also would be done from the cars, and then that information also would be transmitted to Albany.

**Trustee Armacost:** To clarify the point about it being covered by a grant. My understanding is that the software is free if we agree to sign up.

**Chief Visalli:** Correct.

**Trustee Armacost:** So there is no cost for that. Is that what you mean by the state will cover it?

**Chief Visalli:** We are anticipating they are going to cover all the costs for hardware as well.

**Trustee Armacost:** The hardware would be the printer that would be in each of the cars?

**Chief Visalli:** Correct. We are going to do laptops for all the cars. We do not have enough ports on the laptops we have now.

**Trustee Armacost:** And if, by some chance, they do not cover it what is the total cost of the grant?

**Chief Visalli:** I do not have that information right now. What we are anticipating is that, in the past, after speaking to neighboring municipalities that use this system, if you do not have the hardware to sustain this system they will provide it for you.

**Mayor Swiderski:** What it is in it for the state that would compel them to do that?

**Chief Visalli:** I guess greater efficiency, better records management. It is just a much more efficient system.

**Trustee Armacost:** Is this in our budget?

**Village Manager Frobel:** No. Under the agreement that we are going to sign the footnote says there is no cost to provide this software as long as New York State police and Westchester County police can provide necessary support staff. I suppose there is an outside chance that some day the state or the county may discontinue their support. Then we will have to make a decision as to whether or not we want to continue the program.

**Trustee Armacost:** You mean support in terms of administering it on the state side?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes. That is in the agreement we would be signing.

**Trustee Armacost:** But that is irrelevant to the cost of new hardware.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I think you are asking that if we vote yes are we committing to paying for this if the state will not come through with the grant.

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes, I am asking that. And I am also asking whatever the amount is, is that in our budget?

**Mayor Swiderski:** No.

**Trustee Armacost:** Because it should be in our budget. This is the discussion we had the last time, about when you are purchasing something where you anticipate a grant either you include the grant amount on the revenue side, and normally that is what people do with grants, not-for-profits. They anticipate they are going to get a particular grant, and they put the cost in on the expenditure side and put the grant amount in on the revenue side. Obviously, if they do not get the grant then they do not make the expenditure. I am trying to understand how this fits. You said you do not include anything on the revenue side unless you know you have that money in your pocket.

**Village Manager Frobel:** That is true.

**Trustee Armacost:** So how does this fit into that? I am completely in favor of it. I just want to understand how it fits into the way we do things.

**Village Manager Frobel:** My understanding is that as of today there will be no out of pocket expense the Village can expect if we implement this program.

**Chief Visalli:** If we do not get the grant we will not be implementing this program.

**Trustee Armacost:** So the grant is an in-kind grant. They send the products to us, is that the way it works?

**Chief Visalli:** Yes. I do not have the exact numbers with me tonight. I can get them for you. I do not have the grant with me, but we already sent it out. Our anticipation was, if we do not get this grant we are not going to use the TraCS system. We did not want to burden the taxpayers with any further cost for this system.

**Trustee Armacost:** That is very helpful. I think if we do get it, that is an actual value. It has monetary value to us, and we need to incorporate that into the way in which we report our expenditures and revenue. It is real money. It is not fictitious.

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is the in-kind value of the hardware and software if it is a delivery of equipment, right?

**Trustee Armacost:** Right. How we receive it, there is a cost to it. Then we receive revenue to cover that cost. That should be reflected in our books somehow. Anyway, we can cross that bridge when we come to it.

**Chief Visalli:** I am not sure if it works that way. The state would make some type of accounting measure that they put out the money for this. The only cost that I know of is they do not provide the printer paper.

**Mayor Swiderski:** The accountants can tell us how to handle this. Thank you very much.

**Trustee Armacost:** It sounds like it is going to reduce a lot of administrative time and cost on your side, free officers up to do other more productive work.

**Police Chief Visalli:** Yes, correct. Officers would no longer be handwriting moving violations. They would simply scan the driver's license bar code. It takes all the information



from the driver's license, puts it into the computer. Then they only have to enter a code for whatever the violation was, print the ticket out, hand it to the operator and they are finished.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** And that information goes directly to the DMV and also to the local court here. So it will also save time here, processing tickets.

**Police Chief Visalli:** Our court clerk was also in favor of doing this, as well.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** There are other municipalities using it. It will definitely streamline the reporting that has to go to the DMV from the court, as well.

**Trustee Apel:** Yes, less clerical work. Once it is done once, that is it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Plus also tickets being thrown out because they are illegible or manual errors have been made.

**Trustee Armacost:** Exactly. But do tell us the value. You should get credit for all the grant money your team is bringing in. You are the most productive team, I think, in terms of that.

**Police Chief Visalli:** We are trying to keep the costs down. I have to thank Lieutenant Dosin quite a bit. He is very helpful in getting all this information and filling out the grant.

**Mayor Swiderski:** It is a win-win for the police and the Village government. I am not sure it is a win for the poor guy who gets a ticket and cannot plead his way out of it.

**Brian Allen, 101 Southside Avenue:** The system would only be used after a determination a summons is going to be written, correct?

**Police Chief Visalli:** Correct.

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Chief of Police to execute the Traffic and Criminal Software System (TraCS) Use and Dissemination Agreement between the New York State Police and the County of Westchester Department of Public Safety, and the Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department, for the electronic capture and transfer of ticket and accident report data.

<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	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

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

**Village Manager Frobel:** did report to the Board a few days ago about the Con Ed gas line replacement project. They anticipate a June 1 start. It is about 1,300 feet of gas line that will be replaced on Warburton, Spring Street, Main and West Main. It will be disruptive, although the company will be working to minimize that disruption. They will be doing it in about seven different segments. There will only be a certain portion of the road open during the day, making the service connections at the same time. It will be a three-month project. It is one that, in the company's mind, is necessary. I had held out the hope that perhaps with the bridge project this could be put off. The pipe is cast iron. It is vintage late 1800s, early 1900s, similar to what they replaced last fall along a part of Warburton near Broadway. In the company's mind it does need to be replaced. Although it is not a high hazard, it is one that is aging and could be prone to leaks.

