

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 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: Eight (8).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of January 6, 2015 were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

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

Multi-Fund No. 47-2014-15	\$ 16,310.45
Multi-Fund No. 49-2014-15	\$266,629.05
Multi-Fund No. 50-2014-15	\$129,273.75

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Swiderski: Prior to the public comments, a reminder. We have in the past requested that people restrain themselves to five minutes. We'd like to enforce that moving forward. These meetings tend to run long, and we appreciate your forbearance. Also, when it comes to public participation we will specifically ask for input when we require it and call on people. We request that people not stand up and speak out unless they have been called on.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: You are working on budgets and I hope you give the veterans 15 percent off on their taxes this coming year. You are going to hit a windfall from to property on Saw Mill. There are probably several million dollars of buildings going up, and you should get some nice fees. There is a way you can get money for that discount to veterans.

I am glad to see elections coming up in March, and finally I have a choice maybe. The other thing is BP. Mr. Frobel, I went back to September 2. There has not been any discussion about BP except when I talked about it and I give my report. That is over 140 days. This is one of our most important properties. We should have it on the agenda at least once a month. We also have the Advocate in the Village right now. We need an advocate for the property owners. What is going on in Uniontown, Pinecrest, all these places, Southside. We are spending a lot of money on a commercial district and they do not even have a Chamber of Commerce. That is a shame. I think sometimes it is a waste and you should find out what is going on in the rest of the community

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: Last week Manager Frobel met with me. For people who wonder is it worth their time, are their voices heard, it was a very productive meeting. He listened very well. We are on the same page on virtually everything. But I had to learn there is a process to things. It is not always like in the private sector, cut and dried, boom, get it done. It takes a little more time. I want to encourage people who may watch on TV that it is an open door and he will speak with you.

During the next couple of months I would like to have discussions again on the DPW and the Fire Department situation. There are sensitive issues there that people may not be comfortable with addressing, so I will be happy to bring it up so we can have a dialogue to look at things in a different perspective. I am going to return to the blower law conversation.

Last, a simple item. There are piles of rubber bands at the blue and green post office mailboxes where they do the drop-off and exchange. I would like the Village to make a phone call to them and say this cannot happen any longer. I spoke to my mail carrier, who was very open to it. He is aware of it. He gave me the name of the person to speak to. It is an absolute mess around some of the mail places and they are just contributing to the problem of the untidiness around the Village.

Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue: The Village lost one of our most beloved citizens a few days ago, Eleanor McGinagle. There was a very beautiful service yesterday. We talk about the character of Hastings and a lot of people talk about the architecture in the streets and all of that. But the character of Hastings comes from the people that live here. It is people like Eleanor and many other of our citizens who are second and third and fourth generation Hastings people that give our town the character and the history that most of us look for. My condolences to her family, and may she rest in peace.

Patrick Randolph Bell, Hastings: I see on the resolutions we have an approval to purchase a police vehicle. Just like the fire truck, if the guys think they need it they probably know what they are talking about. You should give it to them.

The authorization of agreement to provide contract services for pothole repair pilot program: it would be a good idea to include our DPW workers in this program. Maybe they can learn how to do it themselves, then get some training and learn about this whole process so next year we do not have to contract out these different DPW programs.

Somebody asked me a dog waste compost. Somebody really liked it, a few other people thought it was idiotic. It is a tough thing to do. You have to get the temperature up high to kill all the different organisms. I do not think it is going to work, personally, but somebody wanted me to bring it up. Maybe you could mention it to the Conservation Commission.

Maybe we can reinstate this vet tax break. Maybe we could figure out what it might cost the other citizens if we give the seniors who have been here so long and make up such a great part of this Village a tax break. My grandparents themselves have paid for their house now 10 times or more over living here since the early '50s, late '40s.

I sent an e-mail today about some of the other e-mails you were getting, possibly, of a religious promotion in nature. I wanted to see if you could look into it. Also e-mails from the candidates, possibly including Brian Healy, to make sure we get these e-mails from the proper place; that they have not been taken from official conversations with the Village

I want to thank you again for the Festivus pole and the signs, allowing me to put them up and approving them. I took them down this weekend, so I would like to say thank you to the Village and the Freedom from Religion Foundation for giving us the insurance money for the \$2 million worth of insurance.

I am a huge supporter of the Hastings Little League. I am wondering if for the giant signs that are in the Village if they also have to get a \$2 million insurance policy to put these signs up. They are smaller than the ones that I put up and they are in locations that are more easily accessible to citizens walking by them where something could happen even more. That is the only question I have. Do they require an insurance policy also?

Village Manager Frobel: No, they do not.

Mr. Bell: Do you think they should, if I needed them for our signs? That was put on Village public property, as a private organization. I am wondering how you apply your insurance policies across the board, and whether certain people are being singled out because it is a religious message rather than a secular message.

Village Attorney Whitehead: I think, and can certainly talk to the Village Manager and look at this, that one distinction might be that you were not putting up just a sign, you were putting up the Festivus pole. There are other concerns when you are putting up a structure.

Mr. Bell: So you are saying the insurance was just for the pole and was not for the other two signs. So if I went next year with just two signs I would not need insurance?

Village Attorney Whitehead: It was not just for you. It was for everybody who put up a structure in the park.

Mr. Bell: .But if I do not put up a structure next year can I just put up the signs and not have to pay \$2 million of insurance?

Village Attorney Whitehead: I cannot answer that right now.

Mr. Bell: Meg, I will be getting you that other e-mail about the no male or female discrimination. Just take those five words out and that is all I am looking for.

**6:15 NEGATIVE DECLARATION – ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 of 2015
TO AMEND VILLAGE CODE TO ADD PROVISION FOR ROUNDING NUMBERS
IN RELATION TO SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENT FOR AFFORDABLE AND
WORKFORCE HOUSING UNITS**

Village Attorney Whitehead: What you are finding is that the proposed local law which delineates how you round numbers will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. If you were to find it did you would have to make a positive declaration, but since you are finding that it does not, you are making a negative declaration, which ends the SEQRA process.

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

WHEREAS, a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson dated Dec. 5, 2014, a copy of which is attached hereto, has been filed with the Board of Trustees in connection with the adoption of Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2014 amending Chapter 295 Zoning of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to add a provision for rounding numbers in relation to the set-aside requirement for affordable and workforce housing units, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Board of Trustees, the only involved agency, have reviewed the EAF and the criteria for significance set forth in 6NYCRR § 617.7(c), now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees find that that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the reasons as set forth in the EAF.

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	

7:15 ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2015 IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENT

Mayor Swiderski: What we are doing is adding to the clause a statement that says a calculation of the required number of affordable and workforce housing units shall, in each case, be rounded to the closest whole number.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees hereby adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2015 amending Chapter 295 Zoning of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, to add a provision for rounding numbers in relation to the set-aside requirement for affordable and workforce housing units.

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson as follows: (added language in **bold**)

SECTION 1. Section 295-112.1A(1) of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 295-112.1. Affordable and workforce housing set-aside.

