

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 1, 2014

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 7:35 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: Three (3).

PRESENTATION – Project Compost Hastings

Mayor Swiderski: Project Compost Hastings comes to us via the Conservation Commission, under which it is organized and to which it has reported its successes so far, and they fully endorse the substantial work that has been done on this project. It is at a high caliber in terms of a professional project orientation to each step.

Cari Gardner, Project Compost Hastings: I am here with my husband, Donald Gardner. I have some information from an EPA fact sheet that I would like to share with you. The U.S. generated an estimated 251 million tons of solid waste in 2012. About two-thirds of this is comprised of organic materials, 25 percent of which is food waste. Almost a year ago, my husband and I introduced the concept of Project Compost Hastings to Mayor Swiderski. Together, we agreed that diverting the organic waste from Hastings' waste stream could appreciably impact a reduction in greenhouse gases while reducing the cost of transporting our garbage. Under the auspices of Sageworks and Gardner Project Integration Group we have met with the Conservation Commission, the Village Manager and the head of the DPW. Our team consists of the two of us, along with Elisa Zazzara, who regrets that she could not be here with us tonight.

We have done a good deal of research and exploration of composting methods. We are recommending that Hastings create a way, with our support, to bring in-vessel composting to the Village, ultimately for any organic waste producers that are not able to compost on-site. The purpose of our being here tonight is two-fold: to let you know where we are to date, and to get approval on the RFP which was distributed to the Board last week. We have prepared a short presentation to let you know where we stand and where we need to go to achieve this valuable initiative. We will be happy to stay to answer questions after the presentation.

Donald Gardner, Project Compost Hastings: The two things we will talk about are to bring you an update on where we are in two of the five areas that we are exploring with this

project, and to get comment from you about the RFP. On this slide we look at garbage collection from two perspectives. If you look across the top, you will see the actual waste management. That is the garbage, where it is picked up, taken by truck to Yonkers, and then trucked off, with a carbon footprint, to Peekskill for incineration. What we are doing on this project is to carve out the bottom part, that is the food waste, and allow that to be collected but diverted from the waste management traffic and moved into an in-vessel composter that will be installed here in Hastings. Here is the footprint, without numbers because we do not have them yet. On the left-hand side you will see a receiving area where the food waste is collected and dropped off and then, from the hopper, conveyed into the composting unit where it then goes to a standard composting process. I say "standard" because we think about the composter as basically a heated tube with a set of paddles that turn and churn the material for a period of time, after which we have compost.

There are two approaches. One is a set of paddles that turn in a heated tube. The other is, the tube itself turns, a rotating drum. We will look at those as we look at the vendor offerings. We have run two parts of the project so far. One is to understand how much food waste is generated, and the second is the RFI, the Request for Information, that we sent out to the vendors so we can get a sense of what we are dealing with in the industry. From the perspective of the Food Service Establishments, the FSEs, we have completed the audit. That took about three months. We estimate, based upon what we have been told by the 23 food service establishments in town, we are looking at 4 ½ tons of food waste a week, cuttings prior to the meal for preparation and what is discarded from the plates. That is the restaurants, coffee shops, delis. Obviously, the delis, the coffee shops do not necessarily have pre- or prepare work, but there "plate scrapings" at the end. We totaled everything up; it is 4 ½ tons a week, not an insignificant number. The tipping fee for the Village is about \$27 so we are talking about \$6,400 a year to move that portion of the waste stream.

We sent the RFI to 14 vendors. We received seven responses from seven candidates. Here are two of the seven. First is FOR Solutions, from Chester, New Jersey. They have an in-vessel rotary drum. The footprint range is about 13 feet wide and about 34 feet long, to 18 by 58. Green Mountain Technology is the second one, also in-vessel. This drum does not turn but it has got an internal auger system which is a blade or a churning device that moves back and forth to keep the compost hot. That is a channel that sits in an enclosed facility.

Trustee Armacost: Is that movable or stationary?

Mr. Gardner: They are all movable.

Ms. Gardner: One of the things we have included in the RFP is to determine the mobility if we needed to change the location of the setup. Portability is something.

Trustee Jennings: I see on the slide, the top unit pictured, it says underneath "five-day process." I assume that might mean how long the material is in that unit before you can move on to the next step and put some new stuff in. Do you have a sense of the range of the timing for these units, or are they all pretty much five days?

Mr. Gardner: They vary from three or five, to five to seven or eight. It depends on how fast the material moves through the composter or what the cycle of turning is. We will get more of that when we send the RFP out and we get the hard responses.

Trustee Jennings: It would make a difference in terms of how much stuff we are generating, where you can hold it while the other stuff is cooking and all that whole thing.

Mr. Gardner: You are right. We have to think about how long it is going to take to process through. That will determine the size of the receiving area. And we also have to think about the curing area on the other side. But you are right, it is a process and we will have a lot more information when we get the results from the RFP.

Trustee Armacost: Can grass be processed through the system?

Ms. Gardner: We have changed one paragraph in the RFP from what you have seen. What we needed to go for was much more specific information so we called it "compostable content specifications": the minimum and maximum amounts of nitrogen versus carbon because we have to have a carbon source, and what is the allowable input of organics: large bones, liquids, compostable dishes, utensils, bags. We can add grass/leaves to this. That is something that I do not think we had thought of as a separate entity, but why not.

Trustee Armacost: It is an issue for us.

Mayor Swiderski: Could be.

Ms. Gardner: I know there is a large push to have it cut and left in place, but that does not always work for people. We can certainly add things of that nature; lawn clippings and any kind of gardening debris.

Mr. Gardner: It is important to know that the numbers we are talking about right now, the 4 ½ tons, will dictate our conversation with the vendors. But we have to be mindful of to what extent are we adding yard waste, to what extent are we building not only for the 23 food services establishments but for the schools plus the institutions plus, ultimately, expanding this out to the residents. This is not a limited target.

Ms. Gardner: And the expandability and portability are both included in the RFP.

Mr. Gardner: We just wanted to give you a sense of what some of these are. XACT from Ontario, Canada, another rotating drum. You can see it on the top. It is a sizeable piece of equipment. Eco Value Technology has two models, a rotary drum and an aerated model that is a stationary drum and it uses the auger to mix up the material.

We speak from experience because we have our own composter in our home, actually in our garbage because we cannot compost in Clarewood Village. We have a heated drum that does not rotate, but it has got paddles that move the food along. In about two days it turns into something that is very close to compost.

