

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2014**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 7:51 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Swiderski, Trustee Bruce Jennings, Trustee Marjorie Apel, Trustee Meg Walker, Village Manager Francis A. Frobel, Village Attorney Linda Whitehead.

ABSENT: Trustee Nicola Armacost

CITIZENS: Six (6).

Mayor Swiderski: We had a presentation by the Pratt Urban Design Studio. It began at 6:30 and ran a little late.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Swiderski: We have, for the Library Board of Trustees, Diana Yaeger, to fill a term that was opened with a resignation and is expiring in 2016. We have a task force that is going to be working to improve the way we do land use approvals. On that task force, we have Jamie Cameron, Christina Griffin, Michael Lewis and Jim Metzger. We have a new member of the Parks and Rec Committee, David Downs. Thank you for the work ahead.

Also, while this has been spoken and assumed, a careful reading of the minutes revealed that we never formally disbanded the Economic Development Committee. Consider this announcement that formal disbandment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Public Hearing of May 6, 2014 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Jennings with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 6, 2014 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 72-2013-14	\$518,285.13
Multi-Fund No. 71-2013-14	\$ 18,518.98

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Gonder, 153 James Street: Is it a fact BP has given the Village lots of money for different events: Friday Night Live, Henry Hudson's 600th anniversary, a green vehicle worth about \$30,000? Is it a fact that BP still pays taxes on all buildings that were taken down several years ago? Building 52 is considered to be a chief source of contamination, and BP is looking to get rid of it. I am wondering why the Board does not give them permission to take it down.

Jeremiah Quinlan has been out of Trustee for several years. I remember him saying it is going to be about five or six years when he left. Now I read in the newspaper it is going to be eight years. I am wondering what the facts are. Is Hastings still having their hand out and not rushing to get this place cleaned up? Eight years, when three years ago it was going to be about six years. There are some answers that need to be made. I was one that thought it is unethical to accept money, and I fought that for some time. But you all believe it is all right. Building 52 is not George Washington's home in Mount Vernon, it is not the Lincoln log cabin, it is not Van Cortlandt's mansion in the Bronx. It is not the Octagon Building in Irvington. It is full of PCBs. It is the one building that should have come down first. I wish you people would understand that, and give BP the authorization to take it down.

Mayor Swiderski: Clarification of a couple of facts for the public. BP has not asked for the building to come down so it is not yet before the Board. The annual typical donations from BP distributed out among a variety of organizations add up to about \$30,000. And there are still some taxes paid on the property, not on all the buildings. It is on the current value of the property. So it is a fairly nominal amount.

Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue: I would like to thank you for forming the committee on assessing how land use gets reviewed and permitted in the Village. It is something that the Comprehensive Plan felt very strongly about, something that I felt very strongly about, and I am glad to see that we are going to move forward on that.

I respectfully disagree with Mr. Gonder. I would like to see Building 52 saved, but that is a discussion for another day.

Though it has only been a week the closure of the Warburton Avenue Bridge seems to be functioning fairly well. I have been driving and walking through the neighborhood. Aside from the fact that there was a lot of traffic coming up River Street, down Washington

Avenue up River Street, around the Farmers' Market on Saturday, it was hard to cross the street because of the diversion of traffic, buses seems to be making their way up Washington Avenue OK. There seems to still be a fair amount of parking. I am hoping things can stay this civilized for the next year and a half until the project is complete.

Mayor Swiderski: We are going to be setting up a dedicated page to the bridge renovation and a dedicated e-mail list for those who are interested in being updated every time there is something noteworthy about the bridge. If a local raises a question we will post the answer on the Web page, but also to those who sign up on the dedicated list serve; for that they will get the answer e-mailed directly to them. We know this is going to be a painful year and a half and we want to make the process of reaching out to the public more graceful and smooth. I agree with you, it is better than I expected. Parking disruption is about what we expected. But there are going to be things happening throughout the time this project is underway, and we hope to broadcast it out in a way that is useful, specifically to the residents of that neighborhood who are most affected by it.

Trustee Jennings: I think the traffic light at Broadway and Washington was a wonderful idea and has had very good effects. It has made turning in and out onto Washington much safer and much easier. It is a subjective impression on my part, but I think it has substantially slowed down the speed of the traffic going north on Broadway toward Five Corners which has historically been faster than our speed limit. The fact that you do not know but you are going to have to stop at that light, which you almost always do, slows people down. I think it is a wonderful thing.