The work will be done during the day. The company will be working with businesses and homeowners. There will be some night work. The night work will largely be individual service connections because they do not want to turn off the gas to a restaurant during the lunch or dinner hours. There will be some upsets during that time. It will also allow them to upgrade the line from a low pressure to a medium pressure, which will allow more people to convert to gas heat, if they choose. I wish it was not the hand we were dealt. The company is aware of the Warburton Bridge project so they know the downtown will be under construction for most of the summer. We are trying to make the best out of s an unavoidable situation. Any comments can be directed to me.

I did preview this somewhat in the meeting that Meg held a few weeks ago with the business community, so the word is getting out. The company has pledged to be very effective in communicating to businesses. But we will be relying heavily on our police department, again, to be going door to door to businesses informing them about the project scope and duration and the times they will be working in their area. We will be taking the lead on that. I am not going to rely on the company to get word out to our residents.

**Trustee Walker:** In terms of residents and noise, would this include jackhammering at night, or is it the work that would be done at night would be more just making connections?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Making connections. We wanted to minimize the jackhammering during the evening hours, and they said they would. Largely service connections would be in the off hours, 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Should not be noisy work. But at that hour of the night any noise sounds very loud when everything is quiet. It is going to be very difficult. And it will be a three-month project.

**Trustee Apel:** Can there be a map?

**Village Manager Frobel:** We do have a map. I put it in your packet, but I will try to do a little better. We will put a new one on the Web with some color highlighting to let people know.

**Trustee Apel:** Similar to when you go on MapQuest or whatever, they will show you the red lines, do not go here, this is the direction. If we could have something like that so people will know where they should not be going, that would be helpful.

**Village Manager Frobel:** The map they gave us is pretty good, but I will take a look at it.

**Trustee Jennings:** I am assuming that this project does not involve complete closure and detour. But it does probably involve a flagman in one lane, alteration of traffic?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Yes.

**Trustee Jennings:** I understand the overall project will take a certain period of time, but I am wondering if we could drill down to how many days the street will be open so you have to have a flag one-way alternating kind of pattern versus being able to drive both ways, even though you are driving over plates and stuff. Do we have that sense yet?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Not yet. Only because we have not met with the contractor. Just today, you may notice there are some pavement markings out there. The Chief wanted the route of the gas line indicated in the paving so he could begin to plan what he is going to need in terms of traffic control. Disappointingly, the gas line is on the north side of Spring Street, which is where the parking is. So we are going to lose parking there, to make things worse.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And they are going to re-pave the street when they are done?

**Village Manager Frobel:** Well, that is an issue. When I met with the company, we were somewhat aggressive in telling them we would like it paved curb to curb, at least on Main Street. The company was open to that consideration, but no promise. Under the law, they are not obligated. But I indicated that given the disruption we are going through, that was the minimum the company could do.

**Trustee Apel:** If we are going to lose the parking on that side of Spring Street, the public has enough problems. I think we should give them free parking on the other side. We should just open the other side and redirect it for the few things. Because we are not going to have parking on the other side, we are going to lose it anyway. Make up the spaces on the other side.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Let me work with the Chief. It was just laid out today. That is a possibility. The parking on that side of Spring Street are the customers for the businesses there and the employees. But let us see what we can do, if it is possible to swap it to the other side, and it is not a problem for them coming up from Southside.

**Trustee Walker:** And that is a loading zone that is often used by Food for Thought. But maybe during this period of time the truck could pull in to the Steinschneider parking lot.

**Village Manager Frobel:** And then back out? They have a big, 18-wheel delivery truck.

**Trustee Walker:** I know they do, and that takes up a big chunk of that street. Which is why it has not been possible to have parking there. But maybe there is an alternative place for that truck.

**Village Manager Frobel:** Well, we will spend some time. As I said, the Chief insisted on it being mapped out. It has been now, just completed today I think. So we will have a better sense, in the field, for how disruptive it will be in terms of parking.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Just one small point, and it is going to apply to the Warburton Bridge project. When contractors like this come into town, and I know it is a small issue, if you can urge them to use local restaurants to feed their employees during the time period and not bring in food trucks it would be nice to give the delis and pizzerias and diners some business.

**Village Manager Frobel:** I think contractors do. It is the movie industry that brings in their own food. But I will mention it to them.

The Warburton bridge is on target. The traffic light at Broadway and Washington is on flash now, which is the next step to going live. Bridge work up top could begin as early as next

week, or mid-May, so that is on target. We did have a little upset with the contractor taking some of our commuter parking spaces early on in the process, which was nipped in the bud. We thought we had an agreement with them, but there seemed to be a little bit of disconnect. There has been no recurrence of that. Other than that, it has moving along without any interruption. Once they close off the parking on the bridge, then there will be another tension that comes about. But for now, the project is moving along OK.

**Trustee Walker:** And the sidewalks are going to be open, as well.

**Village Manager Frobel:** At all times, pedestrians will be able to cross the bridge. The only interruption might be when they are moving around equipment or materials, and that would be for a very short duration.

I again met today with the bus company. They have some uncertainty about the travel up Washington. It is very narrow. They are aware of that, and they are going to have to deal with it. But an official came from the bus company and I went over the scenario with him. I could sense there was an are you sure? I said you people have run tests on this. I am not here to tell you whether to work or not. I am telling you we have misgivings, but your people have done it. So they are reconsidering it.

**Trustee Walker:** If the bus, and in terms of turning radius it is certainly no better, went down Washington instead of up Washington, and then went along Southside and through town, it would probably be a shorter route than going up Washington and around. This is the Broadway bus that has to make stops on Broadway in town, is it not? The Warburton bus has to circle back around and go through town. Would it be quicker if they down Washington and through?

**Village Manager Frobel:** We thought of that. We do want to put signs up telling people business district detour, as well. We are going to have to work on that, but I can mention it to them. Their transportation experts looked at different scenarios. That was their recommendation.

**Trustee Walker:** It is a tight turning radius at the bottom. But the other reason would be, in the winter it might be easier to go down than up when you have icy situations.

**Village Manager Frobel:** The executive from the bus company was unaware of the gas line install. That is going to be tricky because there certainly will be a lane closed when he is bringing his double buses through at 10 in the morning when no one is on the bus. I would like to see them look at reducing some of the trips through town during this construction period. They were open to that.