Then NATH Sustainable, they use what is called a "rocket," which is a heated cylinder with the moving blades. It is the same idea. Group Commercial in Canada, also a rotating drum. So you get a sense of what is out there. There are rotating drums, there are stationary drums with paddles. There is a third approach called Compost Works, but it is basically aerated static piles. That is a fairly standard way of composting. It forces air. You see those white PVC pipes that forces air up through the material to aerate it. That is the third style and the seventh vendor that we have now had responses from, and to whom we will send the RFPs.

Finally, in any good project you cannot leave a meeting without talking about next steps. Since I am the project manager on this event, this is my job here. We are looking to get clarify around the current approach to garbage hauling. We have a meeting with Fran and Mike tomorrow to talk about what it means to collect all of this stuff and gather it up, and what kind of impact will that have on the Village. We want to complete and distribute the RFP as soon as possible. The vendors are anxious, they are interested in where we are. As quickly as possible, we want to get your comments and complete that process.

We want to look at the waste pickup and carting options. That will be an outgrowth of our meeting with Fran and Mike. Then based on the RFP results, we want to see what comes back. We want to go through an evaluation process, determine the benefits of cost to the Village and the FSEs and, ultimately, the residents. There is a financial model that we are going to look to build as we explore the funding options, as well. Obviously, siting is a very significant point. So we are going to be addressing those questions. And educating and communicating. This is about managing the message. There are all kinds of fear about composting, there is all kinds of fear about what we do with food in the outside and what happens with the animals on the inside. How long do the restaurants and the homes have to store this stuff before it gets picked up. We want to begin to manage that message so the Village can start to get that out. We are looking at implementation a year from now.

Trustee Armacost: I have a question about the funding part, which is really about the revenue you think you can get from the compost. Are you also planning to give it away for free? Can you cost what the revenue for the Village would be from this?

Mr. Gardner: It is a part of our plan. We have not done it yet. But the model, as we build it, will have possible revenue from the sale of this material. Four and a half tons of food waste a week drops down to about a ton and a half of compost. So there is going to be a significant amount of material that becomes available. We see this as a revenue possibility for the Village. We also see it as a utility possibility for the Village. You do not have to buy compost anymore. And there is always the possibility for people to come and just take scoops full of it. All these options are out there, but we definitely want to build the revenue potential into the model.

Trustee Apel: The paddles, or the turning of the tubes, is this going to be done through solar energy?

Ms. Gardner: We certainly hope it would be.

Mr. Gardner: As we build the configuration, the view of what it is going to look like, and as we generate the financial side of it the cost of the operation will have to include the purchase of a series of panels. But yes, that will definitely be in the model.

Ms. Gardner: I am actually looking to get it donated.

Trustee Walker: This is just tremendous. Thank you for putting the time and your expertise into this. I really am thrilled. I know there is also a considerable amount of food waste that is edible. In New York City it is given away or given to food pantries. Did that come up in your discussions with the restaurants?

Ms. Gardner: I was pleased to learn that there was a lot of sensitivity to waste among the food service establishments in Hastings and there is minimal waste. There is going to be a lot of educating along with implementation. Getting the food service establishments to switch to all compostable take-home dishes. Unless we can compost all of those things they are not useful to us. A lot of coaching can be done about how. It is like doing a waste audit in an office. You can do a waste audit in a restaurant, as well. Talking to them about using unbleached paper napkins, about using compostable plastics if they are using plastics. In the food audit there was a column for unused food that gets discarded. There was very little. I know that is a big problem nationwide and worldwide. But we were pleased that does not seem to be the case here. Some of the FSEs talked about giving things away. They send it home with their employees. So it is being utilized.

Trustee Walker: And is it going to require a lot more labor on their end to do the separation required?

Mr. Gardner: That is a good question. We tried to tackle that as we did the audit. We had a conversation with each of the managers about why we were doing this to find out the number. But also beginning to make them mindful of the fact that yes, they may have to have a separate bucket for the good waste. To their credit, they said, ok, I need a bucket by the bar, I need a bucket by the coffee urns, I need a bucket back in the kitchen and we can figure that out. In short order, they were able to adjust their internal kitchen processes. We would say to them think back 25 years to the first time you had to recycle cans, paper, glass. This is the first day of recycling food. It really made a difference. So we have got a very willing audience here, and we are looking forward to being able to come back to them. The Mayor has already sent a communication back thanking them for their involvement so far, and letting them know they are part of a bigger process and there is something happening.

Trustee Walker: Are health department or state laws that would have to be complied with?

Mr. Gardner: There are state regulations. In New York State regulations, there is a model that is in the RFP from Nova Scotia. They compost and recycle everything in their composting process. We have been there and seen it. They have buckets in Halifax that are put out on a regular basis for food waste. Their regulations are very significant. We noted it in the RFP and attributed it appropriately. We want to make sure this supports state regulations for water management, for leachate, for odor, animal control. Although with a closed vessel, we are not going to worry about animals so much.

Trustee Walker: Will this be staffed by the contractor or operated by the DPW?

Mr. Gardner: It is something we want to talk to Fran and Mike about tomorrow. It is not likely the contractor would provide it. We have looked at a number of sites like colleges and correctional facilities and Stone Barns more recently, where it becomes a great learning opportunity. Hastings then takes on the opportunity of becoming that teaching space where municipal composting can be taught. The opportunities here are significant.

Trustee Jennings: Do the vendors offer a turnkey operation? We pick a site for them, and are they going to construct the entire process? Or do they just sell the composter unit and we have to build the rest of the facility ourselves?

Mr. Gardner: What we have seen is a mix, and at the very least there are two, one is Rocket and one is Group Commercial, that use other vendors of the equipment and then they

build a turnkey around that. So there is a mix out there, and we need to be prepared as we raise the question through the RFP, and then as we go through the evaluation, what is it that we are looking to buy. We are mindful of that, and we want to build that into the evaluation process, and as we build the financial model, where else are we going to have to pay.

Trustee Jennings: We have a situation in which we would have annual savings and maybe annual revenue which, over a long period of time, would add up to a considerable amount. But we are going to have a very large upfront capital infusion to get this built and operational. So we have got a discrepancy between how much money we have to spend at the beginning, and then we will earn it back later. It sounds like a bond, it sounds like a grant, it sounds like an infusion of money up front before we can start. And "project implementation target," I am not sure what you mean by implementation. Do you really think this thing is going to be up and running in a year?

