

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2015

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 7:38 p.m. in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue.

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

CITIZENS: Twenty-eight (28).

Mayor Swiderski: Prior to the call of order, a moment of clarification. I was approached before the meeting by somebody from the Ravensdale neighborhood asking about a hearing today on the 69 Ravensdale affordable housing project. There is no such hearing, there is no such discussion item on the agenda and there is not going to be until the next funding cycle on the block grants, which is not until the spring.

I am not sure where that came from. It is nothing to do with us. If anyone is here thinking there is such a hearing, there is not and they can gain back their evening. If you still want to talk at the public comments session on that topic you are obviously free to do so, but it does not have a bearing on anything we have on our agenda or any agenda currently.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Swiderski: We have on the agenda a presentation which lacks the people to whom the presentation is intended to be made. Three of our DPW workers, who all joined within a few weeks of each other 25 years ago, have hit a milestone in their career with the Village. We honor those moments when people spend that much time with the Village by recognizing it, providing them with a certificate, and thanking them for their service. Those three individuals are Steve Ragin, Joey Savino, and Tony Piscopiello. Either they have, or will be, receiving their certificates of appreciation for their service to the Village at another occasion. But I certainly extend my congratulations and thanks for their service to the Village. It is hard work and we all benefit from it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION of Trustee Apel, SECONDED by Trustee Armacost with a voice vote of all in favor, the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of October 6 and Oct. 20, 2015 and the Public Hearing of Oct. 20, 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 Warrant was approved:

Multi-Fund No. 33-2015-16 \$ 89,749.38

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Swiderski: There will be an opportunity during the discussion of the Farmers' Market request for the building parking lot for people to react to what we have to. If you want to express an opinion on that particular topic, do save it for that point in time. Otherwise, the public comment section is now open.

John Gonder, 153 James Street: They installed a light last Thursday at my street and it is not very bright. But 51 feet away I cannot even see my car, and I am afraid walking across the street in the dark I may get mugged. Some of the lights are so flat and only have two sets of rows of LEDs. Then up on the corner, there is ones with four sets, much brighter. Maybe they can tilt it. The sodium one I do not care about the color, I want to see. The sodium ones were bigger and light can come out the sides, but these are flat like a pancake and drop down.

You ought to pass an ordinance that the word "Rivertowns" should not be used. We are a village, and I have told the Board this so many times. Even in the newspaper, "Rivertowns" in the home paper of Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley and Irvington. We have no control over the newspaper. I wish there was a competitor that I would buy. It is a pet peeve with me, Rivertowns. Meg Walker and her downtown, that is just as bad as a rivertown. We are a village, and I gave you a lot of suggestions of names to use. Even one of our better politicians in Westchester, probably running unopposed, made that statement in a paper: "I am seeking reelection to the Westchester County Board to continue representing the Rivertowns in county government." Again, she should know, politicians should be politically correct. We are village, so I would like you people to pass an ordinance that you will not use the words "downtown" or "Rivertowns."

Last, not least, I was thinking: In God We Trust. I looked at all my coins, it still says that, the bills still say In God We Trust. Be we have so many politicians, whether it is Washington, New York State, county, they are a bunch of crooks. They are always getting into trouble. I think something is happening. Either Satan is getting into these people that are politicians, or what I am not sure yet. I am trying to look into it. But if we trust in God, I do not know, the American way. You passed an ordinance last week that I have to opt out of

something. It used to be the American way if you wanted something you would opt in, you would sign to get it. I do not know what is happening to village government, county, town, state. It is going downhill, and I hope you can correct some of the situations.

Michael Curtis, 328 Warburton Avenue: I live right across the street from Riverview Park. Friday a dog leapt the fence and bit my tenant's three-year-old son. I cannot tell you how upset I am and our neighborhood is over this. I am told that a dog was hit by a car outside that park two weeks ago and killed.

I have been living there for a little over 10 years, and for most of that time the park has been nothing but chaos, filth and a complete lack of control and respect from the people that are bringing dogs there. We have talked to the people in the park, my wife and I, 50, 60, 80, untold times in 10 years to try to ask them to get some kind of handle on this. It is strange. We were engaged in a process. Trustee Walker was good enough to come to the park over the course of a couple of years. We had two or three meetings, had some attendance from neighbors and interested parties, took minutes of the sessions. One of our neighbors, who is a landscape architect, drew a plan which would have shared the park for people to use the upper level and create a dog park in the lower level. Thankfully, the Board apparently appropriated money in the budget to improve the park and some of that, perhaps, in their vision of what might happen. Some fencing was put up. In our proposal we recommended that the fence come down in the front of the park.

I am asking this board tonight to remove the gate and the fence from the front of the park immediately. I want to commend the Hastings Police Department in being terribly responsive to my phone calls this weekend. Years ago, when the noise became intolerable, I called the police a few times and felt like I did not want to have that kind of dynamic with my neighbors, the dog owners. My wife and I did not pursue that course of action. Instead, we tried to reason with the people using the park. What we have seen, over time, is that it went from bad to horrible. In the last year or so professional dog walkers from somewhere else in the county are bringing 10 dogs at a time in, two of them, simultaneously, along with the usual neighbors, who we respect and who use the park appropriately with their dogs.

You cannot conceive of the noise. I am not exaggerating to tell you that on a typical day there are, four times a day, 15, 20, 30 minutes of complete chaos. Dogs barking, chasing one another. It is filthy, it smells. I will not elaborate any further. I hope you accept that this is real, and it is constant. We cannot have meals outside, we cannot have meals inside without that noise. It is ridiculous.

I want to emphasize that the front fence should come down or, at a minimum, the gates come off. After the child was bit my wife called the Village. Thankfully, somebody in the Village

arranged to have some signs put on the gate that said No Dogs Off Leash. It was a spur of the moment thing and somebody printed out a few things and put them in plastic sleeves. The dog owners did not accept this as an official Village gesture. Certainly we can be more official in our appearance of trying to get control of this. What I find perplexing is that after we had the process with Trustee Walker and the Parks Department started making improvements there used to be a metal sign, in the park from the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson that gave a few rules for the use of the park, including no dogs off leash. Inexplicably, that sign came down. I have the impression, without evidence, that something happened either in the parks commission or somewhere else along the way as this park was being improved. Somebody who did not bother to come to the meetings we had on the park and get involved in the process, did not care to inform the neighborhood that they may have a different view of what should happen, managed to convince the Public Works Department or the Parks Department that the gate should not come down, that the sign should come down, and that this is a dog park. I have been told that it is advertised as a dog park on websites. It never was a dog park, it should not be a dog park. We once had a plan that would have shared it with dogs on the lower level. At this point, I am so angry, so upset and so frustrated I am not particularly open to that option.

When I moved to Warburton we had very few families with children. A lot of families have moved to Warburton, bought houses, and are raising very young children. None of the other parks in this village are in this condition. None of them are unhealthy, chaotic, full of barking dogs chasing buggies down the sidewalk, none of them, and it is shameful. I refuse to accept that we are going to be relegated to that status. I expect to be treated as well as any other neighborhood in this community and I expect our park to be respected and I expect the Village go get control of this problem.

Cyndy Travis, 427 Warburton Avenue: I am in agreement with Mr. Curtis. I am a dog owner and used to take my two dogs there until it became unsafe for dogs. I work in New York City and I have a picture of rules from dog parks in New York City which I would like to show you. A quick note about dog behavior. When dogs come together they form a pack, whether they are there for a minute or a family or groups that come together all the time. We have always been saying, when we were trying to make this a better location for dogs, that the lower level is better because the dogs cannot race along the fence terrorizing people. They create a pack mentality, and if one dog gets frenzied then the others join in. Then you create a situation where aggressive does leave the pack, getting too excited. I do not know what happened when the dog leaped the fence. It is shocking to me that any dog owner would have a dog that could leap the fence be unsupervised. I want to speak for both sides and let them know, take the gates down until the problem can be worked through in a safe way. The gates can come down tomorrow and then you can work out the issues after that.

Emily Wardwell-Dodziuk, 357 Warburton Avenue: For three years I lived as a tenant of Michael and Nancy Curtis. I am a major dog lover. We did not have a dog. We could not have a dog at that property and my family was not ready. Last year, we bought 357 Warburton on the same side as the dog park. And this spring we got the dog. I can speak to this situation on a few different levels. I have two children. I have a nine-year-old and a six-year-old, almost six, this week, who like to walk their dog. I accompany them, and I cannot tell you how many times I have walked by the park and we cannot go in. If you walk by that park, it is the same situation. You get a group of dogs attacking the fence. They are aggressive. My puppy is nine months old. I do not want my puppy to be neurotic, I do not want my puppy to behave that way, I cannot go in this park.

I tried twice going into the park. The first time there was a dog fight, I left. The second time I was told by someone that there was kennel cough going around. A week later, my dog got kennel cough. So \$300 later I have a puppy who was a rescue, and already had a low immune system, who had kennel cough. About three weeks ago I was walking my dog. Generally, I would go up through the Aqueduct and then walk down Pinecrest and come back by the dog park. There was aggressive behavior, a group of dogs. There were five dogs with one gentleman, a group of dogs attacking the fence. A dog jumped up onto one of the park benches, jumped over the fence and approached my dog. I have a puppy, it is not a big dog, it is not aggressive, a very non-alpha dog. Luckily that dog backed down. I had to then grab that dog because this is right by the street in Warburton, and get it into the dog park for the owner, who seemed half interested.

It is not safe for our pets. It is dirty. I watched you make an effort, I watched you put grass down, I watched you replace the fences. I watched you put nice benches in there. And now the grass is all dead, it is dirty, obviously disease is there, and the benches have holes that are two and half feet deep around them. You could not use it for your families to in there. Even if you did not know that dogs were in there all the time going to the bathroom and you walked in, you would not want to use it. That said, I know Donna, I have met her son. The minute I heard about this I was horrified, beside myself as a mother. I am engaged in the community and I do not know how we cannot address the situation.

The last point I want to make is, when you go to dog parks in the city the gates are very high, there is an entrance. There are double doors. You walk into one area, then you have to close that gate and there is another door. I am a graphic designer, my husband is an industrial designer. This park is not designed for what it is being used for right now. It is not safe, that is my point. It is emotional, and I am sorry I e-mailed some of you late at night. But as a Hastings homeowner, I think it is a very important issue to address.

Jim Metzger, 427 Warburton Avenue: I agree with pretty much everything that has been said. I am a veteran of many dog parks in the city. Dog parks can work, but only when rules are posted and enforced. Typically, they need to be enforced by the neighbors. You do not have a police officer there. But when you have the right group of people there, people that have a vested interest in the community, they tend to self-police. If someone comes in with an aggressive dog and that dog continues to be aggressive they are disinvited from the park,. People will shame them into leaving the park until they get their dog under control.

When we talked about this originally with Meg, I brought up several issues that you have already heard about: double gates, high fences. Mulch is not an appropriate base for a dog park. It gets wet with feces and urine, it is impossible to clean, it breeds all sorts of disease. You need to use river stones, something that will drain where you can pick up dog poop. The point is, dog parks can work but we have to set the groundwork correctly. Signs need to go up and, obviously, there was a sign and somebody decided I do not need a sign. No commercial use. Nobody in the city brings more than two dogs into the dog park. If you have three dogs you get to go twice because you cannot have this confluence of dogs. There was an issue in Brooklyn many years ago. Guy had his three dogs, he let them run. Everybody's favorite dogs until a toddler was wandering around and one dog decided let us go chase that. The other two dogs took after it. The dogs dismembered the child, and these were dogs that everybody in the community knew and loved. That is an example of bad pack behavior.

People need to be required to have their dogs licensed, they need to have rabies shots, the Village needs to oversee this. If there is an issue we should be able to call the police or call the Village, have someone show up, and resolve this. You do not want people getting into a fight with their dogs off leash. That is a bad situation. With reference to the noise, if the dogs are at a lower level noise will be more contained and there will be less of a chance there will be things on the sidewalk that will entice the dogs to be barking: people going by, cars, noises. I do not believe we should have a dog park in a residential area if the noise situation is such that the neighbors are going to be forced out of their homes. It is not fair. I have dogs, I have had dogs for 30 years. I love the concept of having a dog park, but we need to make sure it is kept under control.