**Trustee Walker:** But is that not a hardship for a lot of people who rely on it to get to work?

**Village Manager Frobel:** The company was enthused by that because their ridership is down during certain hours of the day. Even if you took from 10 to 2 and said instead of coming every 20 minutes we will come every 30, some kind of relief there would have to be a help. But I have not approached that.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

#### **1. Proposed Local Law No. 4: Plastic Bag & Styrofoam Ban**

**Mayor Swiderski:** We have heard comments from to public. Given that we have asked for written comments for another week, should we wait on this?

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** You certainly can put your discussion over to your next meeting.

**Trustee Apel:** I think it would be wise.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Yes, in fairness I do not want to proceed uninformed if somebody has something smart to say via e-mail.

**Trustee Apel:** I have one question on the proposal that Jay Peltz made on this Web site getmyeco.com. Has the A&P worked on this before? Is that something new to you, too, or is this something you have worked with?

**Jay Peltz, Food Industry Alliance of NYS:** No. FIA has been working with Tom Cherry, who is the president. Or maybe the CEO, maybe Kristen is the president. But Tom co-runs the company with Kristen. FIA has been working with him for over a year. And A&P, the parent company, signed an agreement to do pilot programs with MY ECO covering a certain number of stores in New York City, possibly exclusively in Manhattan. That was supposed to be done with the New York State Department of Education. But those programs did not happen because the Bloomberg administration said that they were all in, and then it just fell off their radar. But they were ready, willing and able, meaning A&P, and then their partner in the city, the New York State Department of Education because they sell the bags to the schools, essentially dropped out.

**Trustee Apel:** So you have not done this before, but you have been in discussions with them.

**Mr. Peltz:** Yes.

**Trustee Apel:** I do want to commend A&P for being positive, and trying. You have answered the question. I just wanted to know how much experience you have had with this. If you do not do New York, we would be your group?

**Mr. Peltz:** To my knowledge, no other supermarket company in New York, or no other supermarket company has signed an agreement with MY ECO to implement the program in New York. Supermarket companies have signed with MY ECO to roll out the program in Massachusetts and possibly one or two other New England states, but none have signed agreements covering stores in New York and then implemented the program. So Hastings would be the first.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** Has the program been implemented in Massachusetts or anywhere else?

**Mr. Peltz:** It's Shaw Supermarkets, and I think it covers over a hundred stores.

**Trustee Armacost:** So do you know why no one has signed the agreement yet in New York? Is it because it is so new, or is there some other reason they?

**Mr. Peltz:** Mainly because it is new. In New York, to my knowledge there are four or five, maybe six localities that have enacted bans state-wide, and they are all downstate here. The ban movement in terms of enactment and implementation is in its infancy, but I think as it progresses we will seek to collaborate with localities to accelerate reduce, reuse, recycle. We think MY ECO has a lot to offer. On the practical side, issues have to be worked out. That is one of the reasons for the delay. What happens is MY ECO had this neat-looking, looks like a backpack. Then you open up the backpack and the four bags are in it, reusable, polyethylene bags that are easily cleaned. Then they change the technology. The way it works now is you get something like a key fob, like a smart piece of hardware where, when you check out you swipe the key fob. That records your use of the reusable bags; how many you used, time of day. From there, you can extrapolate how many plastic bags were not used. We are talking about multiple retailers. All their point of sale systems have to be integrated with MY ECO. And customers' privacy has to be respected.

**Trustee Armacost:** In order to determine how many plastic bags were not used, you would have to know how much the person spent or the weight of what the person bought, right? Just the fact of swiping the bag does not tell you that 10 were displaced or five were displaced or 25 were displaced. Is there a link to the receipt of each customer? Is it simply

the use of the bag, or is it tied to what the consumer bought? Are there other things that are revealed through that swiping?

**Mr. Peltz:** We can flesh all these issues out with MY ECO if the Village chooses to move forward. But to my understanding, it is just the number of bags used that in turn dictates the donation the retailer will make to the schools on an ongoing basis. Then from that number you extrapolate the number of plastic bags saved. But you do not get to the receipt or what was purchased, to my knowledge.

**Trustee Armacost:** But is it tagged to a particular consumer?

**Mr. Peltz:** I think the way it is set up is that the information gets aggregated and that aggregated information gets sent to MY ECO. So it will say on Tuesday, May 6 there were 100 transactions and reusable bags were X times. Beyond that, I do not know the answer to the question. I do not think you get into names and addresses, I do not think you get into items purchased. It is not micro, in that sense. I do not think you get into any huge level of detail. It is just the number of transactions, the number of reusable bags used, and that gets sent from the retailer to MY ECO. But again, my understanding of the technical side is somewhat limited.

**Trustee Armacost:** Yes, it would be useful to know that, if it is easy to tag it to an individual consumer with the technology that exists. There are all sorts of privacy issues there.

**Mr. Peltz:** Right. But the consumer would check a box, which would amount to some sort of a waiver when they buy the bag. That is part of the program.

**Trustee Armacost:** I do not think people will do that. I think that would turn all sorts of people off. But it sounds like we do not have enough information yet.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Every time you swipe your little A&P card it is far more intrusive because it is saving everything you bought centrally. That allows them to offer you targeted coupons and all that. How many bags you checked out, I am not sure that is particularly bothersome to people.

**Trustee Apel:** But I do think the person who is checking you out could tally it up without you having to put a card through.

**Trustee Armacost:** I think there is a growing feeling in the country of less monitoring of our day-to-day activities.



**Mayor Swiderski:** Looking at the site it looks like they tailor it to various institutions here. So these bags are 25 bucks for a four-set. Who pays the \$25?

**Mr. Peltz:** That is an issue, and the company is trying to address that issue. They rolled out a two-in-one set.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is \$20, at least online.

**Mr. Peltz:** When we approached them about low-income neighborhoods - we have a lot of members that have a lot of stores in low-income neighborhoods - they are working on a single bag. In New York City, the Department of Education was talking about buying them and then distributing them for free. They have kinks to be worked out. The way the company justifies is that it is a marketing messaging issue. They will say you buy this for them once and it lasts five years. Amortized over the number of uses it is nothing. That is their response.