Mayor Swiderski: I have had at least three different people comment that they would love to see it stay.

Village Manager Frobel: That is our hope, Mayor. It was the staff that really wanted that because we knew Washington Avenue was going to be tricky. Our hope is we can convince the New York DOT to keep it there, providing it continues to be effective.

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobel: Chief Visalli and I met with Con Ed officials and the contractor on the gas line install today. We did a complete walk-through. That will be beginning early June. That, too, will be disruptive. We will begin on Spring Street. It will probably take upwards of three months. We, too, are also thinking of a dedicated Web site, where people can get clarification or nip in the bud any kind of rumors that may be going on. We found out today that we are going to probably lose some parking spots on Warburton Avenue from Spring to Main Street for about a week when they are installing the gas main in that portion

of the roadway. It is very narrow there. Anyone who can see all the markings that have been out there for the last week will see that the gas main is pretty much dead center of the travel lane. It does not hug a curb, it is right in the center of the travel lane. So that will be somewhat disruptive. We are also working with the contractor because he is going to need an area to stage his material. We are trying to find a spot for him. We have offered a couple of locations that may work.

Mayor Swiderski: I am requesting advice of counsel, if we can retire to the back room.

[MEETING RECESS]

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Proposed Local Law No. 4 – Plastic Bag and Styrofoam Ban

Mayor Swiderski: We have received quite a few comments, e-mail and by phone, and a petition that had 160-some odd signatures from residents in favor of the ban. A couple of letters. Most in favor, but not all. A couple of citizens wrote in opposition. We have also heard from the Conservation Commission, from concerned citizens in the public meeting, from students at the school, from representatives of various associations supporting both stores and plastic bag manufacturers. Today, we review what we have heard. If the Board has comments or thoughts this is the chance to discuss it. Then we will decide if we are prepared to put this up for a vote at our next meeting, or not. Bruce, since ultimately this evolved out of a proposal from to Conservation Commission, which has been nominally under your wing, I will allow you to kick it off.

Trustee Jennings: Of the many resolutions and regulations that we consider, and as required by law we have public hearings and an opportunity for as much public input as possible, we often get very little. I am very appreciative that the response to this legislation was rich and broad and participatory. I feel better prepared as a Trustee to deliberate and make a determination on this than I often feel where we did not get nearly as much input. I also appreciate the civility of the presentation and the sincerity. I was very much struck by the participation of our teenagers, our high school students, which is also something that is pretty rare these days, to get young people involved in the political process. In that way, it was really great. I hope it was a good experience for them. Having said that, I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this proposed law. I think it is in the public interest. I think it is the right thing to do and the right time to do it.

Trustee Walker: I was impressed by the seriousness, the thoroughness of arguments on both sides. I am impressed that our local high school kids got involved. I am appreciative of

the Conservation Commission's thoroughness in reviewing this for us and presenting us with the severity of the issue, helping us understand even more. We see the bags around us, of course, but understanding the larger picture. I do appreciate so much A&P and Mr. Peltz, your arguments. I appreciate your presenting the facts you have. It certainly gives us a balanced look at the issue. So I feel we are prepared to vote.

I have been doing my own research at what has been going on in cities in California and San Francisco and Los Angeles. I know we are not the first in Westchester, and we are certainly not the first in the country. There have been many more around the country that have voted to ban plastic bags. It is important to create a transition through education and providing reusable bags to the public. We could talk further with the Conservation Commission about what that means in terms of educating the public and educating our local merchants and local businesses. That is really critical. Also we, as a board, can look into perhaps providing reusable bags to the public and the merchants and brand them with, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. I am prepared to vote at our next meeting.

Trustee Apel: I am very proud of all the work everyone has done in bringing this issue to the forefront. I concur with my colleagues on the things they have said. It is too easy to walk around and not see things. Now that they are brought up, you see them. The type of concerns I have in terms of plastic, anyway, I see a more global concern. I did some research, sent it to my colleagues about an island of plastic out in the ocean which is like the size of Texas or more, floating out there. While we cannot go out there to that island and pick up some of the garbage, there is something we can do right here in our village and feel very proud about ourselves that we have taken a small step toward the environment. We have a responsibility. We are passing this on to other generations. With all the other things going on in the world like global warming, we have a chance to do something. It is not huge, but it certainly says something. I think it is very important that we do this, and I am ready to vote.