Matthew Black, 16 Clinton Avenue: We are not talking about 69 Ravensdale, but I am here to talk about it because there is confusion about it. The article that was put out on Friday in *The Rivertowns Enterprise* got some people stirred up. Also some of the homeowners in the neighborhood then received something from the affordable housing board suggesting that there was an event tonight, an event on Saturday to tour the property.

Mayor Swiderski: Saturday at 10 a.m.

Mr. Black: And then that something would go to the Planning Board. I think this is a forum in which to discuss that. I am not against affordable housing, but what I am against is haste, a lack of transparency, and a disregard for due diligence, community support, and process. Like many of my neighbors who only heard of these efforts through the grapevine and through the cryptic notice from the committee, I am disturbed by the approach that has been taken thus far. I am concerned that an application for grant money has occurred without fully engaging the community. It hints at a covert alternative agenda.

Before any additional actions are taken, I would strongly recommend that further information be provided to all members of the community and ample time be provided to review, discuss, debate, and be heard. These questions remain. What market value will each of these new homes have, how will it show up on realtor sites, how will the character of the neighborhood remain intact, how will the homes be designed and built, with what materials? How we can be sure they will be of quality and corners will not be cut to save costs for the builder, how would the builders be vetted and selected? Given that there is a local realtor on the affordable housing board that reps the house and that there is a builder on the board suggests, and I do not want to state it, that there might be a hint of impropriety that should be investigated. People should recuse themselves from those types of activities.

Who benefits from this development? More specifically, how does the town, community and neighborhood benefit? Who makes money on the sale from Westchester County? Given that the house has been on the market for many years, why has the owner not just lowered the price to make it more affordable? Why are they holding out at \$650,000 if they cannot sell it for that? What town employees will work on the project: the Building Department, Public Works, Police and Safety? What are those costs and who will bear those costs? Who will pay the property and school taxes? Has a traffic study been conducted to assess the impact of long-term construction on Ravensdale and two high-traffic areas? Mr. Mayor and Trustee Armacost, I have spoken to you about the traffic issues on Clinton. There are already significant traffic problems there already, to have even more traffic, to have to even consider building, what roads would be blocked there? When the Saw Mill gets an accident Clinton becomes a parking lot of cars already. That is already a significant issue. Has a parking study been conducted? It may be safe to assume that an additional six or seven cars will need to park around the home. How will that be accommodated, because there is no parking on Ravensdale? If another driveway is added to the site will it be on Ravensdale, given the speed that cars fly up that hill? Would it be safe for anyone to enter or exit that driveway? Who will own the homes and the accessory apartments? Can they be resold? Who benefits from each resale? If they will be rentals, how will the management company be selected, what will be the screening and selection process, and what is the long-term plan for that property to be maintained?

What other areas were considered prior to this one? Can a map be available of all properties that are being considered? We do not know that. And if there are others why were they not developed? There is a home directly across the street from the supermarket that has been abandoned for years. Why was that not considered as an affordable home to be developed? What about the green and open space that is on that property? How will that be protected? How will the surrounding homes, mine included, be protected by the development? What about noise issues? Is the house even compliant with zoning laws, what variances will be required or requested? Is there adequate access to public utilities, and will this impact my access? Will things be shut off so that I cannot have access to public utilities?

These are only a few of the unanswered questions, and there are many more. Like my neighbors, I would recommend to the Board of Trustees, the Planning Board and all residents of Hastings that we do not move forward in haste. In fact, move no further until a balanced, bipartisan committee be put in place to explore and answer these questions. This committee should include residents in the neighborhood to ensure all voices are heard. Only some of us got that notice. Ample time must be provided to review, discuss, debate and co-create. We are not against affordable housing, but we all need to be included.

Mayor Swiderski: Again, the Affordable Housing Committee has a presentation at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. Some of those questions could be answered at that moment.

Mr. Black: That should also be made public. And not just answered, but should be posted online for people to see.

Trustee Armacost: Would you mind e-mailing your letter to me, at least. I know it will be in the minutes.

Mayor Swiderski: To the Board.

Trustee Armacost: I thought your questions were interesting. I wrote some of them down, but I would like to have them.

Mr. Black: I would be happy to. I know you are all very busy people. The thing that does frustrate me is that I email about the road, I emailed about more information about the yeshiva and got no response. It is very upsetting when people write to their Mayor, their elected officials, and they do not answer the e-mails. It is rude. So if I send an email, I would welcome a reply.

Trustee Armacost: You will get one from me.

Ann Marie Chinnery, 30 Clinton Avenue: I live just down the street. I am speaking in support of the previous speaker. There are several questions he did not address. Having lived in this neighborhood since 1966, I know the property that is being discussed has a large rocky outcropping and a very steep slope. The part of the property that is not currently developed would have to come out on the exact curve on Ravensdale, a very dangerous curve to start with. I do not know whether a safety plan has even been considered, or if members of the Board have ever looked closely at that property. I do not know whether there is an environmental survey for that property, and how removing vegetation from that property might increase the water flow to the property below at the corner of Clinton and Ravensdale. These are serious issues that might affect other people's property and homes, and I do not think you can blithely rush this through. I know affordable housing is important, but we cannot have affordable housing which usually contains many small children where their children are in danger of being hit by a car if they go out of their house too quickly. You know little kids run out sometimes, and we do not want any dead little children.

I am concerned that this property has been on the market quite a long time. I am a little concerned that the Village is supporting somebody's dream of getting \$650,000 in a property, given the slope and the traffic, that is not really worth \$650,000. I do not think the Village should be bailing out people who cannot sell their homes. There has been a home at the bottom of Ravensdale right across from Clinton Avenue that has been at least a year. What are we going to do? Go around, every house that does not sell make it affordable housing? Not so much.

Donna Erez-Navot, 328 Warburton Avenue: We moved in about a month ago, hoping this would become home for the long term. I am an attorney and a mediator so I usually speak much louder but it is not usually this emotional. It is not usually about me and my family. My brother and sister-in-law have lived here for several years and are currently trying to buy a home here. They have been renting also, living on what I have understood as the south side or the other side of the bridge. We are renting, and we are hoping that Hastings will become our home. Last Thursday, my son was standing by the park, and not in it. I was not home. I work in the city so I was far away for one of the first times. A dog, and this is only because I have heard, jumped over the fence and bit him in several locations. He required medical attention. He seems OK, which is nice. I think we are more traumatized than he is.

This is where we want to be. There are these beautiful *New York Times* articles that it is a beautiful place to live and raise your small children, and it is safe. This dog park, or area, is not safe and I think you all know that. I think you knew that before this happened. I would urge you to work with us to make it safe. I do not have a dog. I greatly dislike dogs. I was bit by a dog when I was a little girl, but we want to be part of this community and are not

against having a dog park. But it does need to be safe. The fences are extremely low. People, I understand, come that are not Hastings residents. Many people from different communities come and use it. It needs to be regulated. Close to where my parents live you need a permit to park in the parking lot near the dog park, there are gates that are formalized. Things are done in a way that makes it safe for children to be there. I want to support this community and do whatever needs to happen in order to make us be able to stay here, but I do want to feel very safe in my home. Thank you very much.

Mayor Swiderski: We want you to feel safe here, as well. I want to tell you that it will be a priority. We will address it in many ways you have described. It will be an immediate priority next year as far as a revamp. It is a little late in this year for that to happen. But there is clearly a group of committed local residents who are interested in participating in that process. We look forward to working with you to come to something you will feel safe with and that will satisfy both the residents and the users of that park, all the constituencies. We will seek to make this right, and I thank you for your words.

Trustee Armacost: Mr. Curtis, you mentioned, and madam you also mentioned, that there were a number of out of town dog walkers. That struck me as something that was important to understand better. Can you tell us more about these out of town dog walkers, how many of them there are and where they are from, and anything else that you know?

Mr. Curtis: My wife, Nancy DeNatale, can perhaps give you more. But from observation because we live right across the street, I do not care where they are from, I really do not. If it is a proper park for people and dogs I could care less where they are from. To speak to the issue, it is not so much about where they are from as their lack of responsibility. It is very clear, just by simple observation and from us trying to reason with these people who could care less what we think, say or experience, the car pulls up, the SUV. Six, seven, eight dogs under reasonable control spill out of the car into the park off leash. Magically, the second professional dog walker shows up and they do it. This does not happen once a day, this happens two or three times a day. My wife expressed some animosity about the fact that they are making money running their dogs wild in our park to our distress. I do not even care if they are making money, just behave in a civilized, appropriate manner. We have spoken to them over and over and over again to no effect whatsoever. The reason I stood up, the police have been very responsive. I took it on my personal responsibility to start making calls Saturday because people were in the park with doges off leash, notwithstanding your homemade signs. I called the police. Things were pretty quiet Sunday, but some people decided that were clever, came back with their dogs on leash, running through the park dragging their leashes around, not in line with the spirit of the attempts of this village. I am saying that to stress the gates should have been taken down Friday or Saturday. I hope and expect they will be taken down tomorrow.

I do not have any understanding whatsoever what the reluctance is. We have had verbal reluctance in our communication with certain Village officials, and nothing has happened. I gave you the anecdote about the dogs running loose with their leashes on for a reason. These people are not being reasonable. They are unresponsive, and I am still living with the problem and the fear. So please, do something. Get the gates off, let us move this thing. The Police Department has been superlative and I appreciate that.

Adam Tracy, 11 Clinton Avenue: I am also here to discuss 69 Ravensdale. I am disappointed that the Trustees voted on October 20 to apply for this funding for the Community Block Grant to fund the so-called rehab project at 69 Ravensdale and I urge that the application be withdrawn. I want to commend the handful of residents that rushed straight from the train to plead with you to postpone your vote. Many people in the Village below a certain age get their information via Facebook and e-mail, and I think it is curious that the agenda was not e-mailed until 27 hours before the meeting. Tonight's meeting, for example, was sent out Friday night around 7:30.

It was slightly disingenuous of the Affordable Housing Committee to put time pressure on the vote as their excuse for not properly notifying the neighborhood and for minimizing the consequences of applying for such an application. The neighbors were not given the application to review. The phrase "affordable housing" was used and some certain income requirements were bandied about. But if you look at the website, where it says which type of development projects are typically approved, it states communities that provide housing for low- and moderate-income people. In any case, as a few residents that knew about the vote stated last week, it was a rush vote with little or no accurate information provided other than good faith statements by the chairperson of AHC. I am also curious to find that proof of publication was noted at that meeting. I have not noticed, in some of the Trustee meetings I have watched, proof of publication was made. I mean, it made *The Enterprise*, but why were we not notified in the e-mails?

I have three concerns about this plan, and I know it is not the plan here but I am just going to say it. Half of 69 Ravensdale, as many people have said, is designated steep slope if you look at the tax records. Our Village code states that steep slopes are environmentally sensitive areas and are a valued natural resource. Later, it reads that it is in the public interest to regulate, preserve, protect and conserve steep slopes so as to maintain a protected natural terrain and its vegetative features. At the Trustees meeting I heard 69 Ravensdale called 3/4 of an acre; the listing book has it as 0.61; tax records call it 0.7. It sounds like it is plenty of space for two homes if it were a flat lot. But because it is a steep slope, my understanding is that a significant amount of the development space is reduced because of the steep slope designation. You are going to need a variance and all sorts of planning. I live at 11 Clinton.

I do not live behind it, but I live adjacent to homes that are behind it. The slope is a varied habitat. We have got trees, bees, snakes, chipmunks, squirrels and, of course, the deer all call that area home and a place to hang out. Actually, 26 Kent wraps around the east portion of that lot and it is decidedly undeveloped. So it is an area that would be far too steep, too significantly developed, without great planning and expense. It is wonderful to look at and listen to, but it is not a great place to put a 75-foot retaining wall or some pilings to level out the backyard. I believe the majority of Hastings residents do favor the continued creation of affordable housing, and I commend the AHC, the Mayor, the Trustees for their vigilance in creating the units that they have since the mandate. But we also want to preserve our greenspaces, and developing a second house with two accessory apartments on it would certainly disturb and likely change the quality of life and the property values for the owners of 9 Clinton Avenue, 26 Kent Avenue.