A. Set-aside requirement. Before the Planning Board may approve a site plan for a residential development containing eight or more dwelling units, whether in single-family, two-family or multifamily buildings, such site plan shall show affordable and workforce housing units as follows:

(1) Fifteen percent of all units in such development shall meet either the definition of an "affordable housing unit" or a "workforce housing unit." At least 2/3 of these units shall be affordable housing units. The remaining 1/3 may be either affordable housing units or workforce housing units. **The calculation of the required number of affordable and workforce housing units shall in each case be rounded to the closest whole number, i.e. 1.1 to 1.4 units would be rounded down to 1 unit, and 1.5 to 1.9 units would be rounded up to 2 units.**

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or other portion of this Local Law is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYE

NAY

Trustee Bruce Jennings
Trustee Marjorie Apel
Trustee Meg Walker
Trustee Nicola Armacost
Mayor Peter Swiderski

X
X
X
X
X

8:15 APPROVAL OF PURCHASE – POLICE VEHICLE

Village Manager Frobel: We want to continue our program of keeping a fleet of reliable cars for the police officers. The Chief has enclosed a recommendation that we take advantage of a state bid to purchase the vehicle. We would not take delivery much before 20 weeks from now. But we think it is a good recommendation, one that we would like to see the Board support. We are using a variety of sources to pay for it but, principally, it is the money we have been able to collect when we rent the car out during construction or a movie shoot. We see that as a valid way of offsetting costs of the wear and tear on this vehicle.

Mayor Swiderski: Chief, I thought you might want to comment on why we are moving from a more traditional cruiser vehicles to the ones we are now buying.

Police Chief Visalli: The new vehicle is a 4-wheel drive. However, it is pursuit-rated like the other patrol vehicles we use, so it would give us a dual purpose vehicle. The other new vehicles that are being made by Ford are all-wheel drive vehicles. We currently have one, a Ford Taurus. However, the clearance is lower on a regular patrol vehicle. This would give us a little more clearance for deeper snow and serve a purpose also as a patrol vehicle.

Trustee Walker: Is this going to be a pattern going forward?

Police Chief Visalli: It seems to be the trend of the manufacturers so the 4-wheel drive may be a trend going forward. We currently have one Ford Taurus. We are going to try the Explorer this time. I would like to get some feedback from my officers as to which vehicle they prefer driving. But yes, that seems to be the current trend.

Trustee Walker: What is the difference in price?

Police Chief Visalli: It is about \$2,000.

Trustee Walker: We are very happy you are paying for it with the money that was earned ...

Police Chief Visalli: It was a good program that was created by my predecessor and it has been working out very well.

Trustee Armacost: We can take this opportunity to thank you again for the fines program, which has also been a great revenue generator.

Police Chief Visalli: Thank you. Again, that was created by the Manager and the Court Clerk. We have been enforcing it. We have collected about \$25,000 in fines so far.

We do not have a tremendous amount of hope for some of the older fines, but that is because we cannot even locate those vehicles or the owners. But yes, so far so good.

Mayor Swiderski: How many have been booted to date?

Police Chief Visalli: I am going to say, on a guess, maybe a dozen.

Mayor Swiderski: They are effective in either promoting guilt in those who are booted or eliciting a response out of those who are.

Police Chief Visalli: Yes. We started with the bigger outstanding fines, which was somewhere between \$4,000 and \$5,000 for some people. Now we have gotten it down to the \$1,000 or \$500. But we are always going to have new customers because there will always be somebody who comes back into that \$500 range once again.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the purchase under state contract of a 2015 Ford (Pursuit Rated Patrol Vehicle) in the amount of \$34,544.78, to be paid from the Capital Fund Police Department Income Account and the General Fund.

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	

9:15 AUTHORIZATION OF AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE CONTRACT SERVICES FOR POTHOLE REPAIR PILOT PROGRAM

Village Manager Frobel: This is what we think is an innovative approach to addressing potholes on a more permanent basis, rather than using cold patch. We will be joining with our neighbors, having this contractor come into our area probably at the end of February and being shared among the seven communities. Our cost is about \$2,600. It will get us about 11 hours of work. It will be a test. We will see how it works, we will see how the other communities like it. We will have a report to you when it is complete, perhaps early March.

Trustee Jennings: I happened to drive on Broadway going north from the Yonkers-Hastings border to the Dobbs Ferry-Hastings border. Broadway is terribly rutted and damaged. Every part of Broadway that is in our jurisdiction needs attention. It is a state road and a state responsibility, and there are potholes on our other streets that need attention also. But if you have not recently called this to the attention of the state we should do so.

Trustee Armacost: That route is also littered on both sides in an obvious way. In terms of the gateways that we were talking about, as you come into Hastings from Yonkers the gateway is one which has litter on both sides all along the side of Andrus and then moving further down. I do not know whose responsibility it is. It is dangerous to require volunteers to collect litter along that side because it is a very busy street. But it may be worth it to include that in the Village cleanup exercise or some other exercise which is safer for people.

Village Manager Frobel: Let me bring both those points to the state's attention tomorrow.

Trustee Apel: I agree.

Mayor Swiderski: I would also add Farragut to the list right before Five Corners. This will not happen before the spring because they are not going to cold patch us, but they need work.

Village Manager Frobel: The state was out last week filling potholes; I saw them when I was out with the engineers on the sidewalk issues we are working on. But we need to do a better job. And let me bring this to their attention tomorrow.

Trustee Walker: If we are looking at eventually resurfacing Broadway it is a good opportunity to think about the lane reduction again in the portion of Broadway just south of Dobbs Ferry on the northbound side, reducing that from two lanes to one. We have talked a lot about that. The state had always said when you are ready let us know. So this might be a way to combine a couple of tasks at the same time.

Regarding the tax freeze credit, we need to look at efficiencies and recommend efficiencies. Is this Pothole Killer a possible efficiency move?

Village Manager Frobel: We believe so. That is why the VOC has taken the lead on this, and why we have an IMA that that you adopted. That will be evidence that will support our application. These same seven communities are in this together. We are making a joint application. I was going to mention it during my report but I will do it now. I have got a half-day session tomorrow with the county on the tax freeze program. So I will have even more data to share at our next meeting.

Trustee Walker: And it would be a combination of the efficiency of the reduction in labor costs, and the sharing of services.

Village Manager Frobel: Right. And the premise that we think we can demonstrate that these have a stronger likelihood of holding up.

Trustee Walker: Permanency, yes. Lasting longer, that is another one. You could have a number of points there in our efficiency rating.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to execute an Intermunicipal Agreement with the six villages within the Town of Greenburgh and the Village of Sleepy Hollow for Patch Management, Inc., 451 Tyburn Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030, to provide contract services under an 80 hour pilot program for the “spray injection repair program” (Pothole Killer Truck), and be it further

RESOLVED: that the total cost of \$18,500 and the total hours of service under the pilot program is to be divided evenly among the participating municipalities, and be it further

RESOLVED: that the finalization of said agreement is subject to approval as to form and substance by the Village Attorney.