Mr. Gardner: We are very optimistic, and we are very focused. After 40 years of managing projects, I have found that the more intentional the project team the more the possibility of implementation around when you want it done.

Trustee Armacost: Again, when one talks about funding, both the expense side as well the revenue side, I am hoping that part of what you do is to look for whether there are grants that would fund this because of its innovative nature.

Ms. Gardner: That research has begun already. Also, Elisa and I met with Marianne Petronella,. She is tremendously supportive, and she and her staff member we met are able to support us in locating potential ...

Mayor Swiderski: This is a country-level group that is working on this.

Ms. Gardner: County Department of Environmental Facilities. We went over to the MRF to meet with her. By the way, their revamped educational department is beautiful and worth seeing. The county is absolutely behind this effort. Marianne said that anything that reduces the waste stream is the right way to go.

Trustee Armacost: I am talking specifically about getting money behind those statements in the form of grants or something else.

Ms. Gardner: She can recommend where we turn for grants for this kind of program.

Trustee Armacost: Because it takes a long time. If the kickoff date is July, 2015 it needs to happen pretty much immediately.

Mr. Gardner: As you see, we want to get to funding options very quickly. We have on our action item list to get a financial model that takes all this into account very quickly. We know we need to move on that fast. The next step before we leave the room, we would love to leave with an approval to put a draft cover letter together for the Mayor to sign that sits on top of this RFP. If you have got comments we will take them, but we want to move as quickly as possible on getting this RFP out.

Village Manager Frobel: As you mentioned I will have my opportunity tomorrow to sit down with you. As you know, I have a slew of questions. A lot of the questions I raised in December and January are still there, and I am going to need to talk with you about siting, zoning regulations, and operations. Some of the slides you had here this evening was the first time I had seen them. They were not part of the packet we got over the weekend. But I am surprised at the low number of garbage that the restaurants suggest they would provide.

Mayor Swiderski: Four-and-a-half tons?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes. That seemed, industry standard, it just struck me on the low side. I thought it would be a higher number.

Ms. Gardner: There is no standard that we have seen. Typically, two-thirds of garbage ends up being food waste. That is what we have seen. If you are looking for a standard, that is the closest that we have seen.

Ms. Gardner: Two-thirds ends up being organic waste, and 25 percent of that is food waste.

Village Manager Frobel: I had asked the Mayor if in could continue to meet with you tomorrow, and then report to the full group that you have answered some of the questions I would raise.

Trustee Walker: Are there other municipalities in this area who are doing this?

Ms. Gardner: One of the things the county is planning to do is to purchase a rocket and place it up by the Valhalla MRF where they had that experimental dehydrator going. It will be fed by the hospital and by WCC and the Food Bank. The only other big project is through the Greenburgh Nature Center or through just Greenburgh. Professor Culhane has created a gas bio-digester. They are installing at least one bio-digester somewhere in Greenburgh to produce energy. These are the projects that are being worked on right now.

Trustee Jennings: We have been talking with Dobbs Ferry about solid waste management issues. Would this lend itself better to a larger scale in more than one village?

Mr. Gardner: The numbers will reveal themselves, but I suspect that is likely, that if we scale this thing up, particularly if we do it in conjunction with Dobbs Ferry, there might be an advantage on this side. But we cannot speak to that until we see the numbers.

Ms. Gardner: And there are aspects to look at both ways. Because the more transporting you do of material, the more you are burning gasoline unless we are using very fuel-efficient vehicles.

Mr. Gardner: We are at a point where we can talk about siting and operations. We have focused on the food service establishments, specifically on the RFI to get out to the vendors to understand what is out there. Now we are prepared and have the bandwidth and have more background, so we look forward to that meeting with you tomorrow, Fran. Coming out of that meeting we are looking to have some movement on the RFP. Is that the plan?

Village Manager Frobel: Well, I hope so.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: Did you come across any that had solar power for the electricity and for the heating of the units.

Mr. Gardner: They are not using solar power, but they are all talking about it.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you for the professional approach and patiently doing this. The research that you have done to date is terrific.

NEW HASTINGS MERCHANT INTRODUCTION

Mayor Swiderski: As is our tradition, we give new merchants in town a few minutes to introduce themselves, describe their store, give the hours and what they are looking to sell. These two new merchants in town are the purveyors of certainly the most delightfully-named establishment in Village history.

Maisha Teacher: I am here with Willie Teacher. We are the owners of Yummy Yummie Goodness, a boutique on Warburton. Our eclectic store has sizes from newborn to size 10 clothing for boys and girls. We started it because, as a Mommy of three, I wanted different clothing that I did not see everywhere. The thing I love the most about our store is that 60 percent of our merchandise is made in the United States. That part makes me really excited.

Willie Teacher: The reason we opened in the town was because both of our parents come here to visit. Her parents are from Philadelphia, my parents live in Florida. We have taken great pride in bringing them up here and showing them what we call a quaint little progressive town. As they see the undertakings over there at the theater company and as they see the store down the street that sells falafels, one of our favorites, and the coffee shop we get excited about these pieces, and we are looking forward, and are excited about, being a part of this community.

Ms. Teacher: We are there Tuesday through Sunday, generally from 11 to 6. We figure we will play around with it to see where we get the most people. Maybe we will open an hour earlier, stay an hour later. On Fridays, we are open until 7. We change our schedule when you have the evening event in the Hastings community. On Saturdays we are here from 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 3.

Mayor Swiderski: Have you had an official opening yet?

Ms. Teacher: We did have an official opening on April 27.

Mr. Teacher: We're really happy about it. The community has been really. We are getting a lot of traffic. We hope to get a draw from other river towns to come on down and spend a day in Hastings, and while you are here, spend some money.

Trustee Walker: Since you are open on Sundays, you might consider advertising at the flea market once a month. There is a table where you can put a brochure, or there is a committee working on a big bulletin board where you can post what is available. We hand out a map, and we can tell people you are open on Sunday. They are always looking for other places to shop. People come to the flea market from all over the region.

Ms. Teacher: Yes, a few of the business I have been talking to are trying to schedule where we could send our employees down with item fliers and information to let the folks know we are here, come check us out.

Trustee Walker: If they hand it out and have a personal contact that works even better. Your shop is lovely.

Ms. Teacher: Thank you. We think it is a lot of fun.