But my first concern is that if the grant is awarded I feel the Village may be compelled by the county, the state or whomever to create these units because they have been given the funds over other communities that might have applied. My other concern is safety, which has already been talked about, so I am going to just jump ahead to it has been on and off the market for four years, since 2010, twice for almost as long as a year. When I got the letter, or actually I did not get the letter. I am at 11 Clinton and do not know why I did not get a letter, but I did not. I notice that the stationery notes that one of the boards of the housing committee is the listing agent, the seller's agent. I am wondering if that is a conflict of interest. Then I see that a local contractor is also on the AHC, which is great except were these people present when the idea to buy this lot was discussed, did they recuse themselves from these discussions? Is there any kind of impropriety or conflict of interest? Can we see the agency disclosures that the AHC would have signed and the seller would have signed? I think it raises a lot of stuff. If other homes are not selling, as someone said, is this going to encourage people to buy the other homes, and then the seller's agent who is on the committee will sell it? It is a lot of stuff, so anyway thank you for your time.

Mayor Swiderski: While I am going to continue choosing people, I am going to ask if you are speaking about subjects that have already been discussed please focus on a unique or new point. The evening moves along, and we hear the points. So I am going to ask, if you can.

Tim Downey, 520 Farragut Parkway: When I attended the last meeting, I drew a blank at one point and forgot one of the points I wanted to raise that evening. A number of years ago, I raised an issue that I thought would be of interest to both the Village and the school board. Last week, I attended the school board meeting and reintroduced this thought that seemed to be well-received. They asked me if I was coming here, and I said yes I was going to go into further detail. That has to do with relief of parking in and around the Hillside pool area, the Chemka Pool area. Whether it is for school events, graduation or games, the neighborhood a

lot of times gets adversely affected with the overburden of parking, especially on streets like South Calumet and Hillside Avenue during the pool season.

Once upon a time, there was a discussion to do a larger parking space, an additional parking lot space, going up to the pool on the right-hand side. But that would have required a slaughter of trees, was not received by the community, and was shelved. All along, there has been solutions right behind the pool between the pool and Reynolds Field. If you drive down Farlane and you look to your right, look how deep the shoulder is, how deep the open space is. I measured the land and assessed the trees. I marked a little trail that would connect the pool to this parking space, something I think the kids would find wonderful. They would drag their parents to this little nature trail that had very little impact in terms of what would happen to the wooded area. Insofar as trees in the parking, I have a count of something like 20 trees 10 inches or less diameter at breast height, called DBH, that would be removed, mostly scrub trees. In total, when the project was complete, it would pick up 35 parking spaces head-on and six parallel; that is 41 parking spaces that could be created there to relieve some of the overburden, again, both from events at the school and at the pool. This would tie in nicely with the renovation work forthcoming on Reynolds Field.

Beautification projects. I asked the Boardmembers to look at one of my emails regarding beautification projects around the Village and another that has to do with a topic I raised some time ago about the Tree Board and its roles in the Village, and how I would like to see an upgrade to that role and what it can do to help the Village.

The final issue has to do with wanting to contribute and help and do things for the Village, then when you put forth the time and effort and you are not called upon to help, it becomes very frustrating. It takes the wind, the spirit, out of a person. This summer, I met with a Village official regarding what I had heard about parking on the side of this building here. We had a little discussion, the head of the DPW joined us. It was just a casual discussion; there was nothing immediate or pending. I thought at some point I might hear something. I did not rush down with any kind of diagrams or drawings because I figured when the time was appropriate maybe I would be contacted. Last week, I decided let me mention it just in case. I come down, and lo and behold the project was done, paved, last week. If I were a resident living across the street from this building I would almost look at that like a spite project. That is so hideous-looking, what happened out there. It gives you the most amount of spaces, but that cannot be the only criteria we are concerned with. We went ahead and did this project, and we abandoned all manner of what we try to do in this village in terms of development that require homeowners and how do you manage water off-site. You have to have the capacity to catch any water within the site. Here it goes right onto Maple Avenue. We have a percent of impervious surface requirements from the Village. People who would want to have additional parking to get off the roads for the wintertime or difficult areas, they

have to jump through a lot of hoops and paperwork. Here, we do not worry about the impervious surface, just let it run on to Main Street. This is disheartening. Anyone who would look outside and say that aesthetically enhances this Municipal Building has to check and give it some consideration. That is horrible. There are much better things we can do for this village if we take a little time, give it some serious thought, engage people who have the skill and the knowledge. Get that knowledge and information for free, and better things can come for this village.

Dan Sbrega, 57 Hillside Avenue: I got up here December 2 of last year to talk about the sidewalk situation on Hillside. I know everybody in this town has an issue with the sidewalks somewhere near their house. This one is dangerous. It seemed like we has a lot of momentum in the spring. I understand there are budgetary issues. I think there was a vote in October or there was going to be a vote in October. In the meantime, if we can ban parking on that Rosedale to Farlane stretch. It is the highest pedestrian traffic of children in this town. I wanted to reiterate this is still a grave situation, we fear.

Dave Skolnik, 47 Hillside Avenue: I saw an e-mail from Paul Feiner announcing a sidewalk program, from the Department of Transportation. It is called the TIGER program. It seems as though it has the potential to provide funds for building sidewalks, which has become a high-priority item in Greenburgh of late. So I would pass that on to you.

I do not know how to challenge what the Mayor set out at the beginning in terms of an agenda, whereby you, Mr. Mayor, were going to allow public comment and discussion on one particular item on the agenda. I do not have it right in front of me, but it was the Farmers' Market issue. Yet two other items that you all know are based on the amount of material I have sent you in the last week are both rather significant: the LED lights and the transportation plan. I am wondering why you would force me to have to make my comments based on your own discretion, to pre-imagine what you are going to discuss and make those comments at this part of the meeting instead of being able to integrate them into the context. I know there are a lot of people here, I know the meeting looks like it might go late. But I do not find that a reasonable justification for making this kind of distinction.

I have challenged you many times now at your lack of response to the emails, and not just emails but the material I have supplied you. I know it is something just slightly more or less unintelligible than most of what I end up getting here to say. But still, I got it, other than from the Mayor, only from Trustee Walker. I had some interesting exchange with Trustee Walker about some of these issues, and I sent her material. I have no idea that for the rest of you it all goes in the garbage. There is no response. Basically, though, unless you can tell me you are willing to engage in some discussion on either of those I am not going to try. But I am going to let you know, given what I have already supplied to you on these two issues,

the transportation working group and the LEDs, if you cannot find a way of incorporating a reasonable conversation within the context of a Board meeting it makes me question your sincerity.

We have already gone through the fact that it is impossible to have the exchange with the Board anywhere other than the meeting, given your concern about open meeting laws which I have also communicated with you about. I would like to get a sense of some effort on your part to be sincere and deal with these issues that are real. And just to report, I do need to hear. As someone else said, it is rude, the lack of response. I did get very curtailed responses. Mr. Frobel, if it is the contractor that is supposed to get back to me I need to hear from the contractor, but in a timely way. There is no excuse for issues like this to be left up on the air.

Bryan Allan: I was not prepared to comment here tonight, but I am appalled by your attempt to limit the public's comment. You said not long ago that people who want to say the same things that have been said before should not be said. That is entirely improper. The whole point of the public meeting like this ...

Mayor Swiderski: It was a request, Bryan.

Mr. Allan: This is my public comment period, and I intend to make my public comments.

Mayor Swiderski: If somebody wants to, they are certainly entitled. It was a request.

Mr. Allan: That request is entirely improper. If 50 people came here from the 69 Ravensdale issue and said exactly the same thing 50 times over for five minutes they would be entitled to do that, and that is the democratic process. That you would say that is improper is entirely offensive.

Mayor Swiderski: I did not say it was improper, I made a request.

Mr. Allan: Please do not do that again. This is a public forum and the public shall be heard.

Patrick Randolph Bell: Bryan covered the first thing I was going to say to you. Bryan is right, just stop. Other than that, let the people talk. This is one of the best turnouts I have ever seen in this room, and it is great. I am sorry people are having issues this week, but it is great to see public involvement. If they would like to speak, we should always let them speak on everything they would like to speak without any kind of caveat.

We just paved Main Street, and I have noticed an issue. There was an issue with so many people complaining about the fact that they did not pave the middle over again and tear it up. Right there in the firehouse, once the truck start hitting that in the wintertime it is going to get all torn up again. We should have cut that up and re-laid it. I am not sure who was paying for it, but we should have tried to get it done. One full, brand-new Main strip. We do not have any crosswalks again. I do not know how long this is going to last. Also, we do not have a stop line at the end of Main where it meets Broadway. For the last week or however long this has been, people are pulling right up to the light. Can we get out there with a can of spray paint, and a sign that says Stop Here. They are sitting in the middle of the street. Not everybody is from here and knows you should not pull that far up. A bus is going to hit somebody, we are going to have an issue.

The dog park has been a big discussion this week so; hopefully, you guys can figure it out. I am glad you are going to do something soon. In the meantime, maybe the best part is to put a second temporary giant fence around it just to keep dogs from jumping out and hurting people. Taking it down is going to make a bigger problem. Kids are going to play then, and the dogs are just going to run out into the street. There could be something bigger happen. Make it bigger for now, and then figure it out in the spring what the whole plan could be, just to keep it as safe as possible while you have a chance. But I love the fact that everybody came in and talked about this dog park. I have had dogs since I was a child. My brother has a dog now, and the dog is crazy. But we only take him to the dog park, that is the thing. You got to keep the dog on a leash. Maybe if you had a dog park where you can have them truly run off leash is something a lot of villages and towns in the world have. Maybe figure that out, that would be great for those dog owners who really do appreciate that. And other places, keep them on the leash.

The Flea Market, last week Sunday. I encourage everybody to go. I love the Flea Meeting, it is great. Ilana and her husband are expecting soon so I wish them the best of luck also. They had it? Yay. It is a boy? Hey, congratulations, guys.

I would love some real numbers on the affordable housing. It is coming up, and I have never seen for the other affordable housing such a great debate against this particular project. Perhaps this is not the best one for this particular place. It is dangerous, it is crazy over there, it could get worse. I just would love to see some real numbers on what does the county, in our settlement, say we must have. Is there a must-have? I brought this up last week and I did not get great numbers. WE have, I think, 15 currently is the number I heard. Are we doing more than we need to, are we doing less than we should? Are we just trying to be the best village of all for affordable housing? This is not necessarily a bad thing, but I just would love to know some hard numbers. Maybe that would help, in the future, what places we might use. That is a lot of nature right there. I mean, that is 3/4 of an acre and we do not

have too many spaces left with that much land. Maybe we should preserve that at the gateway to our community, coming right over that bridge.

We have this new little parking lot now, which is good. We need more spots for the police officers. But I mentioned and it was like the tree came down a few months ago. Do not worry about, we will put another tree up. Nah, you guys put up the parking lot like I thought you would. But it is good, we need more spots for our police officers, who I love.

Mr. Gonder, I will trade my two bright LED for your not-so-bright LED on my street. The last thing is, we have this issue with me and a bunch of these other people who are these graphic designers. Our Village e-mails are the ugliest things I have ever seen. The typeface is messed up. The Mayor's messages, which are great, are often all messed up. Can we get some graphics that are not from 1985? Can we get a real person doing Village emails and our Village website? I would love that because that is the face of our village.

Nancy DeNatale, 328 Warburton Avenue: I want to thank you for paying attention to the dog park issue. We have had a number of conversations during the week, and I appreciate the attention. I did come in late, and I understand that Niki had some questions about out of town use of the park.