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

Mayor Swiderski: Nothing to add besides my written report. Again, only the mention that tomorrow will be a half-day session to find out more about the tax freeze and the government efficiency act, and how it will impact us. I will report on that at a future meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. 400 Warburton Avenue Project – License Agreement and Easement for Stairs & Recreation Fee

Village Attorney Whitehead: When the Planning Board approved the redevelopment of 400 Warburton Avenue there was much discussion about a connection from Warburton down to the Quarry Trail. The developer agreed to build that. So the time has now come, although not in the middle of winter, to them getting close to completion of construction and they will be looking for their CO. They approached me through the Building Department about what are the next steps on this.

When I looked back at the minutes, there was a reference in the Planning Board approval that one of the conditions of the site plan approval was an agreement with the Board of Trustees regarding this access connection. Based on my discussions with the property owner, we are here now to bring this to you to start those discussions, to reach an agreement. My recommendations have been that the Village should not take ownership of the property but take an easement from the property owner that would allow for public access. In exchange, the Village will have to provide insurance and maintain the stairway. The portion where it connects to the trail is on Village property. The developer is willing to construct it all the way to the trail and make the connection on Village property. The Village would give them a temporary license to do the construction work. He would have to provide insurance and indemnification. So there will be agreements both ways.

There was discussion about a reduction in the recreation fee based on the cost of construction of the stair. That is something this board would have to approve and should be discussed, as well. Without the reduction the fee would be \$37,500.

The last piece to be discussed is a timing issue because my understanding is he is going to be ready for COs before the end of winter, but probably would not be able, especially if the cold weather keeps up, to construct the stairway. And you would not want him to; you would not want concrete poured during the winter. The final design of the stair will still be subject to review and approval of the Building Department.

The Board needs to determine do you still want this connection, will you take the easement and provide the insurance and allow him to build the portion on Village property to connect to the trail, and are you willing to reduce the recreation fee and how do you want to handle the timing issue. One recommendation that came from the developer on the timing issue was that he would pay the full amount of the recreation fee to the Village, and then at the time he could construct the stair it would get released to pay for the construction of the stairway.

Mayor Swiderski: Does he know the cost of the construction of the stairway?

Village Attorney Whitehead: And our Building Department obviously would have to review it and sign off, but that is realistic.

Donato Settanni, 400 Warburton Avenue: I am getting estimates for construction of the stair. We had some minor revisions due to field conditions when we looked at what was there. We definitely think the cost to build it is below the recreation fee.

Trustee Walker: So is it a steel and concrete stair?

Mr. Settanni: Yes.

Trustee Walker: And fairly standard construction? I want to make sure that it is a durable, long-lasting, well-constructed stair.

Village Attorney Whitehead: That is why, certainly, the Building Department would have to review it. Again, if the Village is going to be responsible for the maintenance, we want to make sure it is well-constructed.

Trustee Armacost: Does it have to be handicapped-accessible?

Village Attorney Whitehead: The trail itself, my understanding, is not.

Trustee Armacost: Right, but the stairs. If it is constructed by the Village does it have to be?

Mayor Swiderski: It is not being constructed by the Village.

Village Attorney Whitehead: That is one of the things I am going to review with the Building Department, particularly in light of the fact that there was some discussion at one point about a ramp versus a stair. But it is pretty steep.

Trustee Armacost: But I think if the Village is, in effect, paying for it we have paid the owner to be our construction person.

Village Attorney Whitehead: It is something I will look at and review with the Building Department.

Trustee Armacost: And do we know how much lower than the recreation fee the likely cost of the stairs will be? In other words, how much of an accrual to the Village will there be from the recreation fee.

Mr. Settanni: I will provide the estimate as soon as I receive it.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Before you finalize any approval on that they would have to provide a number and the Building Department would have to review it and say that is a realistic number. Then it would come back to you with a real number.

Trustee Walker: We are very happy about this, though. This is something we have been hoping for for a long time; it is going to be a nice amenity. I am certainly in favor of it.

Trustee Jennings: Why do you want to construct the stairway? What benefit to your property and your financial interest does this stairway provide?

Mr. Settanni: To tell you the truth, financially I would rather just pay the recreation fee and walk away from the risk of building the stair.

Village Attorney Whitehead: The Planning Board had requested it, in conjunction with the site plan approval. The Planning Board requested it and the applicant agreed.

Trustee Armacost: So the issue is whether the rec fee can cover it or not. The obligation has been established by the Planning Board. It is whether they have to do it at their own cost, or whether we are going to subsidize the cost by allowing it to come out of the recreation fee. That is my understanding of the issue. Is that correct?

Village Attorney Whitehead: Yes. Because I do not believe there was a resolution of that at the Planning Board. It was discussed, but the Planning Board did not agree about the reduction in the recreation fee. And I do not believe the Planning Board has the authority to agree to that.

Trustee Jennings: One of the options before us, and I am not saying I favor this, is for you to construct the stairway at your expense and then pay the required recreation fee in full in addition to that. This could possibly come about because the Planning Board required you to construct a stairway in this location as a part of your site plan, and this was not done on the basis of, well, it is going to be a wash as far as the money is concern. They did it for another reason, right?

Village Attorney Whitehead: I want to clarify one thing. It was not required so much. It was something they asked for, and the developer agreed. It was not technically a “requirement,” if you will, of the site plan approval. It was something they asked for that the developer agreed to.

Trustee Jennings: I would like to know how much the stairway will benefit you and enhance the value of your property, because it seems to me that to the extent that you are making an investment that is valuable to you the Village should not pay for it. To the extent that something is being done entirely for the interest of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, then I would go the other way.

Mr. Settanni When this project was going through the Planning Board I was not the owner so I was not involved with the original stair plans. I was told when I bought the property I would probably have to build the stair. In my eyes, I never saw a financial benefit. I just saw my civic duty to the town that this was something I was going to have to do.

Trustee Walker: It was the Planning Board. I had a conversation with Jamie Cameron about it when it was coming before the Planning Board because we have been talking about trails and access to trails since the mid-90s. I think that is when the idea came up. So it was not something that was proposed by the developer as something that would enhance his property; it was something that was proposed by the Village to enhance our ability to get to the trail.

Mayor Swiderski: It fills a long-standing need to ultimately get people down to that particular trail, and that trail will eventually link to Southside. You could conceivably walk most of the way to school from Warburton Avenue without ever walking on a road. You could walk down to there, up to the Aqueduct and on the Aqueduct over. I remember these discussions vividly. It seemed like an attractive amenity for the Warburton neighborhood to have that link.

Trustee Walker: And it is a recreational amenity because it gives you access to a recreational trail or what people use as a recreational trail. That is why I think putting it in place of the recreational fee, that portion of it at any rate, makes sense.

Village Attorney Whitehead: You could choose to say we will reduce the recreation fee by X amount. You do not necessarily have to agree that it is the full cost of construction. But I think until we know that number ...