Mayor Swiderski: The flea market and the Farmers' Market have, in the past, made available discounted tables for merchants to try to get the merchants pulled in. You may want to reach out and see if they are open to that if you feel like covering two stores at once.

Trustee Walker: Where do you live?

Ms. Teacher: We live right down the street, in Yonkers. I do not work right now. I am a school teacher.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. Good luck. I walked by their store at 7:25 and invited them tonight. So all of five minutes warning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Armacost, SECONDED by Trustee Apel with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2014 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 6-2014-15	\$25,956.36
Multi-Fund No. 7-2014-15	\$14,683.92
Multi-Fund No. 8-2014-15	\$73,591.57

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Gonder: I want to give you a small report on the deer. Up in Pulvers Woods, one doe had triplets, one doe had twins and one doe had a single. So that is six, and I hope the Board is going to have more people with maybe those tranquilizers or whatever. The population, I thought, would go down in this rough winter, but it did not.

The other subject I wanted to talk about was veterans' exemptions in the Village assessment roll. We support our police. We give them benefits, good retirement, they work real tough shifts and whatnot and emergencies, and we take care of them. We support our fire department. They get some privileges, some insurance, some swimming discounts. But what do we do for the veterans? We give them a parade once a year, Memorial Day. There are a lot of things we could do. The school board did it, and the Village Board should consider it. Four-hundred are dying a day from the Second World War. I do not have to tell you about all their things, we would be speaking probably German or Japanese if it was not for a lot of those people. What happened in the concentration camps. When I was 12 years old I saw soldiers bring back pictures. It is in my brain forever what happened. I think those

people that were out in the Pacific, back to Bataan and the Korean veterans, some of them may have not seen service in combat but they went through hell. I was in an isolated place one year tour of duty because it was rough. They put a fence around to keep us in and the people could not go out without a uniform so they know who you were. Also, people got hurt. Some got physically hurt with wounds, and others got hurt other ways. I know how it was because I ended up back in the States. I was in the Quonset hut hospital for a couple of weeks, and then they sent me to a private hospital in that Godforsaken place I was at. They sent me back to Walter Reed, which was a showplace. Now what is it? It is moldy and they had to go the navy hospital.

So I think you should consider a tax reduction. I will tell you how you can pay for it, just a few suggestions. One is your bridge, your stainless steel. I understand from a good source that is going to cost the taxpayers \$100,000. That would pay almost two years. Go back and let the county pay for the other type of chain link fencing. Another one, you are looking for an advocate for the village commercial. Maybe you could put that off for a year or two and get the Chamber of Commerce to start some things. We need an advocate for the property owners. Then this one is a good one: 663 Broadway. I get something in my mind, \$250,000 in building permits. The taxes will be coming up pretty soon. I am not positive what the taxes will be, but it is where the property building is worth \$250 to \$300 million when it is through. That is going to bring a lot of taxes in, and that can pay a few years for this \$58,000 that it was estimated it would cost a year for a tax break.

45:14 APPROVAL OF CORRECTION TO TAX ROLL – 44 HIGH STREET

Village Manager Frobel: The resolution lays out what happened here. The property assessor made a mistake on 44 High Street. When one of the owners of the property passed, the assessor removed the exemption for both the aged and the volunteer firemen. On 89 Burnside, likewise when one of the owners died he removed an aged exemption. This is corrective action. We ask the Board to consider passage of both of these resolutions. They have an insignificant impact on the taxes that we would collect.

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

WHEREAS, a clerical error occurred in the preparation of the 2014-15 tax roll as follows:

4.110-115-13
44 High Street
Paquette, Evelyn

Wrongful deletion of Volunteer Fire Fighter and Aged Exemptions, and

WHEREAS, restoration of the deleted exemptions will result in the taxable assessed value of the property on the 2014 Village assessment roll being reduced from 12,050 to 5,422, and

WHEREAS, restoration of the deleted exemptions will result in the 2014-15 Village tax on the property being reduced from \$2,949.48 to \$1,327.14, and

WHEREAS, application for correction to the tax roll was submitted to the Westchester County Tax Commission, and

WHEREAS, said application was approved by the Commission pursuant to RPTL Section 550.2(c), now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the application to correct the 2014 Village assessment roll to restore the deleted exemptions for 44 High Street, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the application to correct the 2014-15 Village tax bill for 44 High Street to reflect the restored exemptions.

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

46:14 APPROVAL OF CORRECTION TO TAX ROLL – 89 BURNSIDE DRIVE

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

WHEREAS, a clerical error occurred in the preparation of the 2014-15 tax roll as follows:

4.110-102-12
89 Burnside Drive
Gargiulo, Michael & Schuck, Sally

Wrongful deletion of Aged Exemption

WHEREAS, restoration of the deleted exemptions will result in the taxable assessed value of the property on the 2014 Village assessment roll being reduced from 9,520 to 4,760, and

WHEREAS, restoration of the deleted exemptions will result in the 2014-15 Village tax on the property being reduced from \$2,230.21 to \$1,165.11, and

WHEREAS, application for correction to the tax roll was submitted to the Westchester County Tax Commission, and

WHEREAS, said application was approved by the Commission pursuant to RPTL Section 550.2(c), now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the application to correct the 2014 Village assessment roll to restore the deleted exemptions for 89 Burnside Drive, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the application to correct the 2014-15 Village tax bill for 89 Burnside Drive to reflect the restored exemptions.

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

**47:14 APPROVAL OF CHARGE TO TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mayor Swiderski: We have an updated version of the charge for the Transportation and Circulation Subcommittee that reflected the changes the Board asked me to make. Has everybody had a chance to review it and have any input to it? There was one word change regarding the reporting out to the public.

Trustee Walker: And we received no comments from the public?

Mayor Swiderski: No, not a one.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the charge to the Transportation and Circulation Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission as attached.

ROLL CALL VOTE	AYE	NAY
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: The Con Ed gas line replacement project is moving along on schedule. The entire gas main has now been installed. Today they were working on West Main Street, a small section there. They were due to complete the final segment of it in front of Tony's Restaurant this afternoon. About half of the service connections are complete. They have about 21 left to do, working on it very nicely during the normal business hours with the businesses that could be impacted. There may be another four weeks of work and they should be complete. We thank everyone for their patience. We have tried to accommodate parking and they have tried to work in the segments as indicated. Thursday they will be buttoning everything up for the long weekend and then resume work on Monday. The contractor, in my opinion, has done a nice job.