Trustee Armacost: I thought that was quite interesting that there are out of town dog walkers and that it is being advertised as a dog park through social media and other sources and that that is attracting a group of people who are bringing dogs that are behaving as packs in the park and are being let run wild. I agree with you there is a problem, but if they are not from our village then our village is being used in a way where it absolutely should not be used. That is a serious concern, just in the same way as people who dump in the dump from other places and should not be doing that because the fees are lower. This is a similar problem for me. I wanted to understand that data point better.

Ms. DeNatale: I cannot speak to absolute specifics. I live across the street and have been over several times to ask people to calm the dogs down, to quiet them. I have also asked them why they are not using the real dog parks that are set up in a healthy, respectful way. One is less than a mile down Warburton in Yonkers. There is another big one in Greenburgh. They said you can only have three dogs per person in each of those and I cannot bring my 10 dogs with me that I walk every day. One day I was over there and there were 24 dogs in the park and 21 of them were with three people. They were clearly not being managed properly. I cannot tell you which ones were from Hastings and which were not. I do not think it is that clear. But I do know there are people that are using the park for their own personal gain financially, and are not taking care of the park and not paying attention to requests from people around the park. They are asking for better management.

Trustee Armacost: Do you have the ability to take a photograph of the license plate, where somebody comes out?

Mayor Swiderski: We cannot do anything with that. We do not run plates, that cannot be done.

Ms. DeNatale: I have thought of recording what I listen to every day. I do work at home, and there are several people along the park that work at home during the day. I did think of recording it and bringing it in see if you could work through the noise.

Trustee Armacost: People are circumventing rules from other parks by coming to this park.

Ms. DeNatale: Yes. It is also designated as a dog park, and it is not a dog park. We, as a neighborhood, have not eliminated the idea of a dog park, but we do want it to be a dog park and not a pack park and a mess and an unhealthy place to be.

Mr. Skolnik: I am thinking about all the things I have been reading about Dobbs lately with regard to the parking down at their new park, and about Irvington restricting access to their waterfront park. Can the Village, apart from whether it goes against the sensibility of restricting a space to residents only, have the capacity to apply that kind of restriction?

Mayor Swiderski: It is a question of public funding. If state or federal monies are used to revamp a park, then you cannot apply a restriction. That is not what happened in Dobbs. They did it a little differently. There is no restriction for using the park, it is on the parking. They have gotten a similar result through an alternate means. They have relaxed that somewhat. But if a park is completely funded out of local funds, you are in the position to restrict it. It is nothing we have ever considered here, and it is nothing I personally would ever consider. But that is just a personal opinion.

Mr. Skolnik: And what is the status of this one?

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know if any of the grant monies that have been received have been applied there.

Mr. Skolnik: Because ultimately, as you say, it does not matter to a lot of people that have spoken really whether they are residents or not. Ultimately, as so much in this village, it comes down to the capacity of enforcement no matter who it is. But thanks for the answer.

Ben Diep, 385 Warburton Avenue: Is there some rule that you have to have leashes whether inside the park or not, and if it is a designated dog park is that a boundary where they cannot go?

Mayor Swiderski: It is not a designated dog park, and there is a leash law in the Village.

Mr. Diep: I see. If the dog walker does not pick up is there a fine?

Mayor Swiderski: There is also a fine.

Mr. Diep: So can the police give out tickets the same way they do parking tickets?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes, if they observe it.

Trustee Apel: I have a question for Fran. Is there anything that would prevent our DPW or maintenance people from removing the gates tomorrow?

Village Manager Frobel: No.

Trustee Apel: Can we have it done?

Village Manager Frobel: Sure. They Mayor wanted to talk about this later in the evening, but if the Board would like the gate removed we can remove it. We viewed it as an extra layer of protection. We have the fence and the gate. As indicated, dogs are always supposed to be on a leash. They are allowed in all our parks on a leash. But if you would like the gate removed, and that is the intent of the Board, we can do that.

Trustee Apel: I would think it could definitely be a temporary measure and would dissuade those people that have too many dogs, until we can pass the ordinance which says you can only have three. I do not know if we have that ordinance. And until the time that we can provide a more controlled, routine observation of the park and make sure these things are going on, if we can do that, that would make me feel better if that would happen immediately. Then we can go on from there.

Mayor Swiderski: I will briefly poll the Board, but will hold off on my opinion until I hear others. Meg?

Trustee Walker: Yes, I would like to have the gate removed. It would need to have monitoring in the beginning to make sure there is not some temporary gate that is put up by the dog walkers or dogs are not running in and out of the park. But I also am of the opinion

that this dog park should be rethought. I would like to have more discussions with the community before we move ahead with making it into the dog park. We have had plans for a number of years that we have been hoping to implement, we appropriated money to implement it. But before we go forward, it would be wise to revisit the whole plan, the whole design. But it should be a priority and we should address it next spring. We can think about this this winter, have community meetings, the community can meet with the parks commission, and come to some decisions about it. Then we should move forward as quickly as possible with making the necessary changes. I long thought there should be a park there for people, and that the dog park should be a secondary use. It is important that the neighborhood have a greenspace. It does have a beautiful view, it would be used by the community once it is safe and clean. It will be a wonderful park for the neighborhood.

Trustee Armacost: I received a number of e-mails which I found shocking over the last couple of days about the situation in the park. I was appalled for you, and I think it is something that has to be addressed immediately. If a way of addressing that is to take down the gate, and you feel that is going to, at least in a temporary way, solve the problem, then I am 100 percent for it. I have been on the Board long enough that I have heard a number of discussions about the renovation of the park. It has been during a time where we were under financial duress. Maybe some of the decisions were postponed because of that. There are quite compelling arguments for the dog park part of it, or dog walk part of it if the word "dog park" is a trigger for unsavory behavior, and that it be in the southern end and creating this as a greenspace for the community should be a top priority for us. But we need a temporary solution that eases the immediate problem for people. It is a big concern to me that people are manipulating the use of this, people who live in other places, and are doing this on a commercial basis. I find that disturbing and it needs to be stopped and managed in some way. I agree with Meg that there is going to be need for monitoring. We may need some patrolling of that area in a more, perhaps, frequent basis at least for the upcoming period so people feel safe. Even making the point about why the gate is down, people can feel safe about those discussions as well. It is scary to be trying to have a conversation with somebody who has five dogs that are all barking with you. That is not an easy thing to do. So I am in agreement.

Trustee Lemons: Yes, I think we clearly need to do something, whatever is going to immediately relieve the pressure. There is probably some predictability about the timing of when people show up with multiple dogs and it seems like it is a good idea to do some patrolling at that time and give tickets. The word gets out pretty quickly that this is going to happen, and I suspect that would right away change behavior. Longer-term, it is clear just hearing what has been said tonight that there has been an evolution in the neighborhood. It is maybe not so bad that doing something has been delayed this long, and that there has been an evolution, and probably some of the expressed needs for what that park will do for the

neighborhood will be different, or a somewhat different mix of things now, than they might have been a few years ago. But it is definitely something we have to look at in the next cycle and have to do something about. It is a huge asset, and everybody in that neighborhood should have a great park there. It is criminal, too, because it is such a beautiful spot to not have it serve that function for the neighborhood.

Mayor Swiderski: Heeding my own request for not duplicating other people's words, remove the gate?

Village Manager Frobel: Sure.

Mayor Swiderski: I agree on the prioritization of this as our project for next spring. I just duplicated some thoughts, but I figured I had better be on the record.

Mr. Diep: I just had a question. There are two fences. There is a back fence, too. Is that going to also be removed, or just the front?

Village Manager Frobel: No, I was not looking to remove the fence, just the gate.

78-15 RENEWAL OF INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH TOWN OF GREENBURGH AND VILLAGES OF ARDSLEY, DOBBS FERRY, ELMSFORD, IRVINGTON AND TARRYTOWN TO CONTINUE TOWN WIDE SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT) UNIT

Village Manager Frobel: We have been partners with our neighbors for the last several years. In keeping with our philosophy of joining resources, this is in keeping with the idea that such specialized training, while not needed on an ongoing basis fortunately, is available to all of us to share. Hastings has one officer in this group of 30 policemen that are trained as SWAT members, and we are looking to have you renew this business relationship with our neighbors. We are reimbursed for our expenses. That could range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenburgh and the village police departments have a number of officers specially trained and equipped to rapidly respond to situations where the use of specialized weapons, equipment and tactics would provide an advantage over the weapons, equipment and tactics that are normally employed by

uniformed police officers, thereby helping to ensure an overall favorable outcome to the event; and

WHEREAS, the village police departments remain committed to having member(s) of their departments participate in this specialized unit; and

WHEREAS, the participation of the village police departments in this specialized unit ensures that an adequate number of specially trained and equipped officers are on duty at any hour of the day to rapidly respond to any incident occurring within the town and villages to effectively mitigate situations that pose a serious risk to the public safety and at which their specialized weapons, equipment and tactics, would provide an advantage over the weapons, equipment and tactics normally employed by uniformed police officers; and

WHEREAS, police personnel from the villages have been participating with town officers in this specialized unit and the town, through its town entire budget, has provided funding for the purchase of weapons and equipment and for reimbursement of training costs associated with the participation of town and village officers in the unit since 2006; and

WHEREAS, an Agreement is necessary to provide officers in the unit with the authority to make arrests for minor offenses related to and occurring during SWAT operations that take place outside their geographical area of employment and to protect each participating municipality from liability arising out of acts or omissions not attributable to their personnel; and

WHEREAS, the original Inter-Municipal Agreement was executed in 2008 and pursuant to General Municipal §119-n (2) (j), such Intermunicipal Agreements may only be in effect for up to five years; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson authorize the Village Manager to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement, subject to the approval of the Village Attorney as to form, with the Town of Greenburgh and the

Villages of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Irvington and Tarrytown to continue the town-wide Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit composed of police officers from the Town of Greenburgh and the six villages, aimed at providing rapid, specialized responses to tactical situations occurring throughout the town and its six villages, where the specialized weapons, equipment and tactics provided by the unit would afford an advantage over the weapons, equipment and tactics normally employed by uniformed police officers.

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

79:15 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW G OF 2015 TO MODIFY PROVISIONS FOR PROHIBITED PARKING ON FLOWER AVENUE

Village Manager Frobel: This comes as a suggestion from the neighbors living on that street, affirmed by the Safety Council, looking to move the no parking sign about 44 feet closer to the entrance to the synagogue, preventing approximately two cars from parking on that area.

Mayor Swiderski: This is what was raised at the last meeting?

Village Manager Frobel: Yes.

Mayor Swiderski: It seems sensible.

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

RESOLVED: that the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law G of 2015 amending Article IX Parking, Standing and Stopping of Chapter 282 Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the Village of

Hastings-on-Hudson, Section 282-25 A(77) to modify the provisions for prohibited parking on Flower Avenue.

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

80:15 SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW H OF 2015 TO ADD A HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 41 MARION AVENUE

Village Manager Frobel: This comes from a recommendation from a homeowner living at that location, affirmed by our Safety Council and the Police Chief, looking to have a public hearing set to create an additional handicapped parking space.

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 schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter to consider the advisability of adopting Proposed Local Law H of 2015 amending Article IX Parking, Standing and Stopping of Chapter 282 Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Section 282-27 to add a handicapped parking space in front of 41 Marion Avenue.

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

VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Frobels: I wonder if I could jump to the LED installation because that was going to be my principal conversation tonight. I have asked the contractor to be here to answer some questions the Board may have as to how that project is moving forward. The project has moved along nicely. We are probably at 85 percent complete.

Robert Craig, Lumen Light Solutions LLC: Ninety-nine percent complete. Maybe even saying we are substantially complete outside of a handful of fixtures and some things we need to go over. We have been working so nicely with you, Fran; we are going to go over some things that we found that we have to get some clarification on.

Village Manager Frobels: Tell us about the experience you have had in the community as you have gone about the process, and summarize any upsets, any concerns that you have encountered, the materials, supply, inconvenience with traffic or parking.