Mayor Swiderski: I will start with mention of one particular e-mail which was from a resident that opposed it. The thrust of the argument was do not limit choice readily; think hard before you take away somebody's choice on a topic. I thought about that, and it boils down to a question about the definition of the role of government. The role of government is always about a collective good versus an individual good, and the balancing of those two. It is a difficult thing to do. Sometimes what now seems self-evident at the time seemed outrageous, whether it was seat belts or no smoking in bars or many other restrictions which we now take for granted, but at that time felt like restrictions and people really chafed.

Even now, there are states where people fight against motorcycle helmets which, to me, is just crazy. But you restrict liberty consciously, not trivially. Here, it is a choice that we are making to take away an option. I do not do it lightly. I know there is a claim of potential

economic impact and, as a result, it has to be balanced against the good it does. There is no formal cost-benefit here. It is more seat of the pants, where you realize that the visual litter that comes from plastic bag is not trivial. It is not a made-up thing, it is real. And the girl who went out with the camera and photographed 60 bags in a couple of hours, claiming less than that even, left me suddenly with my eyes open. I saw the litter.

What Marge says also strikes to a larger truth. What Bruce said last meeting has resonated in my head since that, which is, given what we are facing in the upcoming years and decades, this is a small step in the direction of a major change in lifestyle that we are all going to have to do, ultimately, whether by choice or by the world forcing us to do that because of the restrictions that will emerge from climate change and oil depletion and everything else. We face a world where our behaviors are destined to change massively. I would like to think this is a progressive community that can look forward and realize these changes are coming and we are not the first. Apparently there are 30,000 other communities that have done this worldwide so we are not exactly breaking virgin territory here. In Westchester we are joining an elite few who have the sense to look forward and realize there are a massive number of baby steps we have to start on. This is one of them. It will yield a real, not a theoretic benefit. A visual blight will be significantly lowered, and it will make a statement about what the government values and what people in this village value. I am struck by the number of e-mails and petition signatures in favor of people consciously signing away a right, effectively saying please take this away from me, it may be convenient, but I understand this is something I want to do.

All that leaves me ready to vote next meeting. I agree with Meg. An important component here is both education and promotion of a reuse culture in terms of bags but ultimately more than that. It is nice that we are top five in recycling in Westchester, but there is a whole bunch of other behaviors around that that we need to be encouraging. Reusable bags is both a visual representation of that, and also something I would like to consider in enough numbers that it provides a lot of people with the bags to bring home the groceries they need to bring home, or other things, so we can make a meaningful contribution to that, and be front and center in telling people to start thinking about going to the Farmers' Market with that in hand, and to the supermarket, et cetera.

This is one step, but around it is education with reusable bags. With that combined, it is something that does minimal harm to people because it might be taking away a small choice but having an alternative that is at least as good as that choice and helps to minimize impact from the stores. I was in the sushi restaurant tonight and we were talking about how this was going to work. He said he is going to have a stiffer paper bag with a handle on it. We talked about what if he offered a 10 cent discount if people showed up with a reusable bag and you could just put the food in there. He thought that was a good idea. I think the next six months

are going to have a number of conversations like that with store owners to help make this process less painful and easier for the community and the commercial establishments in town. That is my long-winded answer to say yes, I am prepared to vote next meeting. If you could put it on the next agenda we will be good to go. Thank you to the Conservation Commission for the work done. You hit the high points, and it was important.

Patrick Randolph Bell, Prince Street: My question was about article 5 and these expanded polystyrene containers. It seems to read two different ways. In the beginning, it is plastic checkout bags and Styrofoam containers. Then we have definitions about single-service articles, and expanded polystyrene which comes in more forms than just the Styrofoam containers. How are we going to enforce this law. I went around to the local restaurants and had some questions. It seems these might be banned under this definition. It says basically knives and forks. For instance, you went to the Japanese food, I talked to Tony earlier in the parking lot. So are the bento box containers banned now? The soup containers: how do you get soup from to Chinese food place?