Mayor Swiderski: The sidewalks will be restored?

Village Manager Frobel: The sidewalks will be restored to their previous condition. What that means is, when there is a square and they cut just a part of it they will replace the entire square. The company has asked about our preference for the replacement of the imitation brick, the Bomanite. It may be difficult. They have to make sure the manufacturer is still in business and they can come as close as they can to matching the color, texture and style, although it is their burden to do that. One thought might be, in those segments where that product was disrupted and removed, could we live with a real brick being placed there that closely matched the Bomanite which, over the past 15 or 18 years may have faded. The question is still out there. The company is waiting to hear what our preference is. They are not going to remove all of it. They are only going to restore that portion that was removed during the installation. I guess the preference is to restore it to what it was, and that would be to find a product close to the Bomanite, if it still exists. Our job is to find the specifications and supply it to them as soon as we can.

Mayor Swiderski: It definitely was not 15 years since I was on the Board. At the time, I remember the vote. But it may have been as long as nine or 10 years.

Village Manager Frobel: On the Warburton Bridge project, likewise moving along nicely, on schedule. The road surface has been removed, the entire length of the bridge on the east side, the guardrails all removed. I have not heard of any upsets in terms of detouring or any complaints on the parking.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Rivertowns Tourism Board

Trustee Walker: I would like to introduce Bruce Bolger. Would you remind me the name of your company?

Bruce Bolger, Rivertowns Tourism Board: For this purpose, Engagement Enterprises.

Trustee Walker: Thank you. They have been working with the Rivertowns Tourism Board for the last almost three years on a number of efforts. The one Bruce is going to discuss tonight is production of the maps that are being placed in hotels in this area. But his company also created a Web site called rivertownsny.org, which is terrific and gets a lot of hits. I do not know what the number of tourists is that it pulls in, but a lot of interest. We have been, in the past, working with Bruce. We got a grant from New York State to market our Discover the Rivertowns weekends last year. The year before we had a

successful tour of the Aqueduct, where we had 80 people from out of town. So we have attracted quite a few people. We do not know what the numbers are in total, but we have attracted quite a few visitors to Hastings and the Rivertowns. Bruce is going to talk about what we would like to do going forward, and a request to this village for a payment. We, in the past, have given Bruce and his company \$1,000. It is more of a donation to the Rivertowns Tourism Board publication of these maps and printing of the maps. Bruce is going to discuss that, and encourage you to think about continuing our contribution.

Mr. Bolger: The money does not go to our company. It goes to the vendor. Last year, that money went to WFUV radio, and this year the \$1,000 would go to the company that handles the printing and distribution of the maps at the 29 area hotels in Westchester in this area, and this year also at Grand Central Station.

As everybody knows, this is a difficult endeavor to develop a strategy to help our downtown by bringing people from the outside. You can only do that if you have a product. And we do have a product. We have the Aqueduct and we have great restaurants and we have the river town riverfront assets. I believe that the Tappan Zee Bridge eventually is going to be a boon because a pedestrian walkway is envisioned. You are going to be able to do a 35-mile bike ride or excursion from Manhattan all the way up, across the bridge, and back around. It is already developed. So that is a long-term thing.

In the short term our goal was to get some grant money and seed money to show we can attract people to come to the towns. Everything that is measurable is positive so far. What our activities basically entail is a map program, where we develop these pretty maps that show the walks one can do on the Aqueduct and what we call the Historic Rivertowns Trailway Circuit, 16 miles from Lyndhurst all the way down to Untermyer, back across southern Hastings to the bike trail. We have all of that listed there. We have the history. We list all the local merchants on the Web site for free, even though most do not sponsor it because our poor merchants are beat up, battered, skeptical small business people and it is very difficult for them to track things. We understand that.

That is why we ask for that \$1,000 from each of the villages to help offset the cost of the maps and the distribution, and the rest is paid for by sponsorships. For instance, Spring Hill Suites is a sponsor, Peter Riolo is a very good sponsor, the Manzi River City Grill. We have about 12 sponsors we can count on that will probably come in for about \$5,000 or \$6,000. The \$3,000, the \$1,000 each of the villages has contributed, has always gone to the third party, not to us, not to staff. The big challenge is measurement. Meg asked how can we track this. The one thing we can track is the Web site. The Web site went from getting about 100 to 200 unique visitors to cranking out over 2,000 unique visitors a month right now with no external marketing anymore.

What happened was, once we got that marketing done with the WFUV program in the grant, the thing took off and the traffic went up to over 2,100 unique visitors. People were spending about 2 ½ minutes on the site. We are getting, in our office, about a call a week now. The calls are generally from well out of the area. Brooklyn is a big hot spot, by the way. Do not be surprised if you see a bunch of Yiddish bicyclists because we are very popular with the Williamsburg crowd. We have a tie-in to Metro-North, which has been very supportive.

This is a very difficult endeavor. It takes time. You do not build a tourism destination overnight, and sometimes you just get lucky. But having 2,000 unique visitors now on the Web site and the kinds and numbers of calls we are getting is an indication that we are on the right path. All we are asking for from each of the villages is \$1,000 that would be payable directly to the map company in, probably, September. Most of it will be funded by our sponsors or my company. This money also goes to things like looking out for opportunities like telling the State of New York, you left off the Old Croton Aqueduct on that beautiful signage program you did on the Saw Mill Parkway. So our job is to be, obviously, advocates. Your donation of \$1,000 helps offset costs that otherwise we would have to provide that give us more leeway to do things like advocate for the Village.

Trustee Armacost: Of the hits, how many of them related to Hastings?

Mr. Bolger: I cannot answer that authoritatively. I would have to look at the click-throughs. I can only tell you what comes to the homepage, and the homepage has all three of our communities on it.

Trustee Armacost: It would be useful to see whether the smaller villages are benefiting or whether it is a particular place that is benefiting, and what it is about that place that is benefiting more in terms of hits than others. It would be fantastic if Hastings got the most hits, but it would also be interesting if we had the least hits, for example.

Mr. Bolger: It is going to be difficult to tell because the maps is where it gets the most hits. When people come to the Web site they go to the maps, and the maps have all three villages. I do not think Hastings is a tourism destination. I do not think Irvington is a tourism destination. I do not think Dobbs Ferry is. I think the Aqueduct is a tourism destination and I think our restaurants are a tourism destination. We know the restaurants draw from out of town. One could argue that Hastings has among the best restaurants in the area. And then we have the Farmers' Market and we have the flea market. The argument is that Hastings, probably, of the three villages, has the most juice. But there will be no way to prove that because this map covers all of them.