**Trustee Jennings:** If you purchase these bags and you get a device you swipe when you use them at the grocery store, then records are kept, and the A&P makes a donation to the local school district?

**Mr. Peltz:** Correct. Typically, that is the model to date.

**Trustee Jennings:** So that is tied to the swiping of this special key.

**Mr. Peltz:** Right. Because in theory, the retailer is saving money because fewer plastic bags are being used. They take a portion of those savings and they give it back to the community.

**Trustee Jennings:** On the other hand, if I buy reusable bags from some other source do I get one of these keys to swipe and get to be a part of this thing that benefits my schools?

**Mr. Peltz:** Yes. In terms of tracking it, yes. So at A&P, for example, you will get a rebate for using a reusable bag. And then the cashiers will be trained to record the usage and re-usage of non-MY ECO reusable bags they have a profit-making mission and an issue to enhance sustainability.

Mayor, your response to Trustee Armacost is the response MY ECO gives regarding privacy. To avoid any legal issues there is a waiver, I believe. But their response is, if you already use your A&P card, you are probably going to care less about the number of transactions and the number of reusable bags that you use.

**Trustee Armacost:** Is the technology RFID technology?

**Mr. Peltz:** I do not think it is RFID because there have been a lot of problems with RFID, per se.

**Trustee Armacost:** Right, that is why I am asking.

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** Since you are going to put this off until your next meeting everybody can go on their Web site and do some investigation.

**John Ryan, District Manager, A&P Supermarkets:** In our store for every bag a customer brings back we have a rebate program of two cents per bag, whether it is a ShopRite bag or whatever bag. We track those rebates that we give the customers just like we send back all the plastic that we recycle to our warehouse to get recycled.

This ban was passed in our Mamaroneck store, and when we switched from plastic to paper we charge a nickel a paper bag in Mamaroneck. It significantly impacted our sales and our customer count in our store. Some of our customers chose to shop elsewhere. With the ban, if we go to paper bags we will go to paper bags and we charge a nickel. Not a lot of customers like the brown paper bag that does not have handles, and it is an inconvenience to customers who do not have a car and walk. In Hastings I know there is a lot of foot traffic also. We partner in Mamaroneck with an organization called SELF. It is the Children's Education Literacy Foundation that works with the schools to educate children on sustainability. The difference between the proceeds of the cost of the bag goes to SELF. Those are options we have. This MY ECO program sounds like a good thing because it benefits the local schools. I would ask you consider that before you vote on the ban.

**Trustee Jennings:** This Sunday, when I shopped at the A&P, I looked for signage informing people about the 2-cent per bag rebate and I could not find it. Could you tell me where I would find that?

**Mr. Ryan:** If we do not have signage at the register I can make sure we do have signage. We have had our rebate program in effect for quite a number of years so a lot of the customers know about it, especially customers that use reusable bags. But I can make sure we advertise that more prominently in the store.

**Trustee Jennings:** Anything that would get people to put the plastic bag in that bin you have instead of throwing it away or whatever would be great.

**Trustee Walker:** Mr. Peltz, the 2011 study you cited, released by the U.K. Environmental Agency, is that online, or how would we be able to find that?

**Mr. Peltz:** I found it in an article put out by the National Policy Action Center. I can look for it, and if I find I would be happy to send it to you.

**Trustee Armacost:** Could you send us a list of the citations and links to the various studies you have included there just so we can see the context in which the various points that you have made were referenced?

**Mayor Swiderski:** I am not meaning to sound prosecutorial, but do you find any conflict between the fact that you just explained about reusable bags, disease, et cetera, and then an option you are offering as a way out involves reusable bags?

**Mr. Peltz:** Respectfully, no. The MY ECO bags are not the cloth bags, where the bacteria can live in them for a period of time. Reportedly, the period of time a bacteria can live is hours, not days. But it can be enough to get somebody sick. The MY ECO bags are made of polyethylene or polypropylene. You wet a paper towel, you wipe it down, you are done. The retail food industry has embraced many policies designed to enhance sustainability. We support the use of reusables, but just like with plastic bag there is a better way to use them or that is better for the environment, and there is a way to use them that is worse for the environment. If people use cloth reusables, and they are not using them enough to reach that break-even point and they are not washing them after every use and they are leaving them in their car on a 90-degree hot summer day, that is not going to help the environment and it poses certain health issues, as opposed to a plastic bag or a paper bag, which you throw away and there are no health issues.

**Mayor Swiderski:** If I look in my back trunk, there are a dozen bags there from everybody on the planet that I keep forgetting to pull out when I go shopping. And they are all plastic. I do not know if any of them are cloth. So I am not sure if the argument around a cloth bag is a bit of the straw man, in that how many people actually have those versus plastic bags.

**Mr. Peltz:** Versus plastic reusables. I think ShopRite has the cloth bags, Wal-Mart has cloth bags, fiber bags, not plastic bags. Our recyclable reusable bag is basically plastic, the reusable bags that we sell. A lot of retailers sell plastic reusable bags. They are heavy, they are more sturdy. And you are right, a lot of people have different bags in their car. But I think the plastic bags are more easily cleaned than a fiber bag. Different retailers have different options, different sizes, bigger reusable bags, smaller reusable bags, based on what the consumer needs. So there is a wide variance out there.

The plastic reusable bags would be more similar, in terms of material, to the MY ECO bag. So they are easier to clean. I do not know what the split is in terms of market share between cloth and plastic reusables. But the bottom line environmental issue, leaving the health issue aside, is that there is a break-even point. Each bag has to be reused a certain number of times before you get to fewer environmental impacts. If you have got a dozen bags in your car, many people do, then chances are it is more unlikely you are going to get there if you have got 12 bags and you do not use nine of them, that sort of thing.

**Trustee Armacost:** One point that was raised at the meeting by a merchant was the idea of branding the bag to be associated with Hastings. Is that possible with the MY ECO bag, or is the point that it is branded MY ECO so we cannot make it have a look and feel of Hastings.

**Mr. Peltz:** In the city this came up. They were talking about branding the bag specifically for the city campaign. I cannot speak on behalf of MY ECO, but my gut is that MY ECO would be happy to talk to the Village about branding the bag in such a way that makes the Village and the retailer happy.