Trustee Armacost: I remember this debate. The issue that came up at that time was if this is an obligation to the developer it is an obligation to the developer and the recreation fee is a

separate thing which accrues as a result of having acquired this property. The issue at that time and why we could not resolve it at that time, was because we were not agreed amongst ourselves on whether the developer should bear that cost or whether the Village should bear that cost, or whether it should be a shared burden. I think that is partly what Bruce is raising and what I am also trying to establish. It feels like we have moved a more toward it should be shared than I remember the discussions being from before, which had some fairness feeling to it, because there are many benefits, as you have suggested, to the Village as a whole. But before we can decide we need to understand the extent to which it is shared. If it is shared where the recreation fee is \$35,000 and the cost is \$34,000 and you bear \$1,000, that feels a lot less fair that if it is \$16,000-\$16,000 or \$17,000-\$17,000.

Village Manager Frobel: When this came up in 2013 you may recall we prepared our own cost estimate as to what we thought at that time the stairway would cost the developer, so we do have that number. Deven Sharma, the Building Inspector at that time, did some take-offs for us and we do have what the stair tower should cost, approximately.

Trustee Armacost: But I do not think we knew at that time even whether there was a requirement in terms of accessibility. We did not get a clear answer at that point either.

Village Attorney Whitehead: I apologize. I did not know that it had been before this board before so I have not seen those minutes.

Christina Griffin, architect for the building: I was at the Planning Board, and my recollection is that the cost of the stair was to be deducted from the recreational fees. The resolution was that this would be negotiated with the Board of Trustees in the future.

Trustee Armacost: It behooves us to look at those minutes and see where things were and, irrespective of what we said in those minutes, decide what we think is a fair resolution now. We do have a slightly different configuration of Board members and a different Village Attorney. Things are a little different so we can come back to look again.

Village Attorney Whitehead: I will review those minutes and I will also discuss it with the Building Inspector. I have reviewed all the Planning Board minutes.

Mayor Swiderski: And a moment of clarity here. It still remains optional.

Village Attorney Whitehead: With this board, yes. Even the construction?

Mayor Swiderski: New construction.

Village Attorney Whitehead: You could say you do not want them to build the stair.

Mayor Swiderski: Could he say that?

Village Attorney Whitehead: No. His site plan approval, or the prior applicant's which he inherited, says the construction of the stair pursuant to agreement with the Board of Trustees. So that is really in your purview. If it is the Board's intention, assuming we work out the cost issue and the recreation fee issue, to move ahead with this I can work with the applicant on the language for the easement and the license. We can get the cost information and come back and try to resolve the final issue.

Trustee Jennings: I assume that questions about the construction material, the quality, the design, the standards of the stairway, the Planning Board did not specify that. That bumps over to our building code and our Building Department requirements. Is that correct?

Village Attorney Whitehead: Correct.

Trustee Jennings: So once again the quality, and hence the cost, of the stairway to be constructed is determined by building code rules and regulations. It is independent of this financial negotiation. It is not a question of cutting corners, right?

Village Attorney Whitehead: Correct. Although there may be things that may be above and beyond that you may want, since the Village is going to be responsible. We can follow up with the Building Inspector on that, as well.

Trustee Apel: I would like to know what the cost of the insurance is that we are going to have to pay for this.

Village Manager Frobel: First, I was trying to determine the value. I can contact the agent.

Village Attorney Whitehead: It is liability, so it is under your existing liability.

Trustee Apel: If it is already covered, then it is fine.

Village Manager Frobel: A very small amount, because all your properties are covered.

Mr. Metzger: I spoke in favor of this stair when it first came up. I still believe it will be a valuable asset for the Village to get connection to the Quarry Trail and up to the Aqueduct and hopefully, ultimately down to the waterfront. Is the cost of construction in this the cost of maintenance, and not only for repair, but in removing snow and ice, or closing off the

stair. Hastings Landing closes off their stair access to the Aqueduct at certain times of the year. So we want to make sure the cost of that, which is going to be an ongoing cost, is covered as part of the discussion for what fees are involved. That being said, I hope the Board agrees that we need to have the stair and we should work out some accommodation.

Trustee Walker: That is an interesting point. Years ago there was a question about whether an adjacent property owner was responsible for the stair that was in need of repair but also a maintenance issue. I think the Village decided it was the property owner's responsibility to not repair the stair, but to maintain it. Shovel it and make sure it was passable. Have you had discussions since then? I do not know.

Village Manager Frobel: I have not.

Trustee Walker: Basically treating the stair like a sidewalk, saying it is the property owner's responsibility. Maybe we can discuss that. And, Linda, it might be clear in the Village code, but maybe we can answer that question.

2. Comprehensive Plan – Update on Accomplishments

Trustee Apel: We thought it was time to give an update on the accomplishments of the Comprehensive Plan, and Jim Metzger is with us tonight who is the chair of the Comprehensive Planning Implementation Committee. He will give a report on our accomplishments and what is next.

Mr. Metzger: I am gratified to say that the Comprehensive Plan has been embraced by the Board and by the Village. We have some wonderful accomplishments since the last time we reported to you. I had occasion to meet with Trustee Apel and Susan Maggiotto. We were discussing the issues that had been adopted or are in the process of being adopted since the last time we met.

I am excited because we have some big things to announce. In October, 2014, the Village hired a Downtown Advocate. Destination Hastings, the Downtown Crawl, was wildly successful by everybody's measure: the store owners, the villagers, everybody that participated. I understand there are some exciting plans coming up from the Advocate for our future. That goes towards objectives in the Comprehensive Plan for retaining and strengthening the calendar of events in the Village, and supporting and promoting efforts to encourage tourism in the Rivertowns. I am very excited the Board had taken that step.

In terms of improving and enhancing connections between the downtown and the rest of the Village, one of the great things is that we adopted a Complete Streets Policy in October of

2014. This was a very big deal and continues to be a topic of discussion. The Board of Trustees intervened in a big way to convince the county to put less obstructive fencing on the Warburton Avenue Bridge. What was going to go up originally was one inch square chain link. We convinced the county through the intervention of our Mayor and our Village Manager to get the county legislators and the county to agree to a more transparent fence. There may be some further discussion on that, but if this is where we are we are much better shape now than we were before. That is protecting the view sheds of the Hudson River and the Palisades.

We have a gentleman here who speaks before this board pretty much every two weeks and is doing things for this village that are incredible. Coming this spring, look for the golden mile of daffodils, which is a public-private concern by our own Tim Downey. It should be a remarkable feature when flowers start blooming. It is citizens like Tim that make this place a great place to be. I thank him for doing that.

Mr. Gonder, your deer management program was initiated in 2014 after years of discussion. We are early in the program. It is the second round of darting so the effectiveness of the program is still to be fully developed. It is a pilot program, unlike anything else that has done before. Our village has been out in front of this.

Providing transparent procedures for project review and approval was one of the things I was interested in as an architect who does work in the Village. I am on a land use task force that was appointed by the Board a number of months ago. We have had six or seven meetings. Christina Griffin is on the committee with myself, as is Michael Lewis and Jamie Cameron. We have been really benefited by Linda Whitehead, our Village Attorney, and Buddy Minozzi, our Building Inspector. Our goal is to try and figure out how to make the process of building in the Village more transparent, up front, available. It should reduce cost to the applicants, make the Village operate a lot smoother and, hopefully, will increase people wanting to come to the Village and build, whether it is commercial or residential.