Trustee Armacost: If all the people are doing is hitting the front page and the map that is also interesting to know. But if they are going anywhere else, it would be interesting to have a drill down on the metrics.

Mr. Bolger: I can follow up and give you the most popular parts of the site.

Mayor Swiderski: The strategy of targeting the hotels is bang-on right because most people stuck in those hotels are extended stay, they are not just one or two days. The desire to do something away from the hotel after three or four days of being in a place like that is high. So to have something that directs you to go on a drive, get a restaurant away from the hotel restaurant, it is the right place to aim for the captive audience that is a captive right in your backyard. Of the efforts you are talking about, I think that is going to yield far more than a hit a week in terms of people grabbing that and doing something in all those hotels.

Mr. Bolger: You should note that the way these things are distributed in hotels is in a rack. People do not have to take them. There are 30 different things on that rack. They can take one versus the other. All 19,000 of our maps were taken. So we know these people picked up these maps. Now, they might have used them to put the wad of chewing gum in back in their hotel room, I do not know. But they were all physically taken. I agree with you. I have been a business traveler, I have been desperate for things to do.

Trustee Jennings: I have not stayed in the local hotels. But in other cities while I rarely pull anything off a rack, I always ask the hotel desk person, who usually pulls out a list of the nearby restaurants. I am wondering if we have made an effort to go beyond simply leaving our own materials in their rack.

Mr. Bolger: That is dead on. Before we had a budget we had to rely on that because we did not have a budget to do the map program. We did that and we are doing it now. Every single one of the hotels, within the last several weeks has had 150 maps dropped off with a note from me telling them where to get them. The problem with the front desk, what we have learned is there are different shifts and these people have to be trained. The good news is that they are asked frequently enough that they are engaged and want to help the person. We do that. But the reason we pay for the maps to have them in the rack is that makes it doubly sure. Another thing we have learned is that the hotel people do not call us back when they run out of maps. Your way is the way we have started, and it is free and we do it.

Trustee Jennings: We all agree that this is a particularly rich venue for the decision-making by the out of towners about where to eat especially. But when you go to eat, you also pass some other stores. So get them downtown.

Trustee Apel: The other thing is conferences. If you can get hold of the person who is running the conference, they will put it in their packets.

Mr. Bolger: That is a very good idea. On the Web site you will notice we have a section for meetings and events. We publish a magazine for meetings. We had a cover story on the river towns in that magazine that went to 9,000 meeting planners last May. I completely agree with you. The challenge is there are so many conferences coming in. That is why the racks, we can count on that. You are right, but it is very difficult to make sure every conference has them. So we make sure, for instance, Lyndhurst has them. We bring them down to Hastings Flea. We have left some in the town halls. We are doing everything we can. Grand Central Station we are adding this year. We will see what that brings.

Trustee Walker: We are going to have a presence in the Hudson River Ramble in September, the first weekend after Labor Day. We are going to reprise the tour of the downtown that Christina Griffin gave last year which attracted about 40 people, some of whom were from out of town. Mostly from Hastings, Yonkers and Dobbs. Then on Sunday, Mavis Cain from the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct is going to reprise the tour she gave last year from Antoinette's down to Untermyer, which attracted over 60 people, and many of them were from out of town. We will make sure to get that on the Web site, but it is also advertised in the brochure that the Hudson River Greenway folks put out. It gets state-wide distribution.

Trustee Armacost: One other question about the Web site is, the extent to which village happenings are noted on it, and how people get to you. What is the criteria for being listed and how people get to you, particularly if it is run by an arts organization. If we have something that the Arts Commission does, or one of the theater companies or the Purple Crayon or Friday Night Live or Twelve Miles North. These are lots of organizations that are doing interesting things and obviously use their own methods for marketing. But these are one-off events, not an ongoing thing like the Aqueduct. How do people get to you for that?

Mr. Bolger: That has been a challenge because people are horrendously unreliable about doing that. We went to our good friends at the Rivertowns Guide, which is persistent in doing that. While we have invited the film people and the River Arts people and your folks, for instance, and I was in contact with one of your colleagues last year, we get that up on the Web site. You guys are all so busy and all doing your own thing. The Rivertowns Guide is terrific. What we do on the events, we have an events tab and a nice little thing that says we have all these wonderful things: farmers' markets, events, festivals. Click here for a complete guide. Because the Rivertowns Guide t does an amazing job.

Trustee Armacost: So the answer is that it is a flow-through to the Rivertowns Guide.

Mr. Bolger: That is right.

Trustee Armacost: So you are not providing anything separate, but you are feeding things to them if you know they do not have something?

Mr. Bolger: Frankly, they do that better than we. Last year we did post a whole bunch of things. We posted all of our events. But then this year people just forgot. I did not even hear from Irvington about their event. I had to see it on Facebook, then I posted it. By the way, we have 115 likes on Facebook, which is not too bad.

Trustee Armacost: I think quite a lot of people do not know about you. If everyone knows you are using the Rivertowns Guide that is fantastic, because people are already using Rivertowns Guide, and there is a link there. But if you have a separate place than that, a feed for Rivertowns Guide but a separate place, then that is important for people to know.

Mr. Bolger: Just to let you know, Niki, how frustrating it is. The people who are not sending us the listings know us very well. They know us: the film historical society, the Rivertowns Art Center, all volunteer organizations. You are not wrong because I know there are many people that do not know about us. But the 10 or 15 major people who run organizations here, I know them personally and I send them the reminders and tell them we will post it.

Trustee Armacost: I think that is the answer. So we need to have your e-mail address.

Mr. Bolger: It is right on the map.

Trustee Armacost: That would be perfect. But just not us. It needs to be more public.

Trustee Walker: It is hard. Last year, when we had the grant from the state and were targeting two weekends, one in the spring and one in the fall, to promote like crazy through WFUV and every other means we could come up with, we got a lot on the Web site because we were so focused on these events that we were creating. But is so hard, when you are not focused on promotion. I work with Jennifer Holiday for Rivertowns Guide when we do Friday Night Live, and I have her do everything. She puts out the press releases and puts it in the calendar and gets it on *The Enterprise* and so on because I cannot do all those. She does it for Take Me to the River, as well, so you have one-stop shopping for these things, I am afraid. Then others who are doing these things do not think of all the various places.