**Trustee Apel:** "Hastings MY ECO."

**Trustee Armacost:** "ECOing Hastings."

**Village Attorney Whitehead:** "My HastingsECO."

**Mayor Swiderski:** I do not want to be too cynical here, but at \$20 a bag I certainly understand the business proposition. That is quite an expense. I prefer to have the Village hand out \$2 bags and then people give an \$18 donation to the schools. I think it will provide far more money, over time, to the schools than at two cents a bag what it would take to accumulate the equivalent.

**Trustee Armacost:** But the schools have all sorts of weird fund-raising things, things that are out of proportion to what they cost.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is true.

**Trustee Armacost:** So I would rather support something that is environmental sustainable.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I have no more questions. Does anyone have anything?

**Trustee Apel:** No, that is fine. We could go on, but we are going to discuss this again.

**Kate Fitzpatrick:** I wanted to address something that came up tonight that I was not aware of and did not come up last time. I have been wondering why people would be deterred from shopping at one place because they do not have plastic bags available if the ban is in place. Who would go to Stop & Shop instead of A&P because A&P might be doing the right thing and putting in a ban? The fact that A&P might be charging five cents for a paper bag, which I was not aware of, could be a real deterrent. Even though it is a nickel, psychologically some people would not bother to switch stores just because they have to bring their bags with them, but they might actually resent having to pay for paper bags. That is something that should be considered, whether that five cents could be removed from the process and made up for in another way. You never walk down the Aqueduct and see these reusable plastic bags. In terms of how many times a reusable plastic bag, how many disposable plastic bags are used, that is only one aspect of the environmental harm. It does not address the litter and the visual pollution. I have never seen a reusable plastic bag hanging from a tree with a squirrel in it. .

## **2. Stormwater Annual Report**

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** I stand before you at this time every year to present our stormwater annual report. We have to demonstrate to the state that we are in compliance with the stormwater management program. We prepare a report that is based on our activities through March of 2014. The report is a product of the work of Deven Sharma, Mike Gunther, myself and some consultants we use. It is available on the Web site, and we welcome any public comments on it.

I do not have my usual prop this year, my favorite prop, that shows you washing your car in the street, you might as well be washing it in the lake or the river because the residue is ending up there. The program is much more than public education, although we work on it throughout the year and try to raise people's awareness of measures they can implement to make our waterways purer. We also have a responsibility to look at illicit discharge, and eliminate when we find it in the Village. Our Building Department has to look at construction sites to make sure the runoff is controlled on construction sites. Post-construction runoff is part of every site plan we do in the Village. And we look at our own municipal operations to make sure our housekeeping is compliant with good stormwater practices.

The report is available on the Web site. I invite the public or you, to forward comments. We have to submit it by June 1 to the state to prove our compliance, once again, with this program.

**Trustee Armacost:** Are there any highlights that are any different this year than any other year?

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** Once we got everything into place, then we do the same things every year and we report on them; we report on our storm drains being cleaned and how many drains we have and how often they are cleaned; and we report on our streets being swept, anything that affects runoff into the storm drains. The only new thing is, we have a big construction project that we monitor very closely, and we will certainly be monitoring if and when we have our 9-A project. They want to know that any projects on a large scale like that are monitored very well. So the Building Department is on top of that. But from year to year, once we establish the measures we are supposed to take we just have to monitor ourselves to make sure we are doing them.

**Trustee Armacost:** Does it include any targets, or is it more procedural?

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** No, we are not really given targets. It is procedural, although they do like us to quantify: how many people worked on the cleanup this past weekend, how many bags of trash did we collect and dispose of properly, things like that. Throughout the year we are always trying to accumulate those numbers so we can put them in our report.

**Trustee Armacost:** And do we seem to be doing better, however that would be framed?

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** I think it is pretty level. I do not see any big spikes. But I think we are doing things on a lot of fronts that we ought to be doing.

**Trustee Walker:** We heard about the town of Mamaroneck's effort to reduce illicit storm drains from both residential and commercial properties that go directly into the streets or go directly into the sanitary sewers. There is nothing that compels us to do that, except the fact that as storm events become more and more extreme we have more water flowing into both sanitary sewers and into our storm sewers which are, in many cases, unable to handle the quantities. I was interested in that idea of requiring that homeowners and property owners of any type take care of their stormwater on-site. We know they do that if you are building a new building, they are required. But there are a lot of cases in this village where people do not do that, and you see all these pipes coming directly from the downspouts into the street, especially in the areas where there are a lot of steep streets. We might want to think about doing something about that in the future. That could help in terms of the runoff in those areas. The storm sewers are sometimes breaking or exploding because of the amount of water. We have talked a lot about Circle Drive and that area up there, for example. When I walk around the neighborhood I see all these pipes going directly into the street, and I think

hmm. At any rate, I am just pointing it out as something that might reduce some of our costs in the future and, at the same time, help with our stormwater requirements.

**Village Clerk Maggiotto:** And that is also why it is so important that people try to establish good practices. Forget about putting chemicals on your lawn. You know where they are going to end up. We have to reeducate ourselves in a lot of ways. Lush green lawns are simply not something we should hold up as the ideal here because the price is too high that we have to pay for them.

**Trustee Walker:** Particularly since we are right next to the river, and all of this is going directly into the river.

**Trustee Jennings:** We are wrestling with changing the way people use reusable and disposable plastic bags, the inconvenience and so forth is a concern, and we are taking that into consideration. But compared to the bigger picture of how we are going to have to change our lives and our behavior, if we cannot deal with disposable plastic bags, I wonder how we are going to deal with other matters. There are a lot of things we are going to have to confront along those lines.

### **3. Update on the Downtown**

**Trustee Walker:** We had a successful Friday Night Live a week and a half ago. Unfortunately, I could not be there, but there a lot of people participated in the Picture Yourself in Hastings project. Then we had these torrential downpours, so we had to take them down sooner than we would have liked to because they were getting. But it seemed like it was a really great event. I want to thank Upstream Gallery. They did a lot of the work for that Friday Night Live. It was a celebration of their opening. They have been open since February, but this was kind of their grand opening. I really want to thank Susan Richmond of Upstream Gallery, who organized the Picture Yourself in Hastings project and did a terrific job. We were hoping the high school jazz band was going to be able to play, but they were all playing in Rent that night, so Susan Richmond also stepped forward and found us music at the last minute. So I really have to thank her.