Mayor Swiderski: That is not polystyrene.

Mr. Bells: OK. But then when I look at the definitions it seems to include a lot more than that. Like I have never seen a floppy fork before, or a spoon or a knife. Why is it in there as something that is possibly banned, or not? Why does the word even exist in it?

Village Attorney Whitehead: This came out of New York City.

Trustee Apel: They are not made out of Styrofoam, the forks.

Mr. Bell: Then I am not sure why it is even in here. Is it listing every single food container in the world, or things that deal with single-service items? Then why, if it is just going to be that kind of expanded polystyrene? Up here, the definition for expanded polystyrene includes much more than just the blown technique. So in the law, where it says it consists of expanded polystyrene, including but not limited to these kind of things considered of expanded polystyrene. There is more in the definition than just those pop-open containers you might get your French fries in at the pizza place. Are you trying to ban all of this stuff: the spoons, the forks, the knives?

Mayor Swiderski: Only expanded polystyrene.

Mr. Bells: But I typed in polystyrene, and you can see the 12 different ways of making in Wikipedia. Very simple, it shows you different items that are made out of expanded polystyrene. Like disposable razor blades, things like that. I am confused by the definition.

If you are saying none of this is banned, I would like to see if you could reword it. It is just strange. If you are not going to enforce it against these items I do not mind. I can still get my Chinese soup and it is not going to spill all over the floor. We do not have to move to just paper forks or chopsticks and Chinese boxes for the lasagna things. I just wanted to see if it was just the Styrofoam things like that.

Mayor Swiderski: For the record, Styrofoam.

Mr. Bells: The last thing is the bags. I use the bags all the time. Could we ban them, yes, they would make our town a little cleaner. Will it make the world any better? No. I use them constantly. I am taking the train every day. If I get food I always wrap it up in there. I keep a few in my bag. So if I have half a sandwich or I have something else, I do not want it leaking in my bag. I keep them around. We have the purposes. If you want to ban them here, then you ban them here. But it is not going to change anything. Or maybe allow them to buy them.

Mayor Swiderski: Public comment was closed.

Mr. Bells: If you want to buy a bag at the grocery store for 5 or 10 cents or 30 cents, maybe that could still be an option.

2. Update on Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Trustee Apel: When we talked about the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee in the fall we had presented to the public a list of accomplishments to date. Jim Metzger, myself and Sue Maggiotto met May 8. We went over the plan because it is nice to know that we keep accomplishing things. We have updated it, and Jim is here tonight and will go over, for the accomplishments we have added to the list. This is on our Web site.

Mr. Metzger: The Comprehensive Plan is a living document that is meant to be not only used but to be updated. We are about three years into the Comp Plan, so about a year from now we will start talking about looking at new items that need to go into the plan. But for now, we have some significant updates to things that have been accomplished.

The Comprehensive Plan was broken down into various areas of the Village, different concerns. Under the downtown, one of the objectives was to promote and enhance downtown amenities and social character. A new library addition being planned. The Orr Room is going to be expanded, there is going to be an outdoor deck to look over the river. Develop a downtown management structure: money was allocated in the current budget to hire a downtown advocate to have someone with vision and drive to move things forward to

start improving the downtown. Expand and diversify selection of retail and stores and restaurants: the Downtown Collaborative, a group of Village residents, was instrumental in attracting the Upstream Gallery to the downtown. Anybody who has been to their exhibits or the music events they have had will recognize that this is a great addition to our community. Work with landlords on buildings and streetscape improvements: trees are being replanted, landlords and Village committees are working together to develop a tree pit plan. How to enhance those locations on the sidewalk where trees can be planted. It will help beautify the community. Further down in the downtown, provide consistent palette of lighting, signage and landscaping: again, the fact that landlords and committees are working together to improve our downtown, even as we speak.

Under the large tracts: protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Village through preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. We have gone through our first season of the deer immunocontraception plan. I believe the end of that plan was very successful. The Village is looking to build on that in the coming season. Again, under large tracts, under the diversifying the tax base: increase communication and coordination among Village boards and committees. As recently as tonight, the Trustees have formed a committee, which I am happy to sit on, to review the application permitting process. They have formed and expedited review process for waivers of view preservation approval, which was Local Law 4-13, and amended the Village code for site plan review requirements for remedial design and construction of one- and two-family houses, which was Local Law 5 of 2013. So we are looking at how the Village is going to be able to promote construction in the Village, and to do in a way that is going to help everybody move forward together.