Mr. Craig: No, the project went beautifully. The only complaint we had was the amount of hills we encountered, but there is certainly not much we can do about that. But the project went great, it was wonderful working with you folks, and I think it went very smoothly. We were received very well by the people. We did not have any problems with anybody on the streets, and it was a great experience.

Village Manager Frobels: A number of people have brought to our attention concerns about the light direction, the angling, the brightness. The company has been responsive to those needs. In those occasions where a shield would help we will look at that. We are going on a case-by-case basis, addressing a lot of the concerns that have been brought to our attention.

Mayor Swiderski: The list you have, has it been addressed?

Village Manager Frobels: We are working on it. There are 20 or so, maybe more, homeowners that have asked us for special attention.

Heather Cuffel, Lumen Light Solutions LLC: About 15 to 20 people have asked for some special looking at their lights to determine if a house shield would assist or if it is the positioning of the light. Rob and I were looking at some of them tonight, and we will follow up on the remainder.

Village Manager Frobels: There were a couple that we thought adjusting the arm would help. Our crews have done that. In one case we satisfied the homeowner, in the other not quite so. We are going to be looking at it on ongoing basis, one by one addressing concerns.

Trustee Armacost: Were concerns mostly about too bright or not bright enough, or were they about the way in which the lights were positioned vis-à-vis windows?

Village Manager Frobel: No, the consistency was complaints on the brightness. Too bright. There were a few that were appreciative of the brightness of the light and complimentary of the fixtures. But most of them were too bright. That was the concern, whether it was shining too directly into their home.

Mayor Swiderski: I get cc'd on all the LEDs, and I would say most of them were the light was spilling into the person's house.

Trustee Armacost: So Mr. Gonder is in an unusual position in thinking that it is not bright enough.

Village Manager Frobel: Again, we try to go one by one. For example, his is the last home on a dead end. There is not even a cul-de-sac. So he would have a light that is not as bright as, say, at an intersection or where other streets meet. We can take a look at his concern. Part of what we are learning is that if your home faces the lamp the shield is probably not going to help. We are going to need to see how that can be addressed if, in fact, it needs to be corrected, if that is the word.

Trustee Lemons: Is it possible to go to a lower brightness light in some of those situations if a shield does not help?

Ms. Cuffel: The lights that you are using predominantly are the equivalent of a 70-watt high-pressure sodium, which is a 38-watt LED fixture. That is the lowest that the roadway lighting industry produces so it is the lowest there is. When we drove the municipality tonight, there may be some places where the arms might be adjusted because of the way the arm is positioning the light. But generally speaking, the lights are performing as expected as far as lighting adjacent and not backlighting as high-pressure sodiums will. As far as the brightness, when you look at the orange glow of the high-pressure sodiums versus a white LED or your regular moonlight, if you were looking at a street that had a well-lit moon, your eyes will interpret it as brighter. As the high-pressure sodiums age they get dimmer and dimmer very quickly. A high-pressure sodium that is three, four years old it is not casting out even half as much light as intended. It is just barely a little glow in the sky. When you replace that with an LED, the comparison will be quite bright to the eye at the beginning.

Mayor Swiderski: What happens to LEDs over time?

Ms. Cuffel: They will slightly dim, but I think these have a rating of 85 percent efficiency in 18 years. So they will be 85 percent as bright as they are now in 18 years.

Mr. Craig: And they do not have the drop lenses. The drop lenses get a lot of dirt on them. They also get bugs and whatnot in the high-pressure sodiums. These do not even have a lens so bugs and the dirt are not going to be as much of a factor as a high-pressure sodium or HVM lighting would.

Trustee Walker: When Mr. Gonder asked his question about the lack of brightness on his light, it made me wonder if a high-pressure sodium may not be as bright but casts a broader pool of light. Does it cover a bigger area than the LED? And, in fact, is his concern not that of brightness, but of coverage.

Mr. Craig: The photometrics and the ISO curves on a high-pressure sodium fixture are different. They are not necessarily better. The ISO curve on the light is a reading of what the light looks like once it is down on a roadway surface. They plot it down, and it looks like an oval or a misshaped glob that goes on the road. LED lights and the lights we propose have a purpose of trying to light the roadway and the sidewalks. The additional lighting, if there would be additional lighting, our lights fit those ISO curves. We match the lights we are trying to replace, and lay over the ISO curve on top of the one we are trying to replace to make sure the lighting is going to be equal or better. Some of the lighting that people miss is the fact that the high-pressure sodiums maybe throw light where you do not want light. It throws it too far forward and throws the light too far back, which is backlighting which tends to light people behind the light. It is not the purpose of circle lighting, and that is some of the lighting that are like I used to be able to see my front door and now it is not lit anymore. The purpose is not to light people's front doors, it is to light sidewalks and streets and that is what these fixtures do much better than the high-pressure sodiums.

Trustee Apel: John maybe needs another lamp further down the road to light up the area he is concerned about. You are not going to put in a different type of lighting. We asked for light that is directed more down and not out.

Trustee Apel: I was at somebody's house the other night and when I went out of their house and could see the light on the corner it was very bright. You did not want to look up. You did not want to look down the street because it was so bright. I do not know if that is good or bad. It was just unusual because you did not want to look up. So it is bright, but I think everybody has to get used to it. Also, with the change in the time and it is darker more people are noticing the lights are going on sooner.

Trustee Lemons: The comparison to moonlight is good because that is exactly what it is like. It is like the light on a bright moon. In fact, I have been fooled a few times, looking out my window thinking there is a full moon tonight.

Trustee Apel: No, it is very nice.

Ms. Cuffel: And ironically, we started installing these during a full moon.

Village Manager Frobel: Heather, you were working on an analysis to show us the reduction of our carbon footprint. Have you been able to generate some of those numbers?

Ms. Cuffel: Based on 160,000 kilowatt hours of electricity that you are going to save, you will save 110 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of what a 90-acre forest would be required to cure.

Village Manager Frobel: Substantial. And our estimated savings in electricity? I know we went into this with that thought.

Ms. Cuffel: It is about \$30,000 a year.

Village Manager Frobel: Any final comments you would like to offer?

Ms. Cuffel: It has been a pleasure to work you with you and your staff. You handle your municipality very well in terms of addressing comments and making sure we get them. We have been working with Fran, and going back and forth on the best way to address them. Some of your constituents may feel some of that takes time, and maybe they feel it takes too much time. But sometimes it does take time to take a look at each situation and figure out what the issue is and what the best solution is.

Trustee Armacost: Those metrics you provided were interesting. Are we going to be getting them on a quarterly basis, or what is the plan for getting updates on the metrics?

Ms. Cuffel: Now that we are done with the installation, we will go back and reconcile your Con Ed database. Your billing comes through in terms of kilowatt hours in a database that is based on your inventory of lights. That will get set when we reconcile your lights, and that should not fluctuate. Over the term of the five-year financing you have, we will work with Fran to continuously monitor that and make sure it does stay status quo.

Trustee Armacost: So that will be the baseline, that moment? You will set the moment, and then you will report to us on some kind of basis after that?

Ms. Cuffel: Certainly.

Mayor Swiderski: Where are you off to next in terms of communities around us?

Ms. Cuffel: We are about halfway through Irvington, about three-quarters through Elmsford. Then we are going to be starting Dobbs Ferry and Tarrytown, and Greenburgh was the last of your neighbors to come on board.

Mr. Skolnik: I would appreciate it if, while the representatives are still here, you make sure they know who I am, because I am going to be in touch with them.

Mayor Swiderski: If you have not met Mr. Skolnik, this is David Skolnik of Hillside Avenue, near the school.

Mr. Skolnik: I am the one who wants to hear from you right away. Thank you.

Mayor Swiderski: Absolutely.

Village Manager Frobel: The Board is familiar with the experience we have gone through over the years in developing Riverview Park. Kendra Garrison has made several presentations to the Trustees over time as to our vision. I attended a number of meetings with the neighbors as we have worked over the years to develop a vision for the park, realizing it would be shared between large dogs, small dogs and people. We submitted the program for a grant funding. We were optimistic we would be funded for a lot of the work to be done. It is a very expensive proposition. The working estimate we had was around \$100,000. We used as a model the Greenburgh facility. We also visited some other facilities to get a notion as to how we wanted this park to look. In the operating budget, the Board did decide money for improvements. Kendra and her staff of one full-time park employee and three seasonal had made some improvements. The park is better looking today than it was even two years ago. But \$10,000 in the operating budget does not go a long way, and with limited staff she has not been able to do much work this summer.

That is not to say it has been forgotten, but it is important to remember that it is a not a dog park. People have used it as such, but the animals are always to be on a leash like in any of our parks and they are to clean up after their pet. We will do a better job monitoring it, we will take the gate down, but we are still committed to turning it into an enjoyable experience for everyone to visit. We do not want to be defensive on this. We understand how important that park is and it is a lovely site. Kendra is here tonight. She has been talking to the Parks Commission over these years, keeping them informed with our plans for the park. But if

there is going to be a delay in our plans, then we will have to discuss that during the budget process because \$10,000 every year is not going to make a difference in developments.

Trustee Armacost: I agree.

Trustee Walker: I thought we allocated a bigger chunk of money in the past year, like \$25,000, to speed things up.

Village Manager Frobel: The \$25,000 in the operating budget under "other projects" are for other things. Only \$10,000 was for this facility. Some of it was going to go to the Sugar Pond building, Draper Park stairs we intend to redo, we knew there was some work we wanted to do at Zinsser Park. We had a series of little projects we tried to do through the operating budget.

A final note, we have finished our road resurfacing program for this season. We do have striping to do on Main Street. You need to let the asphalt cure a little before you go into that process. But I assure you, where Main Street meets Broadway there is a sign that tells the motorists where to stop, although there is not a stop bar painted in the pavement. Mike will be working on all that for us over the next several days.

Mayor Swiderski: You will have to approach the mic. It is not our custom to allow this. But go ahead.

Mr. Black: With the paving there are some significant potholes on the Jackson Avenue-Ravensdale Bridge. I do not know if you are aware of that.

Village Manager Frobel: We are aware of that, yes. We are working with the State of New York on that project.

BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

1. Report on Downtown from Downtown Advocate

Mayor Swiderski: I am asking that the Downtown Advocate, Barb Prisant, break her downtown report into three pieces. One is s the lead-in on the holiday activities this year around shopping downtown. Then I am going to ask her to speak to some of the items after we cover the Farmers' Market. Then finally, a longer Downtown Advocate report will schedule for a subsequent meeting, where we talk in greater detail about the next weeks. This is an attempt to set up the discussion around the Farmers' Market.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Here is what is already planned for the holiday season. The first event is a new event. It is going to take place on November 21, the Saturday before Thanksgiving weekend. It is called Meet the Merchants. I hope this will become an annual event. I will be leading a downtown tour of the shops and businesses from 12 to 2 p.m. We will gather at the VFW and then do a loop, where people can wander it on their own if they prefer. Old-timers are welcome, too, of course. Many of the old-timers are not familiar with some of the new stores in town so it fits for everyone that wants to join in.

The idea is that we will go on this tour and shopkeepers will welcome us, introduce themselves, give a little information about their store. I have invited Lindsay Taylor to provide some historical information about the location or join us. There will be noshes at every store, coupons, special sales. It is a way to make the connection for people who might not have ventured into some of the stores in our town. The idea came from Fonda at Suburban Renewal, so I thank her for that. The response from the other shopkeepers has been terrific, and the couple of the restaurants. We are up to at least 12 to 14 people who are joining in on this from the business perspective. I hope the public joins us, too.

On Saturday, November 28, there is a national event called Small Business Saturday that American Express runs. As we did last year, we are going to publicize this because many of our shops participate. On this one day, if you stop in any three stores and use your American Express card you get \$10 back. It is a day you can shop in town.

Mayor Swiderski: Per store.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: I believe it is per store. For one item you get \$10 back. So you can save 30 extra dollars on that day by using your American Express card.