This is exactly I would like Friday Night Live to be, a partnership between the Village and organizations and businesses in the downtown. We are doing it for their benefit, and we would love to continue to have that kind of partnership in the future. So that is exactly what we are looking for, and to me it shows the benefits of that kind of collaboration. We are planning our Spring Thing for the first Friday in June so we will be closing Warburton Avenue. And beginning to plan for July.

In terms of the Downtown Advocate I have not made a lot of progress on it, except that word has gotten out and there are quite a few interested candidates. We have to refine the job description and get it out there in the public. I want to get the Downtown Collaborative involved in that this month, so we will be working on that.

**Trustee Armacost:** And people are interested, knowing what the salary is?

**Trustee Walker:** Yes.

#### **4. Update on the Waterfront**

**Mayor Swiderski:** Three components here. We had our presentation last Thursday where the Waterfront Infrastructure Committee described their plan. That is available online. It was well-attended. Their work is painstakingly thorough. It avoids discussion of use, but provides a framework of roads and infrastructure that will support a range of use as well as setting aside a substantial amount of parkland and esplanade. So exactly as we would hope and envision the use would proceed.

Building 52. There was a submission by BP/ARCO, as they are required to do, to the DEC. There is a unit in the DEC that deals with historical structures. Because Building 52 is on a list of eligible structures, BP/ARCO, as a result, is compelled to describe their view on whether the building is worthy of preservation, whether the offsetting need to clean up is greater than the present. You can imagine where they will end up, but they have put together a detailed report that is on file at the library. It is now with this office in the DEC that will evaluate it. Assuming they agree that it is not a historic structure, BP then turns to us and will, at that point, likely file for a demolition permit. We then will evaluate the proposal.

**Trustee Armacost:** Could we have that report?

**Village Manager Frobel:** We will get you a copy.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Finally, BP is starting to engage in what they say is going to be the final round of testing and sampling. You will see the drilling rigs out on the site, both onshore and offshore, over the next month as they do the final definition of what the poisonous outlyings are, effectively, so they can begin to design their remediation. The activity you see is the end of the sampling.



## 5. Transportation

**Trustee Walker:** Kerry-Jane King and Andrew Ratzkin from the Conservation Commission could not be here tonight, but I wanted to maybe introduce this subject and maybe we can continue it at the next meeting. Haven, from the Conservation Commission, is here so she might be able to also relay.

We have discussed in the past appointing this subcommittee of the Conservation Commission as the entity that will oversee the implementation of the circulation recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan. I have had a number of conversations with them and we have talked about it, but we have not officially done it. I would like us to give them, officially, the charge. It is timely because we have been getting a lot of e-mails from folks. There are number of issues. The temple is really interested in making Broadway safer in front, where those un-signalized crosswalks are. Other folks are talking about slowing traffic on Broadway; can we put up a 20 mile per hour school zone on Broadway from the Burke Estate. There are a number of questions that have been coming up.

These are things that need to be looked at more holistically in light of things that perhaps we want to do as part of the Comprehensive Plan, as opposed to sending them to the Safety Council to be reviewed. They are policies, not just safety issues. That is why we should have a committee that can pull these things together and bring them to us as a set of policies. The other thing is the complete streets resolution, which we passed. So as part of the complete streets, as part of the comprehensive plan, we look at this more comprehensively than just sending it to the Safety Council.

It is time that we really begin to do that. In terms of the complete streets, we asked Andrew and Kerry-Jane to go to the Planning Board, to go to the Safety Council, to go to the DPW and have discussions. That means in my mind, and tell me if I am wrong, sending the resolution to those boards or committees and having them take a look at it. A member, like Andrew or Kerry-Jane, could go to a meeting and have a brief discussion. I do not think this is a month-long kind of review. This is simply a discussion. They read it, they ask questions, maybe they make comments, maybe it comes back to us with changes. But it should be something that could happen in one meeting. I would like to see this expedited. In terms of the DPW, I would think it could be sent to Mike Gunther. He could review it, Fran, maybe you could go over it with him, see if there are any comments. I am trying to facilitate this because I think they are stuck on how to move that forward.

**Mayor Swiderski:** What you are talking about is essentially courtesy calls. This is going to require public comment period anyway, where they can come again. But this is attempting to extend a courtesy of providing input to the entities that should have an opinion one way or

another. On the other hand, if there is nothing forthcoming after some reasonable period of time it is not a formal requirement.

**Trustee Walker:** I was thinking it would give the Conservation Commission, or this subcommittee, an opportunity to go to these boards, giving them the complete streets resolution. But also telling them about their charge, describing what they are going to be doing and looking at the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan and prioritizing them, and coming back to us with some implementation steps. So the Planning Board and the Safety Council understood the process, that might be helpful, too. They could maybe do both at the same time.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And I would probably say, since there are safety issues in there above and beyond the Safety Council, maybe even the police department.

**Trustee Walker:** Yes, probably them, too.

**Trustee Armacost:** Although the Chief sits on the Safety Council.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Then maybe it is sufficient to go to the one entity, get everybody's input and leave it with the Safety Council.

**Trustee Armacost:** I just wanted to clarify, what are we calling it? The Ad Hoc Transportation Committee?

**Trustee Walker:** I do not know if it is an ad hoc committee, but it is part of the Conservation Commission.

**Trustee Armacost:** It is like a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission? That is probably a better way to frame it.

**Mayor Swiderski:** In terms of the subcommittee, have we appointed the subcommittees in the past? Or does that typically fall on the Conservation Commission?

**Trustee Armacost:** In my time as a Trustee we have not appointed a subcommittee. If they have an informal subcommittee, like the Conservation Commission had a subcommittee that worked on the Green Building Code, we did not name it officially. If it is a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission I do not think we have an opinion on who is on it or what it is charged with.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Charged, perhaps. But we are handing the charge to the Conservation Commission in how they staff that committee. Their oversight of the output is their business because, ultimately, the submission is going to be from the Conservation Commission. It is not going to be the Transportation directly to us.