Under objectives for the waterfront: previously the Board of Trustees has set up a Waterfront Infrastructure Development Committee since our last update. A report was presented in May, 2014 on their accomplishments, and their final report is due later in 2014. As recently as this evening, presentation by Pratt graduate students on what potential uses for the waterfront might be. So not only is this a living document, but we gave birth to a new idea as recently as about an hour ago.

Under circulation: continue to add improvements to sidewalks into downtown. Again, there is sidewalk tree pit implementation going on which is going to beautify our downtown, provide shade and help the environment. Under environmental sustainability: the anti-plastic bag initiative, which is going to be voted on at your next meeting. Our boards and committees are doing extraordinary work in trying to promote the health and welfare of the Village.

Under quality of life: continue to recognize the need and importance of affordable housing. We found another location for three units of affordable housing. There is a building

currently under construction, a rehab on Washington Avenue between Warburton and Broadway. It was going from what was a drug den to three units of affordable housing. I commend the Affordable Housing Committee on this, and the Village for being proactive on making sure the Village is affordable to a full range of residents.

Last but not least, due to the incredible hard and tireless and thankless work of our Trustees, the Village kept tax increases under two percent for 2012 and 2013, and for the third year in a row came in under the New York State tax cap for 2014. We have continued to build our reserve fund, an extraordinary thing in the economic climate we are in. Working with neighboring communities to address the property tax burden: the Village has hired a consultant who is working on the potential consolidation study of our DPW with Dobbs Ferry. So even within the last six months, we have had an incredible number of significant accomplishments, and we are hoping to build on that in the next six months.

Trustee Apel: So we are busy. We have one more report. Meg is going to bring up another part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Walker: I invited Kerry-Jane King to come tonight so we could officially charge the Conservation Commission with the formation of this, with a new name, whether it is the Circulation Committee, the Transportation Committee, the Complete Streets Committee, and discuss. I did inform Kerry-Jane and Andy Ratzkin of our conversation at the last meeting about bringing in non-Conservation Commission members to serve on this committee and partnering with the Safety Council and the police in addressing the issues. I had brought the Implementation Committee report in case we had questions about what they should be first tackling and how we wanted to go about setting the priorities.

To summarize, Jim, in your cover letter you said one of the top priorities in the Comprehensive Plan was "encouraging the provision and maintenance of sidewalks, stairs and street intersections so pedestrians from all parts of the Village are able to walk safely to the downtown, the Metro-North station, schools and between neighborhoods. Improving circulation throughout the Village will make Hastings more welcoming, safer and more accessible. This will benefit Village residents, businesses and visitors. The committee has prioritized all objectives and strategies related to circulation in the priority list." That means everything in the Comprehensive Plan is part of this in the circulation section?

Mr. Metzger: The most well-attended I meeting we had in the three years we worked on the Comp Plan had to do with circulation in the Village. What is more near and dear to anybody's heart than trying to cross the street and almost getting hit by a car? We came up with some ideas in the Comp Plan on how to address that. For businesses, what do you want to do? You want to drive traffic to your store. How do you do that? You make the

downtown more welcoming; you make it so it is attracting people. And not only from within the community, but from outside the community. When people come in on a Saturday to go to the Farmers' Market or the Hastings Flea, with an attractive downtown and great circulation people will want to stroll through the Village, stop into a restaurant, go into a store and buy something. These are things that benefit all levels of the Village. Part of the goal of the Comp Plan is for individual committees that are charged with these sort of things to look at what we wrote and decide how they best want to address the issues. The Comp Plan was never a directive on how to accomplish things. It was a list of thing that needed to be accomplished. Our Conservation Commission are amazingly proactive about the things they address; they take on very difficult issues. I have no doubt that they will do something great with this, as well.

Mayor Swiderski: So, Meg, how are we phrasing the specific charge?

Trustee Walker: I think it is implementing the objectives and strategies in the Comprehensive Plan in the circulation section. Is that right?