Friday, December 4 will be the night of the holiday Friday Night Live. We light our tree, and we will have another Village Crawl that will benefit our Food Pantry, which is in need of our support and appreciative we are doing this again. Last year we raised over \$1,700 for them. Many businesses will be staying open late, including the Upstream Art Gallery and D. Thomas Fine Miniatures. Some shops will be running sales that evening, and we are getting a great response from the restaurants again, many of whom are offering different food and drink this time. That is another event tied into the holiday lights Friday Night Live.

Lastly, on December 17 we will have a Shop and Drop movie night. I am working with the Rec Department. They are going to show *Elf* from 6 to 8 p.m. You can drop off your son or daughter and shop or dine in the downtown. If you come back with a receipt for the evening showing that you did participate in something or made a purchase you can get your refund of the \$5. The shops know about this and are planning stay open late, many of them.

There is one other initiative, and I want to thank Fran and Susan for the work they did on this, which was postponing the filming of *Girl on the Train* in our town, which was supposed to take place, according to them and their agenda, during a peak holiday shopping day. We worked with them, and thanks to their back and forth that has been pushed to January for the most part. That is important, and the merchants appreciate it very much.

Trustee Armacost: Remind us again the name of the film?

Downtown Advocate Prisament: *Girl on the Train*. They will be filming on Sunday, November 15 around the train station, and that is the late afternoon or early evening, I believe, on Washington and the train station. In front of the Roadhouse on Warburton and that area will be pushed to January. I thank everyone for their conscientiousness about that.

There are two shop-local messaging campaigns we will be doing. The first is a social media campaign, called Shop Hastings First. I have put all the downtown businesses into a hat, all their names. We will be randomly picking them one at a time and posting a did-you-know post that this shop exists and has these special features. It will have photographs and a description. The first one is Global Offerings, and we did that photo shoot and description today. That will go online tomorrow. This is a way to help spread the word about the treasures that exist here. I am going to post it on the Destination Hastings Facebook page and I will share it on other social media sites.

Secondly, the holiday shopping gift guide, Peter, that you have put out every year in your email. We will have that again, we are updating it right now. We are also going to put it on card stock, with the Shop Hastings First tag line, and we will have those to distribute throughout the businesses and markets in town throughout the holiday season. That is in production, and it might be a nice segue back to the next discussion.

2. Farmers' Market Request for Use of Municipal Building Parking Lot

Mayor Swiderski: I am going to run this a little differently than sometimes we run these Board discussions. I want to step through my thoughts on this topic. The way to most cleanly move through this is for me to pitch something up, have the audience react to it, if they wish, and then the Board choose to either vote or offer alternatives to it.

Thank you, Barbara, for filling us in on those activities around the holidays. The request before us is part of a process where the Farmers' Market asks for the use of the Municipal Building parking lot and the right to hold the market on certain days. We put the market through this process twice a year, once for the summer season and once for the winter

season. I have served on this board now for approaching 17 years. That represents almost 100 percent overlap with the Farmers' Market's lifespan. We have had the pleasure of watching the Farmers' Market grow from a startup to, arguably, the most successful market in lower Westchester. I have not been to the ones in northern Westchester so I cannot say all of Westchester, but I would not doubt it.

Over a thousand people shop at the market every week and it draws hundreds into the Village. Many of those shop downtown. The Board has supported the market without fail since the very beginning. The market's rise has not come without accommodations and changes to try to ameliorate the impact the market has on the surrounding community and stores. They have hired a traffic monitor, put carts at the commuter parking lot so people can bring their goods back and forth, and tried and implemented a range of other ideas to try to minimize their impact, working actively with the Village to do so. We applaud those efforts. The last 17 years have been tough on a number of merchants. With the rise of the Internet, changing demographics, rising rents, Ridge Hill and other factors both outside and somewhat within our control, many have struggled.

This has been an issue of concern for this Board for the past five years, and we have tried a variety of things, to limited effect, most recently hiring Barbara Prismament as a downtown advocate to try to address a set of issues we hope, over time, will help. Our downtown merchants' success is our collective success. Open storefronts are small wounds you do not want to suffer long. We work to prevent them from happening, and are now seeking to fill them as they do. This is a painful slog, with lots of ideas from lots of quadrants and only so much ability to execute. One of the dates the market requested was December 19, which is the Saturday before Christmas. It is the single busiest and most important shopping date for many of the downtown merchants. In some cases, it their Black Saturday, where they move into a profitable position for the year.

At the last meeting, I reacted when I saw that date with some concern that the market could impact the parking in midafternoon when the downtown merchants' business should be at its peak. My concern was that of someone responsible for squaring the circle of multiple constituencies. I am a huge fan of the market, as anyone at the market knows. I am there virtually every week. For the last four months, we have set up a table there where people can approach me and other members of this Board with concerns and questions. So not only do I like the market, but I have made myself an informal part of it. I am also dedicated to the downtown merchants and am pained by their struggles, rejoice in their successes, and am eager to cycle through ideas with our Downtown Advocate in a perennial search of implementable ones that work.

Finally, I know how many people enjoy and count on the market, and know that they enjoy that moment like I do. Therefore, since I am the one who broached the subject, it is on me to propose a solution to it. I propose that we confirm the Farmers' Market request for all their dates as requested and where requested. I will add that this is the 16th year where that has happened, without fail. The only outdoor space suitable for the market is the municipal parking lot, for a host of reasons belabored over years. It is difficult to imagine a set of circumstances where it would be moved elsewhere, in my opinion. I am proposing the market close one hour earlier that day, at noon. I am also proposing that the Village work with the market on a set of ideas, that we proposed and they have as well, to bring visitors to the market into the Village on that very important shopping day to help our merchants to a successful holiday. Barbara will speak to some of those ideas after I am finished.

I recognize that Farmers' Market merchants come far and wide to attend, as do customers. There will be two months to prepare those merchants and customers with a simple message: we are closing an hour earlier that day. It is hardly unusual to change store hours during special days, including holidays, and this is no different. I am a betting man and will bet that no Farmers' Market merchant will have a bad day, that day, on account of that lost hour. Meanwhile, the many customers of the market will still have a market to shop at. They will be heartily welcomed downtown to our many fine shops that day to enjoy an hour extra of shopping. I recognize this is a somewhat Solomonic exercise except that I am no Solomon and this is not a baby. This invests a compromise that may not leave everybody happy, which means I am probably doing the right thing.

I am going to ask anyone in the public who wants to speak to address the Board, and then I am going to ask the Board to either vote or exhibit any changes they want to what I proposed.

Pascale Le Draoulec, Farmers' Market Manager: I feel like we are always the ones making the compromise. I do not see how the shopkeepers are compromising anything that day. I also want to point out that you are talking about struggling businesses. Our vendors also struggle. We have, intentionally this year because we have heard you and you have told us that they are struggling, sidestepped every single holiday for the winter market so all of our vendors who usually do really well on Easter weekend or Valentine's Day weekend or Mothers Day weekend are now going to be making a lot less money. Now, cutting one-fourth of the market on the busiest market for them in the winter, as they only have two markets that day and plan production and grow in greenhouses according to how much they think they will sell, those things already having been planted, our vendors are making less money than they used to. Now when we are cutting off major holidays and then telling them, we are cutting down your hours, markets, just like the stores in our downtown compete.

The farmers' market world has become incredibly competitive. All you have to do is go upriver to Pleasantville and you will understand what I am talking about. They have already taken many of our vendors, they have told them we have many more shoppers, we have a town that supports their market and does not do this kind of thing. I worry you are eroding our spirit and the quality of our market if you continue to ask us to make concessions. At the beginning of the summer I met with Barbara, she said we have got to work together. We came up with a plan, we came up with all these creative ideas. I did not see any creativity coming from the town towards us to see how we can work together; I saw us doing all the effort, spending money on the shopping carts, doing all these things we are happy to do. We have invited the town merchants to come and promote. You know how advantageous it is to come and promote your issues and your concerns. Nobody has taken us up on this. After awhile, this gets really one-sided, it feels very one-sided, and it feels like no matter what we do like closing an hour early to me seems like a token gesture you are throwing out there. But if you sit down and talk to the vendors who benefit from the hundreds of people we send their way every Saturday, they are upset about that.

Why take away an hour of foot traffic on the busiest day of the year? It makes no sense. There are so many Saturdays I stand at the top of the stairs near Avi's tent and watch the flow of people going up Spring Street, making a left on Warburton, a right on Warburton and going to shop. It defies logic that this is working against a handful of people. I do not understand why we keep catering to the same people and not listening to us saying we have done everything we can possibly do and now you are seriously impacting the future of the market if you keep chipping away at the success of our vendors. There is too much competition, there are too many farmers' markets out there. Every single day I get a call from somebody who says I am being courted by this market, do you know anything about them? It has become highly competitive. Just like your downtown merchants, we have the same problems.

You need to listen to us. You need to not think that we are so strong and so successful, and so good and so happy and so upbeat all the time, that we can just keep on taking it. We just cannot. We have people who are volunteers who get up at six in the morning and schlep crates, and this is demoralizing for these people. We have a hard time getting volunteers anymore. The last three weeks, I have moved the music, I have moved the pizza truck. We have a farmer who has now had to rearrange his entire stall because of the neighbors across the street who continue to complain on a weekly basis, as you know, every week. I try to make them happy, I move the music, I move something. For three weeks in a row I have moved the music tent. My poor farmer has had to rearrange his stall three times. Imagine if you went to one of your downtown merchants and said for today you are going to have to rearrange your whole store because it is just not working for us. Yet we do this kind of thing week after week after week.

The people have spoken and have told you please do not mess with this. It is a good thing, we do not believe the merchants are struggling because of us. I can read you all the comments, and I am sure you have read them. People are telling us they are shopping downtown and we have provided statistics. Yet from you and these town merchants, we have gotten nothing. Give me proof, show me your till, show me your receipts, show me no one is coming in to your store. It is hard to believe when you stand at the top of the stairs and see the hundreds of people going downtown that they are not wandering into the stores.

Mayor Swiderski: So you disagree with the noon, I assume.

Ms. Le Draoulec: I also just have to say this. We have so many people who come from so far away I do not know how I am going to the word out to these people. People who come from Norwalk, people who come from Nyack, people who come from the city they are not all on our Facebook page, they are not on my e-blast. So how do I tell them? What if they drive an hour and a half to get here because they love this market just as the trucks start pulling out of the driveway and this is where they were going to do their big shop right before the holiday? Also, we will not have a supermarket in town now that week. The market closes for three weeks after that day, so this is our last hurrah. This is a big day for us. Plus, we have two farmers who drive literally five and a half hours each to get to the market. So to drive five-and-a-half hours for a market that is only three hours long they probably will not come, and those are our greens vendors. Everybody wants that day fresh baby greens, organic greens for their holiday table. I am not a big fan of this decision.

Michelle Veyvoda, 70 Flower Avenue: I sat here for almost two and a half hours just to talk on this topic. I was really surprised when I heard that this was up for a debate. For our family and all of our friends, we love that market so much. We utilize it the way the Village would want us to. We go every week. We walk with our kids in the strollers and walk through town afterwards. I signed the petition that was going around, and I read it carefully. I read a lot of the comments that people wrote. Hastings Velo made a comment saying they definitely see increased foot traffic and increased people coming into their store on Saturdays. A couple weeks ago was the first time I used the place where you can store your vegetables and fruit while you go shopping. The Veggie Valet, I used it when I had an armful of pumpkins and squash and could not carry them around. I heard you talk about all the steps you have taken to address some of the issues and make it easier for people to shop. I think they are working, and it might seem simple to just cut an hour off the market, but it is important to think of how it is affecting the farmers, as well. They are traveling from far distances for us, to serve us, so we can have access to all this great food and the communal atmosphere it creates. It is also important to note that I am an hour late out the door and I miss the market that day because it closes an hour early, I am just going to go to Irvington

the next day or wherever the next one is, I am going to go to Chappaqua and then I am going to shop there. I would love to see some data, evidence, that there is reduced shopping on Saturdays before we make any decision like this. I am curious to know if all this supposed reduced shopping on Saturdays is anecdotal or if it is reality.