**Trustee Armacost:** What we are doing is asking the Conservation Commission to report to us on their recommendations. So really what they are doing is reporting to the Conservation Commission, in which case I think we should just stay out of it. It is a bit of an odd thing for us to charge a subcommittee. What we can do is charge the Conservation Commission with a set of activities for a subcommittee.

**Mayor Swiderski:** That is right. I agree.

**Trustee Armacost:** It is either formal or it is informal, if you know what I mean.

**Trustee Walker:** Both. Kerry-Jane is the chair, and Andy is on the commission. So they are sort of one and the same. However, they may wish to bring other people on just like the Green Building Code.

**Trustee Jennings:** That is a well-established part of the model. To some people the notion of a subcommittee might imply that only members of the main committee can be on the subcommittee. But that is not true. The subcommittee can bring in consultants and other citizens, experts, advisors and so forth, as precisely was done with the Green Building Code. That model works very well, and it is understood from the get-go that all of this is advisory to the Board of Trustees. That is what this is about.

**Mayor Swiderski:** But to that end, a small point but an important one is that it should be a charge from the Board. It should explicitly request a Transportation Committee so they can say they were charged by the Board to set up this committee. And the committee can say we were charged by the Board to reach out.

**Trustee Jennings:** Right. I think the Board of Trustees, because we have all these advisory volunteer bodies, should be reaching out to them and asking them to do things for us.

**Mayor Swiderski:** The specific charge gives them some authority before the safety board. It is not just a group of concerned citizens asking for the input.

**Trustee Armacost:** This was exactly my question. I think we need to understand. For example, if what they are doing is analyzing the comprehensive plan and they are coming back to us with information on the comprehensive plan, then that is a kind of closed, internal

process. But if what they are doing is consulting with other people in the community, consulting with citizens versus bringing in somebody else, I do not know that for the Green Building Code prior to it being brought to us there was a lot of consultation.

**Trustee Jennings:** There were innumerable meetings, public meetings, omigod.

**Trustee Walker:** Dozens and dozens.

**Trustee Armacost:** After it had been developed.

**Trustee Walker:** No, during the development.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We charged the Conservation Commission and they put together groups of volunteers, and through many meetings developed the Green Building Code. Members who joined that working group were not part of the Conservation Commission. They were members from the Village.

**Trustee Armacost:** My understanding was that we got a lot of the core data for the Green Building Code from a specific person who is an expert on that area. Then once that was put together, people were consulted, which is a very different thing than a lot of different people pulling together bits of legislation.

**Trustee Jennings:** Actually, that is not an accurate description of what was done.

**Haven Colgate, Conservation Commission:** If you wanted a back story of how that happened, we had about 19 people originally to form a caucus to determine how to go about the code. That whittled down to a smaller group, which we called the technical working group, which was built of people who really knew code, architects and Bill Bobenhausen, who really was like a codemeister. We also sought expertise from people outside the Village to verify some of their findings and so forth, and they consulted with other people. Originally, it was maybe 22 people. So we had a broader caucus originally, and it whittled down and that is the process we used.

**Mayor Swiderski:** Right. And that group of five or six then ultimately drafted the principles that our attorney then turned into the code.

**Trustee Jennings:** Well, that technical group drafted something, and then it was gone over with people who were not part of the technical group, but members of the Conservation Commission, Sharon in particular and Kerry-Jane and Haven and Deven Sharma. There were many meetings to produce what was finally turned over to the Village Attorney.

But in no case was one expert individual the driver and then everything else fell into place. That was never the case. There was a time when one individual tended to dominant the drafting process, but that was not an official methodology. That was a personality.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And in this case, to move this discussion to a reasonable end, I think what we should do is, Meg, you seem to have come some length in this charge. If you want to develop it, or have somebody from the Conservation Commission finish developing it, it is something we would agree as early as next meeting. This thing does not have to linger.

**Trustee Walker:** No, it does not have to linger. I know they want to get the complete streets complete. But I sort of see these things going in tandem. This is different from the Green Building Code because they are not producing a product. It is going to be a number of steps, probably going on for years. But their job is going to be to prioritize. A lot of it was already prioritized in the Implementation Committee's report. But they will have to prioritize it further, and figure out which things, based on grants available or based on urgent needs, which things they want to move forward, and come to us with a list of these things. The first step is to give them the charge to do that, and to also describe the makeup of this committee and that it could have outside residents, outside consultants. They could bring experts in, whatever they need to do, just the way the Green Building Code committee did.

**Trustee Apel:** I would recommend you do not use the word "transportation" because people are going to think they are going to have a committee that is worried about buses. It does not mean that it will not be worried about buses, but having bus systems or something could be a misnomer. It is something like circulation, or movement. A different title, I would recommend.

**Trustee Walker:** In the planning world we call it transportation.

**Trustee Apel:** I know, but not the rest of us.

**Trustee Walker:** That is fine, we can call it circulation.

**Trustee Jennings:** Something you said, Meg, really struck me as very interesting and important, and it goes beyond the transportation complete streets issue. That is the distinction you made between when our committees and commissions address policy issues and when they address problem-solving or some distinction like that. I think they do both, and I think there is a need for us to get advice about both policy matters and problem-solving matters. It may be true that a group like the Safety Council tends to focus on problem-solving and other groups tend to focus more on big, broader policy questions.

But I do think that is an important distinction. What it raises for us is a very interesting issue of the cooperation and coordination among our committees on something like this. This is irrelevant to what you are addressing right now, but I do think, and Niki you have been working on this, it probably would behoove us to have a periodic, maybe once or twice a year, gathering of the chairs of all the different committees to talk about the overlapping and cross-cutting issues that are coming down the pike and about their cooperation and how they work together. And maybe even get into scope and jurisdictional questions: who should get first crack at what and so forth. I hope it does not get bogged down into that. Because the idea is just better communication and better coordination so we can utilize the work of our talented volunteer citizens to the most effective way possible for the good of the Village. But have we ever done that? Have we ever even thought about having it?