Increased communications and coordination among Village boards and committees. The Board of Trustees amended the View Preservation Law this past year, where they allowed the Building Inspector and a member from the Planning Board and the Zoning Board to waive full boards approval in some cases. There will be a preliminary review, and if view preservation is not going to be affected the code used to say it did not matter you had to go before the various boards. Now, if it is determined by our village experts that the view preservation will not be affected it will eliminate that process, freeing up our boards for more important work.

On the waterfront, the last time we met we talked about the Waterfront Infrastructure Development Committee looking at this process. They had a public meeting and presented their draft report in 2014. That is being reviewed, and I believe it is being reviewed by BP as well for incorporation in their engineering studies.

Encourage maintenance of sidewalk, stairs and street intersections, something we just talked about. The Board of Trustees adopted a Complete Streets Policy in October, 2014. The Conservation Commission was tasked with overseeing this project. Critically important in the Village is how people move through the Village. It encourages people to walk instead of drive, which is a great environmental benefit. It will create, hopefully, a safer way for kids to get to school. It will benefit the Village as a whole.

Something people have been talking about for years: improve the stairs between West Main Street and Southside Avenue. It goes without saying that everybody who uses those stairs every day is happy we were finally able to accomplish that.

Reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint of Village residents and increase the amount of waste diverted from landfills. The Board of Trustees, in June, 2014, adopted a local law banning plastic checkout bags and Styrofoam containers. There have been a few bumps along the way, but people are starting to understand the benefit of the law and starting to adapt to that very well.

Quality of life. Continue to recognize the need and importance of affordable housing. We have three ownership units of affordable housing about to be completed on Washington Avenue. This is going to be a huge benefit for the Village. We took something that was a detriment in the neighborhood and are turning it into something very positive.

Again, environmental quality. The Village Deer Management Program was initiated. The hope is that if we can control the deer population in the Village we can start restoring the wooded areas in the Village, reduce accidents, and keep the deer off people's property who are trying to maintain their gardens.

Promote opportunities for public art. The Board of Trustees increased membership in the Village Arts Commission, enabling expansion of activities. There have been a number of wonderful shows here in this building. Art in the Village is flourishing, and I am talking about from private concerns. Things tend to benefit each other, and it is a great benefit for the Village for tourism.

There are two additional items that are not technically accomplishments, but something we should be discussing. The next thing the Trustees need to look that was proposed to you by

the Implementation Committee is looking at large tracts. Trustee Armacost brought up the issue of who is responsible for maintaining those. We do need to look at that. It is something that is critically important. It is going to be a very large and probably long project. The Village has a history of looking at zoning issues in the past. Meg was involved with downtown zoning and looking at rezoning on Warburton Avenue. This should be as critically important to the Village. There is the possibility that that the Planning Board may be empowered to start this process and look into how it should move forward. In the Comprehensive Plan we discussed looking at the buffer zones between the streets and the private properties that are being rezoned, looking at the gateways into the Village. The roads are in bad shape, but we should be able to control the properties on either side of that through rezoning. Certainly, circulation in and out of the Village would benefit if we can figure out how to rezone the large tracts and get control of how all of that will be maintained.

The last thing is, it has been four years since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in July of 2011. The Comprehensive Plan asks for a review every five years or so. It is probably not too early to start looking into how the process might work, to review the plan that we have, and start to figure out what has changed in the Village that needs to be incorporated into the plan for future review. Obviously, all the accomplishments to date can be tick-marked off the plan that we have successfully accomplished. At some point I would ask the Board to consider putting together a committee to start investigating what has changed in the last four to five years that we should be looking at for the next four to five year process.

Trustee Apel: I want to add one more thing on the accomplishments. Under quality of life 3.1, the intermunicipal agreements with neighboring communities, we just added tonight an authorization for agreement to provide contract services for pothole repairs. Every day there is something new coming on here. It is really great.

Trustee Armacost: The one other thing you did not mention, but which you included in here, is that the Village has kept the taxes ...

Mr. Metzger: Probably one of the most critical things to mention, and this is what happens when you are flipping pages and trying to keep up with what you are saying. Here we go. The Village kept tax increases under 2 percent for 2012, 2013 and 2014. It is critically important that everybody know we started with a \$600,000 plus deficit six years ago. We now have, at the latest accounting, as I understand it \$1,112,000 in our reserve fund. This is huge. Other villages would absolutely love to be able to say that. It is a testament to the Trustees and to the Village, to the people that work in the Village, that we have been able to accomplish that. It is a huge benefit that we will be able to deal with emergencies as they come up and not have to worry about where that money is coming from. The other big thing that has happened, and again the initiative was raised by Trustee Armacost, is in the

accounting process and budget review. We are now looking at budget versus actuals. That gives us a much clearer indication of how much money was spent and how much money we need to apportion for future expenses. That was a big deal that probably went unnoticed by many people, but is part of the reason we have this wonderful budget surplus now.

Trustee Armacost: Thank you for that, and to all of the Trustees for all of the hard work, and to Fran and to the team. The other accomplishment is the creation of the capital fund,. I cannot remember if that was sort of foreshadowed in the Comprehensive Plan or whether it was something we added independently, but that also is something that will help enhance our fiscal strength, moving forward.

Mayor Swiderski: Nice to see that we are ticking through. One or two small modifications. The golden mile project, I am not sure I would characterize it as public-private, because right now, it is fully funded privately. We are \$100 short; a very small amount of money short of being fully funded privately. I would say this is a genuine volunteer effort, funded privately.

Trustee Armacost: OK, we will cross off the word “public.”

Mayor Swiderski: No, it is a nice thing. We fronted it but, ultimately, it is being covered privately. It is a nice thing to note because everything we see will be either out of the pockets or on the back of the hard work of Tim and others who worked on this.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Even though monetarily it may be totally privately funded, I think Tim and I certainly worked together on it.

Mr. Downey: We could not have done it without it.

Mayor Swiderski: I did not mean to denigrate your efforts.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: I do not mean that at all. What I mean is that I do believe it is public-private.

Mayor Swiderski: I just wanted to make the point that it is actually fully privately funded.

Trustee Armacost: And just one other point I would like to make, which is that Mr. Downey very graciously agreed to be on the Tree Preservation Board. I think daffodils are a bit of a stretch from trees, but one could argue it is perhaps under that auspices, partly, as well, thinking about the Village as a whole.

Mr. Downey: People doing these projects, it has to be a public-private entity because you are doing it on public property. You always have to get the permission of, and the assistance of both.

Mayor Swiderski: Fair enough.

Mr. Downey: It cannot be done without. I could not have done this. I put out the call, and do not have the skill to raise the money. That is not my strength. Without her, it would not have gotten done.

Mayor Swiderski: Also regarding the Infrastructure Development Committee, indeed there was a public meeting last year. They are supposedly just finishing it up, Waterfront Infrastructure Development 2.5. But it is still back with the committee. It has not been shared. This is not driving anything at BP. It is still in draft, and until it comes to us and is approved it is not going to determine anything on the waterfront. There is still a final review. A tremendous amount of work has gone into this and, unfortunately, this is where you see the limits of volunteer activity. When the people who have the skillsets to update drawings, et cetera are on tight schedules it sometimes takes longer than expected. But it will, apparently, be done shortly and, at that point will have the public discussion it deserves.