Mayor Swiderski: One Saturday. We are not talking about all Saturdays.

Ms. Veyvoda: But why?

Mayor Swiderski: For the reasons stated, that it is the Dec. 19. I want to be clear that it is the reduction of one day out of the year on Saturday for one hour.

Ms. Veyvoda: I understand that. I am concerned as to where it could lead in the future, but a very articulate case was just made about why even that one hour on that one day could harm the relationship between the farmers' markets and the vendors. Maybe I have not seen the right data, maybe I have not seen the same information you have. But I am wondering if this is just some concern that people are talking about there in the zeitgeist but there is no real evidence or foundation for it. Or if there is hard facts that you can show us that there is this concern and we really do need to close an hour earlier for the sake of our local stores. . I would just like to see the evidence behind that.

David Shapiro, 6 Amherst Drive: I am going to take the opposite tack. I have been active and am on the Downtown Collaborative committee.

Mayor Swiderski: Could you give a minute on what that is?

Mr. Shapiro: Sure. It is a committee that was formed about two years ago was it, chaired by Meg Walker and Susan Maggiotto, who is not chairing it but is an active part of it. It is a volunteer committee of people who have been trying to address the downtown issues. I echo what this woman said about there being a lack of data to support the argument that the Farmers' Market helps or hurts the downtown merchant. Based on the conversations that I have heard, I have heard very few conversations to the effect that the Farmers' Market helps the downtown. Most of the conversations are quite the opposite. In addition to which, from what I can gather from the conversations about the Village's efforts to work with the downtown merchants on a variety of issues including garbage removal which is a whole other deal, it seems to me, based on the meetings that I have attended over the last two years, that were the Board to approve this request the storeowners would see it as a lack of commitment to them, and that has been part of the problem in gaining their cooperation to deal with certain efforts. I would not urge the Board to grant this request.

Mayor Swiderski: Do you mean 1 o'clock or 12 o'clock? Which proposal?

Mr. Shapiro: I would not grant the whole day if the feeling is that it is going to damage the downtown.

Mayor Swiderski: The request is for a set of days for the whole winter, both indoor and outdoor. We are going to vote on the entire package of days, with the modification that I have proposed.

Mr. Shapiro: But again there has been no objective data, not as far as I know. But every conversation I have had has had the tone that I mentioned.

Mr. Tracy: I want to also voice my support for the Farmers' Market and my lack of support for any changes to it. You should give them what they are asking for, especially as Pascale is saying that the Farmers' Market is in jeopardy from losing some of the merchants. I have only lived here for about six and a half years, Saturday at the Farmers' Market is when we go, wow, I have never seen any of these people before. I am here every day, I am self-employed. But who are these people? It is like you see the whole town and it is like Friday Night Live except there are crepes and other things. Then I go with my little kid and we thumb through 45s. I explain to my kid that there used to be these things called records, Clockwork Records, and then I go and get a haircut. We go to Sakura Garden. That is what I do.

Monday and Tuesday, a lot of the restaurants are closed. Saturday is like the day. There is Chelsea's, Penny Lick, Clockwork Records, Sakura, Slices Pizza Grill. I do not frequent many others. But for me, if there is any chance, and I think she is not being disingenuous at all, if she really believes she is going to lose her merchants and possibly lose the Farmers' Market down the road, that is a disaster for this town. For me, that is like town hall, that is the main draw to me for that town. That is the hub. If that is what they want, and I feel for the merchants I am sorry, people go where they want to go, they go where they want to buy stuff they want. If you do not have it you have to change your plan. A standup comedian, if they are not laughing it is not the audience's fault. The comedian has to alter his act. I go to the shops that I go to because they have got the things I want. I do not see why we cannot come out of the Farmers' Market and then keep going into the town just like we do with Friday Night Live. There is a real sense of community at Friday Night Live and I love Friday Night Live, and why can we not have that. There could be people, volunteers, like we are at Disney World with people guiding them gently. But I would not mess with them only because she is saying that. I do not think she would be saying that if it was not true.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: It is complex. I am standing here to advocate against absolutes. If, in fact, Pascale is facing some last straws then that is something we have to hear and take seriously, just as many of our merchants face last straws week in and week out, some of them, with their businesses. Some are thriving, but they are at all different points.

It is true that we had a terrific meeting. At the beginning of the year Pascale and I and Sue Smith were very thoughtful, as were the merchants. I represented suggestions and they represented suggestions back to me. They created this Veggie Valet, which has been very helpful and appreciated. We need to do more of this. The merchants have asked me to do a survey and make it anonymous so people are not afraid and no one will say it is this group or that group. But everyone can say what they think about how the market does or does not affect their business, because that is one aspect of this. But in no way, shape or form is any business in this town claiming the market completely affects the success or failure of their business. To the Mayor's point that he has raised approving the entire year except for one hour on one day I am not minimizing because I hear what Pascale is saying. However, I want to keep it in perspective.

The downtown businesses are of a different nature than the market business. The market merchants are not from here, but they come here and they enhance our village. The downtown businesses are here day in and day out, providing services and good for our community. They both add value in different ways. There are things I will address after that we can do to create that feeling that Adam was mentioning about getting everybody downtown from the market. They have been working towards that. The main thing is that it is not an either/or situation and there are ways to maximize both. Even on that day, if you vote for this compromise of an hour, there is still a way to maximize both the market and the downtown. I will address that afterwards, but it is complex. When we start talking about absolutes we lose the issue at hand.

Trustee Armacost: Are you in favor of Peter's solution? Do you think that will make a difference to the merchants? Or is the merchants' position that they do not want anything happening that day?

Downtown Advocate Prisament: There are merchants that see the value of having the market and the foot traffic, and some of them have signed the petition and have expressed to me that they would like to not see any change or only a change in terms of a compromise in the hours. There are other merchants that are concerned about the traffic. If they saw a large percentage of marketgoers come in to their own shop, and these are some people for whom maybe it is not the same fit people think it is, they would be thrilled. But they do hear from some customers who say that parking downtown on that day can be difficult and sometimes they put it off. December 19 is not a day they want anyone to put off shopping in their

stores. I think they would be in favor of an hour compromise if it does not jeopardize too much on either side. I think yes, there is support for that, but it did not come from them. Nobody in the business community downtown was trying to get in the way of the market. This was a concern. But I think the Board brought it up, based on feedback over time. The December markets have only gone this late for the past three years. There is a long history of them not, and in the past few years some of them have felt it has been a little struggle on that day in terms of the traffic. That is what we are talking about here. We are talking about parking, we are talking about traffic. It is not a simple answer because different businesses feel differently. But some of them will be glad to see a slightly shortened hour if it can work for everybody, yes.

Trustee Armacost: You are saying this change of taking that day later in the month was initiated three years ago.

Downtown Advocate Prisement: It is 2012, '13 and '14 that a second date was added. I looked it up with Susan. It used to be just the first weekend in December. I understand Pascale is building a business. When you build a business and you set parameters for your merchants and you have worked hard to cultivate that it is hard to change it. But the Mayor was proposing an idea of making an adjustment that maybe has not been so perfectly easy for the last three years from of the businesses, not all of them. None of them raised their hand to interfere in what we are going to add in to this process.

Trustee Armacost: They could not because it came up now.

Downtown Advocate Prisement: But unfortunately, I understood the market's desire to get feedback. The way it was put out and positioned it looked like that is what happened. Honestly, it was not. The merchants here want to be as beloved as the market is and I see no reason for them both not to be.

Lauren Casper, 1 Devon Way: I am going to try hard not to sound grumpy, but I am, for the simple reason that I am one of the schleppers that was earlier referred to. I get soaked in pickle juice, I get my fingers pinched in tent poles. I do all this voluntarily, cold dark mornings, because I believe in this market. Just what sounds like only an hour to you feels like much more to me. Part of me feels like you are taking so much of our enthusiasm away. And yes, if we do not have a market here I, too, would go to Irvington and work just as hard for that village and do it there.

Ms. Le Draoulec: I just wanted to let you guys know also that part of the reason we were so surprised when you said no to December was because our December market is ... I know you did not say no.

Mayor Swiderski: We have not said no to December. It is exactly the misinterpretation of what was said that has led to this hubbub.

Ms. Le Draoulec: Correct.

Mayor Swiderski: So let us be clear. I did not say no to December.

Ms. Le Draoulec: Well, no, our petition was very clear that the December 19 market could be at stake or altered, and that was the truth. Our December markets are not busy. They are not like our summer markets. It is very cold, and only the hardcore come out to shop for their lettuce. So they come, they are a determined lot, but they are not the throngs you see in the summer. That is why I am just having trouble with this hour difference. I do not think it will make a difference.

Anyway, we have offered, as we always do, to come up with some positive solution. We said maybe what we can do is to encourage people to shop downtown that day. I feel like with that is petition we have got everybody's attention. Everybody knows this is a concern. Our goal is for all of us to do well, not for us to do better than them. That has never been the goal. The whole reason this market was created was to bring some energy to the downtown. You know that. What I propose is why do we not have everybody goes downtown on December 19 during the hours of the market, and shops and buys gifts for the holidays, and comes and shows us receipts that they have done it, totaling \$50 or we will come up with a sum that seems right that we can all agree on, we will give them a \$5 coupon to go buy whatever they want at the market and this is on us. We will pay for it because that is who we are. We take the high road. We are trying to help here. But, as you just saw from Lauren, you are chipping away at our morale.

Trustee Armacost: Why would you give them \$5 to shop at the market?

Ms. Le Draoulec: As a rewarded, as a thank-you shoppers. What I meant is, if they go downtown, shop, support the merchants, buy their gifts from merchants and then come to the market and say I shopped downtown, we give them \$5 off for anything they want at the market. I think that would be a nice thing to do. We have all these people who cannot believe this is a problem and they want to help. They keep calling me, how can we help, how can we help? I get to say shop downtown and park in the train station, do not park at Boulanger Plaza, please. I told 100 people that last Saturday at the market. I was supposed to be at another market last Saturday and I canceled because I wanted to be able to tell people in person. I feel like we have done everything we can. I feel like now the Village has to come up with something creative. But you have got to stop asking us to deliver because we

have delivered and then some, and we are just tired. Pretty soon I am going to lose all my volunteers, and I cannot do this by myself. Yes, you call this a business I am building but, frankly, you know what I make? This is not my business. This is something that I do. It is my happy place, it is many other people's happy place, and it is about way more than money. So please understand people cannot keep working for just joy for that long when it is being sucked out of them.

Mr. Metzger: I have been following farmers' market issues in the Village for many years, and issues have come up about whether the market should move, possibly, to the train station parking lot where parking would be more available. There would be more space, there would be less interruption in the neighborhood. That was rejected, and they are at the Municipal Building. I do want to say every time a store goes out of business in our downtown there is a hue and cry. I grew up in a family that survived on retail sales. Christmas was huge, as the Mayor said, for many retailers. One or two days makes or breaks your entire year. Our downtown merchants pay their taxes. We have a lack of commercial tax base in this village. It is one of the few things we do have. So I want to support our downtown merchants.

Parking seems to be the big issue here. If the market is thriving, and I am very happy we have a thriving business in the Village, it means other businesses may suffer because there is not a place to park. Why is the Farmers' Market not being held in the Community Center, as it usually is during the winter, in which case, the A&P, which will be theoretically out of business, hopefully for a very short period of time, that entire parking lot would be available. Easy in and out, have people go to the Community Center. It would not affect parking downtown, and perhaps all the problems could be solved. If it is not a huge number of people that typically show up in the winter, the smaller space at the Community Center might be a more appropriate venue anyway as opposed to freezing behind this building

Ms. Le Draoulec: We obviously would like to be indoors in December, but the Community Center, and since Kendra is here to confirm, there is Santa visiting day and the possible snow date in case it snows when Santa comes. So those two weekends are not available for us to rent at the Community Center. We have no choice but to be outside, and those were shoppers who urged us. They say we cannot wait from Thanksgiving to January, please find a venue. That is when we started coming to you and saying can we go outside and just suffer through it.