**Trustee Armacost:** We have done it. On specific issues we pulled in groups that we thought had a stake in it. But I know that at least in the time that I have been a Trustee we have not pulled in everyone into a meeting. The Comprehensive Plan would be a topic which one could use as a touchstone or center point for that kind of a discussion. To say however far along we are, halfway through or almost toward the end now, that we want to bring everyone together to talk about the way in which it impacts each of these different groups. But we have not done it quite the way that you have suggested, as far as I know.

**Trustee Jennings:** It is hard to have another meeting, I know. But I do think communication among all the chairs of these committees would not be a bad thing.

**Trustee Armacost:** We have quite a few new chairs. There are a few different committees where people who had been chairs for a long period of time have revolved out. So that is also an interesting moment to cross-fertilize ideas.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We can start by simply asking reaction to the idea, and see how that might work.

**Trustee Apel:** In terms of what we are going to be trying to figure out how far along we have been with the comprehensive plan, having a chairs' conference to discuss the comprehensive plan and how they see it may also, I do not want to say light a fire, but generate some discussion and interest on their part in seeing what they are doing. They may not realize they have been doing it in reference to the comprehensive plan. Surprise. But we certainly want to know. And also, again, as you said, some committees are working in one area and one in another. How could they be working together, and maybe they did not realize that they may be working on the same thing. And other ideas will come out of it, too. So I think it is a good idea.

**Trustee Armacost:** What would be useful to us also is a reporting by each of the chairs on the progress of their groups. We should have an annual meeting of chairs so they can tell us what they have done in the last year. There are various points in the year where you, Peter, do a summary of the work that we have all done collectively and what our achievements have been through the year. It would be very helpful for citizens to hear because there is work of some committees that goes untouted. It is very quiet, below-the-radar work, but it has been very important for whole segments of the community. I get the reports of the Senior Council. That is a group that is dealing with a constituency which is not so visible to a lot of people in the community, and they are doing important work to support a group of people, many of whom are confined to their homes. Some of that work is interesting for others to hear. What it does also is potentially encourage volunteerism. By hearing what people are doing you are encouraged actually to volunteer.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I think it is a really good idea.

**Trustee Armacost:** I would include groups, for example the Vine Squad, and we happen to have Haven here, which has done, also, amazing work. Probably we should limit this group to just the chairs of the official committees. But there are other groups where it would be useful to hear, for the community, what they have been up to. Haven gives presentations to us, but we should give them enough notice that they can prepare an annual report. This time of year is not a bad time because it is shortly after our organizational meeting.

**Trustee Walker:** It would be interesting to see that on TV and have the public hear what these committees are doing. The public knows what we do, we are on TV. But a lot of these committees, how would the public know what they are up to. So that is an interesting idea.

**Trustee Armacost:** I would be happy to organize that if we want to set a date for when we would like to do it. Probably not during the holiday because it will get lost during the summer holiday.

**Mayor Swiderski:** But that report does not have to be in person. Or submitted, and then rebroadcast out to the Village?

**Trustee Armacost:** I was assuming we would have a meeting, invite everyone together, and each person could make a presentation. Are we down to 19 boards and commissions now?

**Mayor Swiderski:** Well, at 5 minutes apiece, an hour and a half. That is pretty deadly.

**Trustee Jennings:** It is a useful discipline to ask people to give a written annual report. But I think the time of face-to-face together would not be well used with telling us what they did. It would be much better used in talking about this question of what are policy issues that face the Village and how can this group and that group help to address those issues. Thinking more prospectively perhaps, but also thinking more functionally rather than just a description of what has been done. As interesting as that may be to the public, you can get that out of written documents which could be made available on our Web site. But the discussion at an annual meeting of chairs would be much better served not by that.

**Mayor Swiderski:** We are talking about two different things.

**Trustee Walker:** Remember how we used to have these three to five minute presentations at the beginning of our meetings? We could invite chairs of boards to come and do one per meeting. Then it is not quite as deadly as 19 at the same time.

**Trustee Jennings:** And tell us what they have done. I do not object to that.

**Trustee Walker:** But that is different from what you are talking about.

**Trustee Jennings:** I am thinking of a different thing.

**Mayor Swiderski:** And you front load it when people's attention is logged on to these meetings. We both broadcast out the text, and they have the video broadcast of the person speaking.

**Trustee Jennings:** That is an interesting point. An awful lot of what we do, the most interesting stuff, comes very late in the meeting.

**Trustee Armacost:** People do watch all the way through. It is amazing.

**Mayor Swiderski:** I am always astounded when I hear that, and it is more often that I hear that.

**Ms. Colgate:** I had a suggestion based on my perspective of being a committee member. I would like to see lateral connectedness between the committees. Not just telling you what they did, but the committees getting to know each other. I once had this grand idea that at the Spring Fling, the one that was canceled because of the weather, that every committee would have a table. And citizens could say what committee is that? What do you do? I would like to see a lot of broadening of that. One way you could have a large meeting of committees is to do an un-conference. It is a bottoms-up ad hoc small group discussion



which generates a lot of that kind of interactive thing that people take home with them. Then they have made new connections, they have got new ideas. Then they keep following up with their fellows. I would recommend doing something like that, too. Something not quite so formal, but for your first meeting anyway having that kind of open-ended, open platform environment, where people could meet each other.

**Trustee Walker:** I have been in conferences where they did that. People would say in this corner we are going to talk about sidewalk issues, in this corner something else. People would just migrate to the table where they wanted to have a discussion.

**Trustee Jennings:** An issues café.

**Trustee Armacost:** But then it cannot just be the chairs. We have to have all the committee members.

## **6. Other**

**Mayor Swiderski:** The Memorial Day parade is shaping up to be a very nice one. We have 30 armed forces personnel committed from one of the destroyers. We have a real live admiral, and I do not know if it is 30 Marines or 30 sailors.

I also wanted to thank a group of NYU students who completed a project as a part of the DPW study. They gave their presentation this morning, an in-depth analysis comparing the union contracts out of Dobbs and Hastings, as well as analysis of the survey of the public that was done in January. They also did some work on valuation around the DPW site. Professional caliber stuff. Not surprising, given that most of them are professionals.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mayor Swiderski:** We need a brief executive session to talk about issues of personnel, two issues specifically.

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

## **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 9:30 p.m.