Trustee Jennings: I would like to thank Trustee Apel, Mr. Metzger and others for their leadership in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. A few years ago I had some concerns that the Comprehensive Plan would be a large effort to create and would make for a nice book on the shelf, but I was mistaken about that. The implementation makes it a real, living presence in the community. That would not have happened without your leadership and your continuing efforts to make the ideas that you and others helped to create and put together a living reality in the Village in the form of daffodils and a lot of material and beautiful, functional things we would not otherwise perhaps have had. This is a wonderful example of how important the idea of community planning can be. Planning is often denigrated as a four-letter word, but in our village planning is a living activity and ongoing dynamic practice, through the dedication and skill of many people. It is what keeps our village vibrant and resilient. I wanted to stand corrected about my skepticism, and I am very happy this plan is a living reality.

Mr. Metzger: Thank you. And it really is a community effort. There were 11 of us on the original committee, but there were so many volunteers that showed up during that process, the extraordinary help we got from the Village, from Susan Maggiotto, from virtually everybody. It is, really, the only way this plan can work is if everybody pitches in. We always looked at this as that road map for the future of Hastings, and it has become that. It is a touchstone when you are planning something to see what has the Comprehensive Plan said

about this, which is another way of saying how has the community put its voice together to say this is what we would like to see happen in Hastings.

Trustee Walker: Thank you. I wanted to add that it also is a document that supports our efforts to raise money through grants and legitimizes all these ideas that we have and the things we want to implement. It is a vision, a living document, but it also enables us to communicate to the state, the county and even the federal government that we have a plan, this is what we want to do and the community has weighed in on it, we are in the process of implementing it. And yes, this grant is going to go toward helping us complete our comprehensive plan. That is an important aspect to remember. Also, there are some new opportunities that could be mentioned in our Comprehensive Plan as we update it, some of the new ways of looking at the waterfront. The state has new initiatives, the federal government has initiatives. Some of this is because of sea level rising and other things that we did not include in the last go-round. Some things we want to update because a lot has happened in the last five years since we wrote this document, particularly the waterfront issues, particularly energy issues. We may find some things we want to tackle in the next few years, and putting them in our Comp Plan is a sound way to approach it rather than just saying we want to do this.

I also think we should move the large tracts up in terms of a priority this year.

Mayor Swiderski: It is time. We are getting rid of the big ticket items.

Trustee Walker: Maybe we can put this on the agenda for an upcoming meeting to talk about what that charge is and how we want the Planning Board involved. And now we have our Village Attorney, who could weigh in on some approaches to that, too. It is an opportune time to start looking at it again.

Trustee Apel: I am advocating for that. It is the next thing we have to do.

Mayor Swiderski: I am fine with that.

3. Update on the Downtown

Downtown Advocate Prisament: A large portion of my time over the last month has been partnering with the Conservation Commission, who had partnered with the Arts Commission and the Village to produce the reusable bags as part of the plastic bag ban. I am happy to report that 13 merchants are taking bags and will be reselling them to the public, for a total of approximately 1,500 bags in two styles. In the next couple of days we will finish collecting the funds and the paperwork from all the accounts. Certainly by Friday that will be done, the

bags will be here, and there will be a week to turn these around for the public as part of the education campaign. The stores were very happy, especially about the handle bags. They would have taken even more handle bags. As a result of this effort, we will recoup about \$1,000 of the money we spent on the bags.

I will be getting back to you with a recap about the holiday lights and holiday parking. Taking it pretty seriously. I have a little more research to do and want to prepare a statement that will be meaningful to you. This will probably happen in a couple of weeks. Certainly, we are not going to be making those decisions for many months so I would rather wait and give you a more complete report.

As you know, a work plan was due from me. We had decided we would wait a few months into the job so I could get a lot of feedback, get my feet wet, see how the plan I presented to you in my interview might evolve. You all have a copy in your inbox.

I organized this into four sections that correspond with the Main Street principles, which is the way the job description was designed. The first category is organizational responsibilities, the second is economic development activities, the third is physical improvements and the fourth is promotion and events. The first part, in italics, are the things that have been accomplished in the first quarter. A quarterly report is due from me, and I will pull out all the italic sections and send that in as my first quarterly report. I thought since it is part of the first year it would be helpful to see it all together. This is a draft and presentation of the plan. I have talked to almost all of you individually and many of the constituencies. However, this is a time to look at these points and have input. We want to meet also with the Downtown Collaborative and give them the same opportunity as well.

Start with organizational responsibilities. There was the orientation, there was my introduction to the merchants, which happened in person, via e-mail and through visits. There were meetings with the merchants in the Downtown Collaborative, many individual meetings with residents. Meetings with Hastings boards, commissions, departments and committees. So far, I have sat with the Arts Commission; Sue Smith, which is like three commissions, Beautification and Historical Society.

Mayor Swiderski: Barb, I do not mean to cut you off. Since you gave us this and we have it in front of us and we are reading it, you probably do not need to read it to us. If you want to summarize it a little bit.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: That is fine. Organizational responsibilities has been a lot of meetings with pretty much everyone I could think of. But, of course, I could not get to everyone so that will be in the next phase. Next up is to meet with the business owners I

have not met with, which are plenty because there are over 60. To really have productive meetings with each. They have all been notified, they all know who I am and how to reach me. But I need to sit with the rest of them. It is time to gather volunteers for upcoming projects, so I will be going to the Downtown Collaborative with this plan, getting their input. And seeing where people want to help. Also, we are going to reach out to the wider community, possibly through your message, Peter, and we will think of other ways to see what kind of volunteers we can gather for different endeavors. I will meet with the commissions and boards I have not met with, and they are listed here. There are additional marketing experts that have offered to meet with me; I have already met with some. And the possibility of survey and focus group professionals to work with, if not this year whenever we are ready to.

Trustee Walker: I think we need to add meeting with property owners. Coming up with a strategy of how to approach the landlords is the first thing.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Yes, I have that in the economic development section. There has been a lot of work over this holiday. We worked with holiday parking and lights, which were embellished by both the store owners as well as the Village. We worked on local shopping events. And there was a beginning of working on the empty spaces in town by talking to the realtors and reaching out to some landlords and architects, and gaining insight into the process. That is what is happening so far.

Going forward for economic development, one of the main things I put at the top of the list for the winter is to work on a multi-merchant gift card, a closed circuit gift card that can be purchased locally and used for gifts for teachers and holidays. It keeps money flowing in the local economy. It has been tried before. We are going to try to figure out how we can make it work this time. It will be the centerpiece of an ongoing shop-local campaign, which will manifest throughout the year.

The second is holiday business enhancement, to do some of the things we did this year, the Shop and Drop program, and expand it and come up with some retail-specific promotions which we are already brainstorming about, as well as another crawl and looking at the parking again.

Next up, I have empty spaces. To meet with the landlords. Meg, that is where that comes in. See if we can use any of the spaces or windows while they are empty but, most importantly, learn about them and court tenants, and figure out how to help along with the process. We have interested tenants.