Mr. Metzger: That sounds good to me. I and a number of other members of our committee would be happy to meet if they need help figuring out what the thought process was behind some of the ideas that were listed. Then it would be up to their committee to prioritize within that, and then move forward with it.

Trustee Walker: I remember going over it a fine-toothed comb. We know there are a lot of very specific recommendations on the Comp Plan.

Mr. Metzger: This will be near and dear to Kerry-Jane's heart, James Street was listed as one of the most dangerous streets in the Village because it is a secondary thoroughfare to get to the Saw Mill that is used by an inordinate number of people who travel at high speeds on the street that can barely contain one lane of traffic. That is something, certainly, that we would need to address. The Conservation Commission would probably be working with the Safety Council on that, probably with the Police Department. That is something that would need to be expanded out and not held within one committee, why we call it the Comprehensive Plan. Now we are getting into the nitty-gritty of how all parts of the Village are going to tie together. They are going to have to look at lot of different issues and figure out how to make all of this work so we all benefit.

Mayor Swiderski: That is sort of a charge, but not really. The Infrastructure Committee and the best committees that have popped into existence and done something, then gone away, have succeeded when they knew exactly what they were doing. I want to make sure that our expectations are in line with what they do. The way you describe it, it is still not

entirely clear to me. What is the output of the committee? Does it have a time frame? Does it expire in a year? Does it shepherd the projects through, or wrap them neatly and present them to the Conservation Commission to approve and then pass on to us? What is the work product of the committee?

Trustee Walker: It terms of the procedure or the structure, we talked at the last meeting about how it would be similar to the Green Building Code Committee. It is a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, so the Conservation Commission is being given the charge to form this and would be coming to us.

Mayor Swiderski: And explicitly, they are being given the charge to select the people, as well. We may have some people we think would do well there, but it is ultimately their subcommittee. So we are asking them to form a subcommittee. I want to be clear, for the public record. It does not have a sunset clause at the moment? Technically, it never would.

Trustee Walker: Well, the way things work it never would. That is true.

Mayor Swiderski: So it is a standing committee, with a determinate size or that is up to them? It may shrink and grow over the years as it adds or subtracts experts.

Trustee Walker: Again, as for the Green Building Code, they brought on experts, creating a task force, a technical working group, who were doing the writing. These were people with specific expertise.

Mayor Swiderski: So it will grow and shrink.

Trustee Walker: I think we should give them control of that.

Mayor Swiderski: So there is no set number. It is as determined by the Conservation Commission. It might be three people one day and it might be 10 people the next year. We do not know.

Trustee Walker: In one year, they may want to tackle safe routes to school, they may want to engage with the school board.

Mayor Swiderski: When you say "tackle," what is the work product out of the group? Is it a memo? What is it that they are going to produce?

Trustee Walker: There are some doable, implementable steps that can be taken. There are some things that are more difficult, like rebuilding sidewalks throughout the Village or

creating new sidewalks where there are none. That is a difficult thing because it requires a lot of money, not that some of it is not necessary. But if they could look at some of the things that are low-hanging fruit and implementable, and things where there may be money, grants that we can go after, those are the things they should focus on. For example, Dobbs Ferry last year won a significant safe routes to school grant from the state to do a number of things, including sidewalk construction, crosswalk creation, education, things like that. But it is the things that are implementable .

Mayor Swiderski: I am just trying to make sure expectations are mutually set so we are not saying, whoa, you were not supposed to go out for grants yourself.

Trustee Walker: No, they have to come to the Board.

Village Attorney Whitehead: You want them to find grant opportunities.

Trustee Walker: They can find grant opportunities, and they need to come to the Board to present the opportunities and recommendations to us.

Mayor Swiderski: But they are going to go to the Conservation Commission.

Trustee Walker: Yes, the Conservation Commission would come to us and make the presentation.

Mayor Swiderski: So the Conservation Commission is going to be the screen that reviews this and then passes it to us. Are they going to be passing us fairly fully-formed projects, or what is it that we are going to get out of it? Is it a "we think you should do new striping on upper Broadway to allow for parking across from the synagogue?" Is that the extent of it, or is it a more concrete plan, in detail, with the justification? What is the output?

Trustee Walker: You are putting me on the spot because I have not thoroughly thought about this. We need to think about that as a group.