Mr. Bolger: They are all volunteers.

Trustee Walker: Volunteers, or they are stretched.

Trustee Armacost: But if you have a stream on your site, or where there is a clear link where it is going to get posted, you are not double-posting it. It is posted somewhere else and you are streaming that. That is a great way of dealing with volunteer fatigue. But if you are not posting it, then that is clearly an opportunity.

Trustee Walker: We have to thank Bruce and his colleagues because they are doing this for no pay. They are operating this Web site for free for us. Just basically another volunteer. And we are tremendously grateful for everything you have done. He has been working with the Rivertowns Tourism Board through thick and thin.

Mr. Bolger: The main point is this. Sometimes the purpose of government is to do things for people that are too long-term for these poor merchants to do on their own, and our purpose is to do something for the greater good. We do have merchants that do support us year after year. And your support makes it easier for us to sell. We say that the villages give us \$1,000. That does mean something to them.

Trustee Jennings: When my wife and I go out to dinner we keep going back to the same places. Part of the reason is that we do not know the new ones or we do not know some interesting ones in the other villages. I am thinking to myself, you can always look on a Web site.

Mr. Bolger: We have them, and we rate them.

Trustee Jennings: You have lists on the Web site, and that is great. But you are out and about, or you have a smartphone. I see you have t one of these gadgets, you point your phone at this thing and it is going to take you to the Web site. Is that what it does?

Mr. Bolger: Yes. QR code.

Trustee Jennings: That is fine and maybe that is enough. But my next thought is do we have an app?

Mr. Bolger: We are not going to do an app. The right question, technically, is do we have a mobile resizing Web site. An app would not make sense. Our Web site works well on the phone, but we did it, unfortunately, four years ago and we will have to redesign it to make it totally work. But you can go on your phone right now and search for a restaurant, and the

restaurants are listed here on the map and on the Web site we put ratings on them. We do blind testing and go these restaurants. What is amazing, not one restaurant has complained about their rating. We do not give bad ratings. I do not want to destroy anybody or hurt anybody, not that we would, but what we do is if a restaurant is not good we do not rate it. We say if it is not rated it means we may not have gotten there. So we only rate the ones that are either good or better. But some we will only put in as good, like a Maud's. I misspoke. I do not want to single out any. The different restaurants have different subjective qualities and we do not put anything bad in. So Maud's is in there as a good restaurant.

Trustee Jennings: I do not like to go to Web sites on my browser on my phone. I find it too small and it is weird. But if you are going to change the Web site so somebody could easily use this on a smartphone effectively that would be great. People are out and about. They are not looking at it in their car, but if they are away from their PC the phone is the thing people use now.

Mr. Bolger: There is no question. That is going to be about a \$3,000 or \$4,000 investment to make the thing mobile. We are not going to be able to do that this year. The grant situation has changed now. We did not get our grant last year. Not one marketing grant won.

Trustee Walker: Really, not one? They do not have the one that is targeted toward tourism?

Mr. Bolger: Unless I was mistaken, and I went through all the grants, I did not see not see one marketing one.

Trustee Walker: It was the I Love New York grant, remember?

Mr. Bolger: The marketing grants became very political. That is a whole other story. There are going to be other grants this year, and they should be for infrastructure. I have offered to help with something like that. The infrastructure issue for us is the Aqueduct. I do not think it is a critical thing, but we have gotten complaints from people that the map did not adequately warn people that the Aqueduct was rugged. Even though it says it is not a paved trail and it is a dirt trail, people said you did not adequately warn us. If we are ever going to look for a grant, that is a whole other story.

Trustee Walker: In the past we have talked about going after grants for pedestrian crossings or bike crossings on the streets of the Aqueduct's crossing, making those safer. And also kiosks with information at the train station and at the parking lots that serve the Aqueduct and the South County Trailway.

Mr. Bolger: Those are the types of grants that are getting awarded. I think we would have a good shot at it, but it is a lot of work. You and I know that.

Trustee Walker: That is a lot of work, that is the thing. Now that we have a Transportation and Circulation Committee I might be able to get them on board with this.

Mr. Bolger: You have been very kind with your time. Hopefully, you will be able to get back to us and let us know?

Trustee Walker: We are going to talk about the \$1,000 contribution.

Mr. Bolger: When would we find out whether your board approves this?

Mayor Swiderski: Do you want to schedule another meeting?

Trustee Walker: No, not if everybody is comfortable. I thought it would be a good discussion topic because we have not talked about it in a while.

Mayor Swiderski: I am comfortable.

Trustee Armacost: Is there much more to discuss? I think we can vote.

Trustee Apel: Do we need anything? We can write a resolution.

Trustee Walker: It does not require a resolution.

Mayor Swiderski: It is a small amount, and it is maps that draw to the neighborhood. It is something a town should just do.

Trustee Apel: I think we should just do it.

Mr. Bolger: I agree. Thank you very much. By the way, that makes volunteering a lot more pleasant.

2. Downtown Advocate Job Description

Trustee Walker: In terms of the Downtown Advocate, I made the changes that we discussed at the last meeting. The big change was about taking out the references to the advocate organizing and coordinating the Hastings Downtown Collaborative. I took that out

and I did leave in the part under "organizational responsibilities." It says, "Volunteer recruitment and coordination. Work will include seeking and working with volunteers on various projects and tasks, for example, by helping to grow and partner with the Hastings Downtown Collaborative, a group of citizens who volunteer their time to improve the downtown."

I am leaving it vague, but my hope is that there will be a true partnership and that that person will help the Downtown Collaborative grow into something more than it is now without stating that it is going to be something with the Board. I am leaving that for the future. But I would hope that was the direction this will take. I did add a sentence in the second paragraph. "The Downtown Advocate will report directly to the Hastings Village Manager and review strategies, policies and programs with the Village Board of Trustees while assisting the Village as a private contractor," that is what I changed, "the individual is expected to serve as a bridge-builder, striving to benefit diverse stakeholders, downtown merchants, property owners and Hastings residents in working to achieve a vibrant downtown commercial district." And instead of salary, I said "fee will be \$30,000 per year for the first two years."

Trustee Armacost: Can you say "the remuneration?" The "fee" sounds like some misconduct is happening.