Next up, business consultation and enhancement. This is to offer professional development, in different ways, to our merchants, tapping resources we have here. I would like to create a committee or programming to help interested shopkeepers and business owners working with their store windows and the physical appearance of the stores. I have various ideas for that.

Next, I have outdoor art. This is the idea of partnering with the Arts Commission and trying to bring in some large scale art exhibits that go over time, similar to the banner art promotion we had a few years ago, involving local artists and art so we become a destination for an extended period involving the arts.

Next is increased collaboration and tie-ins with farmers and flea markets, spending some time focusing on how to draw the people that are shopping at the markets into the Village. Maybe doing a special event when the flea market is up in the streets. These are things people have brought up. Or coming up with events that tag on to those market days.

I added something that was not on here, which came up and Jim mentioned it in the Comprehensive Plan, about collaborating with area hotels and tourism organizations which is important, too. How many I can do effectively in the next nine months remains to be seen. I think I can finish some of these and start others.

Trustee Walker: Some of that is going on with the Rivertowns Tourism Board because we have the maps.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Exactly. It is a matter of jumping in where you left off.

Trustee Walker: They are difficult to engage so I would not spend a lot of time on that.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Yes. Maybe we will turn up some new people to engage. We will see but, again, you are right. That is why I put it last, but I think it is worthy of some exploration at some point.

Physical improvements. So far, I have mostly been looking into the Steinschneider parking lot garbage situation by talking to the business owners and brainstorming with them and a couple of others about possible solutions. I would like to help with the store windows for the merchants that would like support with that.

Then there are projects that are already in progress, and I am wondering if there are ways I can help move them forward, like the tree pits, like the idea of having kiosks in certain spots and having an artistic Hastings map done. There are some interested artists that are waiting to be engaged if we want to. I would need to jump into it, and I could potentially put my

resources towards helping with that. Partnering with the Beautification Committee and the Board of Trustees, and Tim and the Tree Board, regarding some enhancements, figuring out what we are doing with the plaza in front of Juniper, enhancements to the VFW park and other projects as needed.

There are some grant opportunities I would like to explore, working with partners such as River Arts and others, to see if we can use them as an umbrella to get funding for some creative projects to beautify the Village in artistic ways. This could be mosaic tile projects, murals. We have an idea that has to do with building façades, and others that we would like to explore. We will partner with our Arts Commission if we can get any of that funding.

Lastly, I have a couple of notes in here of things people have brought up to me that I thought were worthy of inclusion. One was the signage in Boulanger Plaza. Some of the merchants mentioned there is a lot of confusion and people get tickets because they do not understand how our parking meter works. There has been interest in seeing if we can interest the landlord at Movie House Mews to light up the neon Hastings sign. It does seem like neon is allowed in our code so it is something to at least explore because it would be interesting and possibly effective.

Trustee Walker: When I saw Boulanger Plaza signage I remembered that one of the family members from the Boulanger family has asked me a couple of times to work a naming sign. Maybe it could be creatively done, whether it is on the wall of the building or free-standing.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Incorporate the other information in that sign perhaps.

Trustee Walker: That is a possibility, but he wanted it to be to honor his grandfather. Everyone calls it the Boulanger Plaza lot, but there is no sign that says Boulanger Plaza lot.

Trustee Armacost: We have a number of other historical markers in the Village. I am wondering whether if it could be produced in that style, or whether it is impossible to reproduce it in the way the other historical markers have been set up. Was that an initiative of the Historical Society itself a long time ago?

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, Museum of the Streets. That was the Historical Society.

Trustee Walker: This is something different. This is just the name.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: But let us think about that. We have Zinsser and Steinschneider and Boulanger Plaza. Maybe it could be like those signs, but in a different color that represents something like a parking lot.

Trustee Walker: Another way to look at this is as an art opportunity. There are towns that use this as an opportunity to commission an artist to design a sign that evokes the period of history or gives it a special flavor. So we could look at this as a different kind of opportunity as opposed to just a label.

Trustee Armacost: I agree with you. Not to take away from what you were saying, I think the point Barb was making is that there are some other places that also perhaps require signs. If they could be created in a similar style, then it has less of a random effect.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: There might be some uniformity. These lots have been named after various people that have been involved in our community or made donations.

Trustee Armacost: For people to know that history a little bit. Not everyone knows that.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: And possibly some overall symmetry of having them be the same sign but maybe a different shade or color to denote something like a municipal lot, and the name of this person. It is a nice idea.

Trustee Walker: I noticed one of our directional signs was not up on Main Street and was stashed in the Boulanger Plaza lot. Maybe it fell down. It is hiding behind a guardrail so it needs to go back up.

Village Manager Frobel: On Main Street?

Trustee Walker: Yes, one that is supposed to be up on Main Street. It seems to be lying down in the Boulanger Plaza lot.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: The last section is promotion and events. There has been quite a lot done in this regard between interviews about the position after I took it to *The Enterprise*. The whole marketing platform we came up with, Destination Hastings, having the logo designed, having a social media platform launched. We are up to 323 Likes on our Facebook page, and I would like to see that go above 500 in the next few months with our next round of promotions. We have been developing a press list and have serviced the press for our first big event, and got coverage. We worked on Small Business Saturday and the Drop and Shop movie event.

And we started planning Friday Night Live. The number one thing for me to focus on is the Friday Night Live series. I have some time to put towards creating an overarching marketing campaign for the entire series. There are six dates listed, three in the spring and three in the

fall. Three of them have the streets closed, three of them have the streets open. The tentative topics and dates are listed. We just have to confirm those dates by confirming the people involved in the events and make sure they will work. If not, we will juggle them.

They are pretty exciting. They include two more crawls, one in the spring in which the streets will be closed. We have some great entertainment planned which could potentially not cost us anything if things go the way I would like, except for closing the streets but not for the entertainment. It is going to coincide with May Day or the week after so there will be some early spring elements to it, one of which I would like to talk to Tim about because it involves flowers. To be continued. The main point here is that this marketing plan has to be written and has to be funded. We need to do that because, at the moment, we do not have anything attributed to it at all. We need to look at our own celebration budget line and see what we want to contribute.

But primarily, I would love to fund this series via local businesses. Not necessarily the same local businesses that promote a lot of things already, but many who could get their name out there. I would like to help them do that in a way that it is totally worth it for them because of what they will get in return. I would like to approach the local businesses as well as some regional businesses that support our residents, but do not compete with our local businesses. If we go out with a strong marketing plan and an entire nine-month period of events, which is what it is, to promote that we will get that support. But that is what I have to get on right away, as well as nailing down the events and gathering the volunteers to help..

At the same time, we will be continuing to build our social media platform and engaging with like and interested groups so we draw people from outside of Hastings to these events. And building our press list. Also on the event list are Take Me to the River as tentative for September. But should that fall into the calendar it will require a good amount of marketing and promotion because it has been drawing more and more people over the years from other communities. And it has become a very beloved community engagement event here. So some of my time will go towards expanding that.