Mayor Swiderski: I want us to be t clear here, because otherwise they may be kicking up a paragraph to us in two months' time, and we would need more. I want to be clear about what "more" is now.

Trustee Walker: This committee met on an ad hoc basis several times about two years ago. I met with them, with Kerry-Jane, with Andy, several other people who were interested. We went through the Comprehensive Plan recommendations item by item and picked out things we thought were quite doable in the short term. It was not a difficult thing to create a

prioritization list within the specific recommendations in the Comp Plan. That may be one of the first things you do. And you say this is what we want to do in the first year. We did that as a group just as an exercise, and we came up with a number of things we thought could be implemented right away. We have our notes from that meeting. It could be that other things seem to be more important now, two years later. Or there are more opportunities for grants now than there were in the past, perhaps. Looking at the list with an eye to implementation and fund-raising, some of the things do not require money, like striping, reducing north Broadway from three lanes to two lanes, which is something we asked the state to do the next time they stripe Broadway.

Mayor Swiderski: So do sequencing.

Trustee Walker: Yes, reducing the speed limits in certain areas has been discussed. That does not cost money either. But they need to decide.

Mayor Swiderski: I apologize for being explicit here, but the EDC haunts me. They jumbled, and anger broke out.

Trustee Walker: What if they come to us with a work plan? The Conservation Commission does that.

Mayor Swiderski: Every year priority projects come to us, before they spend time on something that we are likely to say no way, the money is not happening, or that is too much of a reach. Come to us with three projects, whatever it is they think they can realistically done. And then the model of the Green Code, where it was a full-fledged project development. Each thing was logically taken as far as they could. They did not rely on us to do work because my bandwidth is about where it is. I am not going to take on more work. I would say they develop as far as is necessary for us to be able to say yes, no, approve it, and then it is either implemented because it does not cost money, or the money search begins.

Trustee Walker: Which means before they vet it by us they should have vetted it by the Safety Council and the police, or whomever.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree, though I would say where does that happen in the development of the priorities? Should that happen before the priorities come to us, or after we approve the priorities?

Trustee Jennings: There are several analogies that are being appealed to, some of which may give us better guidance than others. I would like to see something as close to the analogy with the Green Building Code group as possible.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree.

Trustee Jennings: They gave us very specific, eventually written by our Village Attorney, amendments to our law. We held hearings and we voted on it and we passed it. It was a concrete work product, and it was closely tied in to the structure of the Village government; namely the Building Department and the Building Inspector. This is a disanalogy with that. It does not have a lot of those features. We do not have a Village planner, for one thing, so we do not have the same kind of personnel. A lot of this is really about planning. But I would recommend that we do a charge which will have this group convey to the Board of Trustees, via consensus of the Conservation Commission, the Safety Council and others to a series of steps that we can take: legislative actions, budgetary actions, capital fund planning actions. Building sidewalks, painting crosswalks, changing a street from two-way to one-way, putting up a stop light, bike lands, all of these are components of what we are talking about here. These are not going to happen unless they are voted on here. So the charge is if you get grants. But this is not a committee to be grant writers. This is a committee to develop objectives and goals, and then we together can figure out how to do that. How to raise the money to do it, how to pay for it, how to spend our own money, reprioritize our own budget to pay for it, whatever it might be. But you are an objective-defining, specifying kind of group, and in that way you are analogous to the Green Building Code committee. But they were a bullet, you are much more of a shotgun.

Mayor Swiderski: Though each project is a bullet. I would use the analogy of a machine gun. That it is going to be a stream of bullets.

Trustee Jennings: Yes. The inter-commission dimension to this is interesting. Because we were tied in to the Building Department and the Building Inspector, the Planning Board weighed in on it. They did a great deal of work and thoughtful comments, but they did not have jurisdiction over this, and they knew it, and that was never an issue. I predict that there may be a health and environmental paradigm, partly, here, and also a safety paradigm. It is going to be interesting to see how the Conservation Commission and the Safety Council work together here, and that is disanalogous with the Green Building Code. It adds an interesting dimension.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Having been at the Planning Board meeting last week, I can tell you they spoke about it. They were talking among themselves about bringing some planning concerns to the Board of Trustees; pedestrian circulation was a big piece of that. So you might want to include in this committee someone from the Planning Board, or at least speak to the Planning Board to bring in the planning side of it.