Trustee Walker: When you say "contractor," well, we can change it to remuneration. But it is not a salary. I changed it, and I took out the 20 hours per week average I had before. Then I took out other references to working with the Downtown Collaborative. The only other thing I added was, "interested candidates are asked to submit a résumé with a cover letter describing their qualifications to the Village Manager."

Village Manager Frobels: You wanted to reach out to local realtors. Was that new?

Trustee Walker: Yes, thank you for mentioning that. That was something the Downtown Collaborative, and particularly Jim, mentioned and we discussed that at our meeting. They are local businesses. But they can play a special role. They can play a bigger role than they are now, in fact, in helping to recruit businesses.

Village Manager Frobels: The only other issue was where to advertise. You and I talked about that. Susan suggested *The Enterprise* might be a good suggestion. I had dismissed it, but locally that may be the best.

Mayor Swiderski: That, and the *Journal*.

Trustee Walker: Unless we want to advertise more regionally through the New York APA.

Village Manager Frobel: Those ads can be expensive, I would just caution you.

Trustee Walker: I forgot to check on that, but we can talk about that.. I think advertising beyond this region is not fruitful.

Mayor Swiderski: A person who lives near here, or here.

Trustee Apel: Put it on our Facebook page. And do we have any affiliation with LinkedIn? Is anybody Linked in?

Trustee Armacost: It would be very weird to send it to my LinkedIn people. I have thousands of people, and they are in Uganda and Tanzania and Afghanistan.

Trustee Apel: I am just saying we could use all the connections we have.

Trustee Walker: Other ways to do this through social networking? You said Facebook. Anything else?

Trustee Armacost: You could ask the school to send something. You can certainly send it out through the Village e-mail. You could ask other villages if they would be willing to share it, send it out. You could ask Paul if he would send it out.

Trustee Walker: The APA? I am a member, and I am in AICP. I can check and see.

Village Attorney Whitehead: It may not be that expensive.

Trustee Apel: And also because you are linked in to that association.

Village Attorney Whitehead: But I think the e-mails and Greenburgh.

Trustee Apel: But thank you. You did a great job.

Mayor Swiderski: It is complete, and the right person will never be all of that is and may land up doing things not on this list. And we will know they are the right person.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Right, they may have other ideas.

Mayor Swiderski: Right. Ultimately that is the challenge of the position.

Trustee Walker: In fact, that is another change I made. "While the advocate will be asked to define the duties in the work plan, they are envisioned to include but not be limited to the following." Thank you everybody. I am looking forward to this. It is going to be exciting.

3. Update on the Downtown

Trustee Walker: In terms of update on the downtown, I wanted to talk about merchant parking. It was brought up when Fran and I met with merchants about the bridge issue, which led to also discussing the Con Ed issue and the impact it was going to have on parking. Many of the merchants are saying they are having difficulty finding parking, they are getting a lot of parking tickets, they are pleading is there anything we can do to reduce the hit that they are taking. I wanted to just throw out a few ideas. One was to make available the lower line of commuter parking spaces in the Steinschneider parking lot that are for permitted commuter parking. At a certain point, we talked about that could be turned over to the merchants. What can we do about that?

Mayor Swiderski: We did take action on that. The problem was that it was made available at 11:00 a.m., and that is after the merchants got there. By moving it back to 10:00 a.m., which we did and it is posted, it is now available to quite a few of them who show up then.

Trustee Walker: How can we let them know about this?

Village Manager Frobel: Susan, what is your suggestion? You have done some of the research on this. Were you not monitoring the use of the lot?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: The 17 spaces there are included in our count when we decide how many Zinsser parking permits we can give out. So not all 17 of those would be available to the merchants. We did have people looking at the usage. In the middle of the week, which are the heaviest parking days, you only have four or five empty spaces at 10 a.m. But still, those are four or five people that maybe would not have had a space. You can tell me who has been talking to you and we will let them know about the time change.

Trustee Walker: We will talk about it, yes. And they can also talk among themselves if you let a few people know. So that is one. The other thing was, a lot of new merchants do not know about the merchant permit that allows them to park at the orange-banded meters.

Village Manager Frobel: They are prepaid monthly.

Trustee Walker: Monthly or yearly?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Either.

Trustee Walker: They come to you and they get something to put in their car.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: But again, that is a limited opportunity, because we lost five spaces on Warburton near Washington that were designated there. We have some on Whitman and some on lower Villard and some past St. Matthew's Church. So maybe a total of 10 spaces.

Trustee Walker: The question came up, could we increase those to include some on Maple? If we could do that and let people know they are available. They are convenient. When people ask I also mention the Zinsser Park parking lot, which is not that much further than walking down to Maple, especially for people who are at the north end. But they are in the habit of going to Maple and not in the habit of going to the park. So if we can make some of those available.

Village Manager Frobels: Yes, that would be fine.

Mayor Swiderski: Four?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: It does not really matter how many because they are not exclusive.

Village Manager Frobels: That is the complaint I have heard from the merchants. They would like to buy them. They are not exclusive. I say that is the risk you run.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: We could make all of them available.

Mayor Swiderski: I would hesitate to make them all because if there is movement there it is going to land up displacing locals who use it.

Trustee Apel: I think we should encourage the park. Remind them that the park is there and it is free, right?

Trustee Armacost: It is almost always empty.

Village Manager Frobels: I try to go through it every day, and if it is half, yes. There is always enough there for more.

Trustee Walker: Yes. Again, you have to develop the habit.

Mayor Swiderski: It is perceived as further.

Trustee Walker: But for many people it is not.

Trustee Armacost: It also depends on the person. There are people who are less comfortable walking so they want to car to be close to where they are. And there are other people who do not have a problem so it is not that far away.

Trustee Walker: A lot of people were parking on the bridge, especially that end of the downtown, and they lost their parking spaces. If they are from that end of the downtown, they are unlikely to walk to the park. But for the people at the north end it is a viable alternative. I think letting people know. Maybe the Downtown Collaborative can send out an e-mail, as well. We were also going to share our e-mail list with you, Fran. They have a pretty good list now. Susan, maybe you can let me know how many on Maple.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: I do not know, what do you think? Four, six, eight?

Village Manager Frobel: I would add six.

Trustee Walker: Good. That is all I have. I do not have any events to announce right now.

4. Update on the Waterfront

Mayor Swiderski: On the waterfront, there is nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION of Trustee Walker, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Swiderski adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:20 p.m.