Then I have got other options. What I have just said is all the time we have got for me in the nine months. But there are other things that have come up. One idea we had is community campout in Draper Park, a night where families can sign up and we can have a campout so it is not just used by the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts for that, something the Greenburgh Nature Center does for families and community members. There is talk of an Oktoberfest, or a Hastings One event which is the same thing, in which we choose something to fundraise for. There is talk of Spring Things or Fall Things in the streets like a street fair. We have to figure that out, and how the businesses feel about shutting the streets, and when, and if we want to do one on top of everything else we have here. Or if that is maybe for next year.

There was talk of a Maker event, which we are now thinking about for the winter of 2016, possibly, if there is a week and the Community Center is available or some other space here. Hosting our own Maker Fair, in which I will go out in September to the big Maker Fair in the city and try to court vendors to come. It could be pretty incredible. There is the idea of a volunteer appreciation event. There are possibilities for outdoor music or film series. I did not put those in the plan, but just listed them as other options in case they really float someone's boat. Then I wrote surprises to be determined because you certainly would not want to know everything up front. We have to leave some room for the unexpected, which will be part of the fun of Hastings as a destination.

That is everything I have in this plan. I want to add a thank you for all the support I have felt from each of you and the community in the first three months. I am really looking forward to working on all of this together. There is room for juggling and figuring out, but this is the essence of it.

Trustee Walker: Great.

Mayor Swiderski: It is relentless.

Trustee Walker: We have talked about having a Friday Night Live in March. Because of the need to do this marketing campaign, fund-raising campaign, we thought we would move the literary event to April.

Trustee Armacost: I think that is sensible. In March the weather is a bit dubious.

Trustee Walker: It is mostly an indoor event. Still, we were thinking it might be nice to use the CityLore PoemMobile, which could project poetry on the walls of buildings. If it is sleeting and raining outside nobody wants to see that.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Also, if we do that there are 10 ½ weeks, not that I have counted or anything, until it starts. I wrap up the reusable bag rollout this week with the Conservation Commission and put my full attention on the marketing plan and fund-raising over the first five or six weeks. It will all be happening at once. The first couple, we will have to nail down the details, as well, and collecting proposals for this closed circuit credit card because I would really love to roll that out in the spring. I should not let myself get pulled in too many other directions, I should say out loud, with that support. Because then these will get done very, very well and I can start other projects and get involved.

Mayor Swiderski: Going off to school, and parents buying gifts, et cetera.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: The idea of this credit card is that when you go to buy a teacher gift instead of buying an American Express card which can be used everywhere, or knowing what the teacher's taste is so you can pick an individual merchant, you could buy them a card that gives them the opportunity to go to 20 or 30 stores in town. Depending on what denominations we can sell them in, they could be used for party favors, used for Mother's Day, Father's Day. Give your kid some spending money in town, but know where they are going to spend it. They are very complicated. There are a lot of little things to figure out about them, and we want to pick a program that is no to low cost to our merchants and easy to implement. We need to do the legwork so that is the case.

Trustee Walker: One other thing. I would like to propose that we send our Downtown Advocate to the National Main Streets conference March 30 through April 2 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Thank you. I am open to it. It is right before the literary Friday Night Live, the first one of the season. But it is possible.

2. Update on Deer

Mayor Swiderski: The team of four darters came last week and met with the chief. They set up the policies and procedures with the police for how we will run this, and also identified the feeding station locations. Six of the tripods have been set up around town in parks. They are visible and clearly marked. They have loaded up and have started dispensing feed as of yesterday. They are going to run for the two weeks prior to the team returning on February 2; at that point, the darting will begin. We have the stations in place. Unlike the last season, where there was two feet of snow and they were only there for four days, here they will be up and running for two weeks. We will be refilling them and, hopefully, they will draw the deer. There is a clean line for successful darting established on each one of them.

Trustee Walker: About the residential participation, you talked about giving us new flags.

Mayor Swiderski: Yes. We have not started that yet. We are relying on kids to help us, and they are in mid-term season. They do not anticipate going on to private property for a few weeks at least. They want to exhaust the opportunities around the stations. But we will be putting out an e-mail and asking for permission in the course of the next week. We will construct a database, the kids will fill in the gaps around these stations, and we will be good to go.

Mr. Downey: Is anyone checking to see if there is activity at those stations?

Mayor Swiderski: There will be, yes. We will have to be refilling the stations as it is, and we will want to be checking for activity. See if the corn is being consumed.

Mr. Downey: The problem with the corn is you could have anything from squirrels to chipmunks to turkey. Could you put those cameras that you had by the stations?

Mayor Swiderski: I think that was done in a number of cases.

Mr. Downey: I did not see one in Dan Rile park.

Mayor Swiderski: I will check. That was certainly the intention.

Mr. Downey: I sent a suggestion that a location for one for easy tagging of deer would be if you can get cooperation with the school, maybe not in the field, but on the retainment bank, the storm surge bank. There are some bleachers they store there and the deer are very acclimated. There are people within inches of them.

Mayor Swiderski: We considered that. There was some concern about the optics of darting in an area where there is recreational activity. We do not want to alarm people. So for the time being we decided not to do that.

Mr. Downey: At some point, and maybe it is a gradual thing, people are probably going to have to get used to seeing guys with guns going around shooting deer.

Mayor Swiderski: Dart projectors.

Mr. Downey: Yes, OK. Going around with darting instruments. Because if it is going to be ongoing, you are going to have to go where they are.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree.

5. Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Day

Mayor Swiderski: The big Sleepy Hollow St. Paddy's Day march is on Sunday, Mar. 15, the blowout event. The invitation has been extended to the Fire Department, which has attended the last couple of years. If you want to join me I will be at that event. We need to be in formation by 1:00 p.m. at the latest.

Trustee Apel: Where is this being held?

Mayor Swiderski: It is in Sleepy Hollow, starts in Tarrytown. Reach out to me and we will coordinate.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Is our own Jim Keaney being honored?

Mayor Swiderski: They did not say that here. I did not see that. He is in the parade, but the person being honored, leading the parade, is Eileen Kennedy out of Irvington.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: But they include one from each community, encouraging people's participation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Swiderski: I would like a motion to adjourn in honor of Eleanor McGinigle. Her smiling face at every Memorial Day, with her cane, collecting for poppies. If you ever vote in town you saw her at every single election for 50 years. She has been a presence. She never hesitated to corner me and give me not just a problem, but a good idea. It was with a smile, it was with affection. And as recently as a month ago she was talking about a Christmas tree in front of the Community Center and offering to lead the way to collect money for that. She is just going to be missed.

Trustee Jennings: Can I do a quick old-timer for Eleanor. My wife and I moved to Hastings, bought a house on Travis Place two houses down from the McGinigles in 1981. Before we even moved in, we went to the house where we were doing painting and this and that. It was Sunday afternoon, we did not know anybody at all. She comes and knocks on the door in the late afternoon. Long story short, we have dinner with them that night. It was our first dinner party in Hastings-on-Hudson. And, of course, we stayed in touch with her in various ways like you have described, over many years. But it was her welcoming gesture that was my family's very first introduction to Hastings-on-Hudson.

Mayor Swiderski: So a moment of silence.

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