Mayor Swiderski: I think I am clearer. I feel somewhat obliged, like I did on the Infrastructure Committee, since I am the one insisting on a charge, I will try to draw up the equivalent. I will do something based on what we spoke about here. Single sheet, just so it is formal. We can send it on to Safety, Planning, Chief of Police that this is our intent and has our support.

Village Attorney Whitehead: My recommendation to Planning Board when they started talking about these things, was that they should pass on to the Board of Trustees some of these broader planning issues they wanted to raise.

Kerry-Jane King, Chair, Conservation Commission: The analogy of the Green Building Code is great, and I enjoyed working on that project. It was successful. We were fortunate in that there is a wealth of architects in the Village who are LEED-accredited professionals, so we had an incredible working group. Then four of those architects volunteered to be our technical team and did a huge amount of work. In this case, complete streets is something I know something about but I am not an expert in. I do not know if there are any experts in our village, other than perhaps Meg. So my concern is that when we form this committee we have the resources to make intelligent recommendations. I am wondering what you would recommend in that regard. I am not sure there is anyone in the Village who can help us for the level of detail and technical expertise that was available to us in the Green Building Code.

Trustee Walker: We can use Dobbs Ferry as an interesting case, because they have introduced a lot of these things. Rob Baron is an amazing resource, and he has become a self-styled expert on complete streets, I think as has Nina Orville, to a certain degree. They have gone a lot further with this than we have. One resource is to use them. Rob said he would be happy to come to some initial meetings and also talk about how they got as much funding as they did. They have a tremendous amount of knowledge.

I know other experts. I am not an expert in transportation, but I do this stuff as part of my work all the time. In my office, we do have experts. We have the former head of transportation planning for the New Jersey DOT on our staff, and he has been up here before to meet with us. So we do have some resources that probably would not cost a lot if we wanted them. And others outside of my office, of course. I do not think it is as complicated as we are making it out to be. Some of these steps are quite obvious and do not take a lot of thought. We know we have been talking about several of them for a long time. Some of them are as simple as reducing speed limits and having a community discussion about whether we could stand to have 25 mile per hour speed limits throughout the Village, for example, which would make our streets much safer and promote walking and bike riding. Something like that would require the police to weigh and would require enforcement. It is

something New York City is looking at now, making all their streets 20 or 25 miles per hour; all the streets, not the avenues. So these things are not as complex as you may think.

3. Update on the Downtown

Trustee Walker: I do not have a lot to report. I have not moved forward with the downtown advocate yet, but I am hoping to meet soon with Jim to take the raw document and start to shape it, and then run it by other groups like the Downtown Collaborative. We were hoping to have a Friday Night Live on June 6 and close Warburton and have Spring Thing. But the Con Ed work is starting on June 1. So we are hoping, after your meeting today, it sounds like they are not going to be working on Warburton. To start off with they are going to work on Spring, so that may enable us.

Village Manager Frobel: I believe so. I know the Chief had some misgivings. But given what we know about the project and the timeline, I do not see any reason why you cannot go ahead with the program.

Trustee Walker: Maybe you and I can talk to the Chief in the next couple days, because we started to work on it last week and then it looked like we were going to have to change it. Good, so we can look forward to that before the long, hot summer of dust and disruption.

4. Update on the Waterfront

Village Manager Frobel: Staff met today with the engineers from Arcadis. Crews are going to return to the Chevron/Uhlich site beginning next week. They are going to bring on about 350 cubic yards of topsoil to dress up the work they did last fall. They hydroseeded, but there are some bare spots and some washouts. It should take about two weeks. It will require from 10 to 15 trucks coming through the Village for about a two-day period; 350 yards is not enough to warrant bringing the barge back. We will do the traffic control.

Mayor Swiderski: There is also, in parallel, some additional sampling going on on the BP site over the months of May and June. As they prepare their design study, they have got to go back and further sample certain areas. So there will be some sampling activity.

5. Other

Mayor Swiderski: A question about the pool. In the past, the first day has been free. Is that true this time around?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, and it looks wonderful. It is all repainted.

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 discuss contract negotiations.

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 9:10 p.m.