Mr. Skolnik: If in fact, A&P is going to be out by time, what would be involved in trying to negotiate with landlord to be able to use the space.? Then you really have the parking lot, though.

Trustee Apel: It is owned by somebody else, and they would have to have insurance to cover that. We do not know if they are just going to close off the parking lot and we will not be allowed on that property at all. Until we know that, there is nothing we can do about it.

Ms. Veyvoda: So parking seems to be the big issue. I liked the idea about offering an incentive for shopping in town. I am wondering if that was proposed to the merchants if they would be on board with that idea. The other thing is some sort of gung-ho town promotion to park in the train station lot. Put signs around, put it on the Facebook page, if you are here for the Farmers' Market please park in the train station. There is a lot of awareness now in the town about this issue, and if we could just keep that awareness in the consciousness of the town then I think people would be willing to park in the train station on that day. Are these proposals that could be mentioned to the merchants, and then see if there is some agreement that could be made?

Mayor Swiderski: People are generally rational, and the walking distance to the market matters. Convenience and ease is going to dictate, in the middle of a freezing day, where people park, especially when parking is free. So it is a combination of things that sometimes exacerbates that issue.

Ms. Veyvoda: Is this market still in the library parking lot?

Mayor Swiderski: Yes, it would be.

Ms. Veyvoda: Is that not really close to the train station?

Mayor Swiderski: It is a slog uphill.

Trustee Walker: I am impressed at how many people have been parking in the train station parking lot.

Ms. Veyvoda: I was just saying it is something we can mention to the merchants and see if they embrace that.

Mayor Swiderski: We will do that.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: I want to thank the market, also, for the ideas they sent in for marketing. I do like that receipt idea, though maybe if the receipt could extend earlier into the week, because the chance of someone doing a significant amount of shopping before the market on that Saturday might be slim.

Ms. Le Draoulec: Especially if they close at noon.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: Oh, if you close at noon. I see what you are saying. A lot of them do not open at the crack of 9 either for shopping. So whatever, but it is a great idea. I have a list of ideas, too, that you said I could talk about later. I think we should absolutely use the marketing as much as we can, but I do not think marketing is the deciding factor here. They have great ideas, I have some ideas, some of the merchants have ideas. We can kick them in on a day like December 19. We have time to do that.

The bigger issue is the concerns I have heard over the years. No one brought it up to me specifically for this decision, but just that when the market closes at 1 or 12 it takes a good hour for people to pull out. People do not necessarily leave, and some of those people do go into town and shop, absolutely. But this is a destination day for a lot of these merchants and their customers, who also come from all over to shop their stores for the holiday that they have built up over the years. Every hour that it is hard to find a spot, people are rushing around. They may move on, and that is the fear. Not because they want to impede the market, but just because it has empirically happened. And other people do benefit. So the issue, really, is this parking and logistical issue. The marketing ideas are terrific and welcome on both fronts.

Ms. Le Draoulec: One last thing. I did like Stan from Hastings Velo's comment on the petition, which was very simple and straightforward. He said people come from the market and they walk right by his shop and do not buy bikes, but they poke their head in and say, I did not know there was a bike shop in Hastings. They ask for the card, and then they come back maybe on a Wednesday or a Thursday. I find it so difficult to convince the merchants who are complaining that the benefits financially are not going to show up in the till that Saturday. If you walk past a store that is enticing and you do not have time to shop because you have got potatoes and leeks in your hand, if the store is compelling enough you are going to come back. I talked to four merchants today who said people do not necessarily come in on Saturday, but they poke their head and I see them four days later.

Mayor Swiderski: That is the same rationale we use for the Friday Night Live, getting people downtown.

Ms. Le Draoulec: But a lot of merchants do not like Friday Night Live either, and I have heard them complain about it. At some point, like the guy said who left, the comedian has to change his act.

Mayor Swiderski: I am going to ask down the row does the Board support the proposal I have put forward, or would you like to modify the hour to either 12:30 or 1 or whatever it is

that you would want to modify it to. At the end of the row we will know whether there is a majority support or not.

Trustee Armacost: I think you framed the issue in a thoughtful way. It is the kind of decision that a Solomon has to make, meaning that each side feels equally passionate and clear that the position that each side has is the correct position. We are in the very difficult situation of trying to decide between compelling arguments on either side. I do not think it is correct to cut that day out. That is unfair to the people who have come to love the market, which is something my family also loves, and depend on it as a source of business. I also do not think it is fair to the merchant that it extends further and further into a day which is a make or break day for them as businesspeople. So I support the compromise position that you have come to. I know there are going to be a bunch of people on both sides who will not like that choice, but I agree with you, Peter.

Trustee Lemons: We realize this is a difficult position to be in. I am a businessman and I am involved in retail significantly, so I have a serious appreciation for our local merchants, but also what the folks who come to the Farmers' Market are up against and what makes or breaks them. I am concerned about all of them. What you have proposed, Peter, is not at all a one-sided kind of solution. It takes into account the interests of both of those groups of people who have, in the end, a very similar need, which is to make their businesses work, to have the effort that they have put in yield what they need it to yield so it is not meaningless and does not cost them money and they lose money. It has been unfortunate that the discussion is framed around the idea of taking away. And I certainly think it is unfortunate in the sense from the Farmers' Market and Pascale and the people that volunteer that there is not support, because we love the market to death. We all know the market has this role in the Village, which is in a way you could quantify the numbers that go and you can quantify the dollars that get spent. At least for me, and I am pretty sure that is true for everybody on the Board, that is not a question. It is about trying to find something that seems to go down the middle and, hopefully, can take care of both of these sets of interests. I feel like what you have proposed does that.

Trustee Apel: I concur with the fellow Board members on where we are going with this. It makes me wish we could stretch the Village and make it bigger and fit in the parking spots we need so everybody could be happy. That seems to be the underlying issue which, at this time, we do not have any control over. It is a difficult thing to have to make this decision Peter has come up with a wonderful compromise. It is going to be hard because we cannot stretch the place, we cannot make more hours. We can only deal with what we have. As members of the Board we have to take a look at everybody and come to some solution, temporary as it may be. It is certainly not asking the market to close any other time that they are renting from us, but it is this one time. It is a very important time for everybody.

Unfortunately, we have to make this decision, and it is not going to be that everyone is going to be happy. But it is the best we can do at this time. We will do it this year, see what happens, as we say what happens, and, hopefully, this will be a solution. That is the way we are going to have to go.

Trustee Walker: I am in an extremely difficult position because of my involvement with both over the years. As one of the co-founders of the Farmers' Market, in 1998, I was one of the hardworking volunteers and on the market board for 11 years. I only gave that role up when I came on to this board. Since I have been on this board, I have been working very hard to promote the downtown, to bring new events to the downtown. I started Friday Night Live, I have started the Downtown Collaborative, I was the one who recommended we hire a Village Advocate. I am of two minds here. I do absolutely believe we need to have a market on December 19 and that we should be promoting the downtown at the market and enticing market shoppers to shop downtown. I know Barb will come up with some brilliant ideas on that count. So I am not going to vote on the hours. I am going to abstain, even though this is not a vote.

Mayor Swiderski: It is not a vote, but it is an indication. Then the outcome is clear, and we are going to move on to Barb speaking to what we can do that day to promote the downtown.

Ms. Le Draoulec: I am sorry, but I just want you to know that there is a chance we will not think it is worth to do the market that day. I cannot make a farmer drive six hours for this.

Mayor Swiderski: Pascale, I understand that and I know you are disappointed.

Ms. Le Draoulec: I am not disappointed, I am just telling you it is not a feasible thing to run a three-hour farmers' market for people who drive six hours. You cannot ask that of people. I have to ask my farmers. I cannot have a farmers' market without greens, and if my greens do not come I am not having a market with just carbs. So I have to ask my farmers. I have not talked to them, obviously, about this. I do not want to scare them off, but I am just letting you know there is a chance there will be no market. It is not your fault. I am just saying I cannot guarantee we can have farmers come from that far for just three hours.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not know how useful that is but thank you. You can poll them and see what their sentiments are. But we are trying to square the circle there and I made that clear that it may not be how you want it to break. This board has been 100 percent supportive to date of the Farmers' Market. Again, the irony here is that there was a perception that this idea came from the merchants in town. It did not. They do not reach out to use because they assume we are in your pocket. That is how strong our support of the

Farmers' Market has been over the years. We have been 100 percent in line with your needs. One hour is what we ask, and if that somehow breaks the market it is a risk we are going to have to take but a compromise we are asking. We have not asked this sort of compromise in the past.

Mr. Skolnik: Is it possible even at this late date to collect data?

Mayor Swiderski: Not meaningfully.

Mr. Skolnik: Is that because of the time frame, or is it ever possible to collect data? Everything I was hearing implied certain truths that I was not hearing data for. I am wondering is that something that if you planned it you could do it.

Mayor Swiderski: It is not an easy thing to do.

Chris Oser, 31 Edith's Way: I am a volunteer at the Farmers' Market. Your decision has been made, but in the interest of our going forward as a Village that is united working together to buy food locally, and to buy from the merchants in town locally, can we at least collect data this year and see how this compromise has worked out?

Mayor Swiderski: We can try.

Ms. Oser: It is very important that we have numbers. It is important that we ask the merchants who implicitly if not explicitly demanded a compromise, that we learn what they are gaining from our real loss as a village and as a market. I understand, Mayor, that you have been behind the market 100 percent. But like any business, it is the day by day that keeps it going. I appreciate your support of the market, but it is time we changed the tone of the conversation that is no longer us and them.

Mayor Swiderski: I hear you.

Ms. Oser: But is all of working together.

Mayor Swiderski: This is not changing it right now.

Ms. Oser: But data will help to change it.

Mayor Swiderski: And I will tell you that this sort of data is remarkably difficult to tease out of receipts for the day.

Ms. Oser: I understand that, but they can certainly count traffic in their shops. They can certainly tell you if they did as they expected to do, if that hour made a difference percentage-wise in their receipts.

Mayor Swiderski: That last statement is the most difficult. But again, we will certainly be asking those questions. It is a very difficult thing to tease out. Given the opportunity, I am happy to collect data that is meaningful. This is one of those cases where it is difficult to tease the data out of the stats, information out of the data. It is clouded in perception, and it is not so easy.

Downtown Advocate Prisament: I do have a lot of ideas as how we can work together to market the downtown via the Farmers' Market. However, what I think is more important to say right now, rather than let the situation create or increase the divide or perceived divide between us I felt like things were healing between the market and the merchants. We made some positive progress. If we put our heads together, and Pascale and the market committee do have their Veggie Valet and maybe we do this receipt promotion, my idea is to be there six weeks running, except for one weekend when I am away, gather volunteers, create this gift guide, and actively promote the downtown with a consumer piece at the steps of the market, and have signs about how many shopping days are left to the major holidays, and be promoting all our holiday events, which I plan to do, we can embellish the 19th with a transition activity up to the town like music at the VFW and hot chocolate and make it festive, my hope is that if we all work together to get the word out, if this is the decision and this is what we are doing going forward, that you have three hours. Let us shop our market and let us shop our downtown.

If we make this day successful for everyone, if we get people to park at the commuter lot, if we put that extra effort in, it may not be perfectly measurable but we all know, we will have feedback from the merchants if they felt this positive effective. The market will know, too, if this hurt business. She will have feedback from the farmers. She may decide not to do it. I hope that is not the decision and that we work together and maximize this, and learn something for next year. It may that these efforts were so successful that that extra hour will not matter to people because of what we created together. It may be that it will not have mattered that much to the merchants at the market, and we will find out. But I would like us to come together, and I am willing, and those are my basic ideas.

Mayor Swiderski: Thank you. I think that draws that item to a close, and we have already drawn the LED installation progress and issues to a close.

4. Review of Transportation Working Group Charter

Mayor Swiderski: This two-page document has been circulated, edited, changed and updated. I am looking for feedback, and I have got a couple of items myself. I am, I guess I would call it, the author, though there is nothing original written these days. It is a reworked version of other charters. I am the author of the latest iteration here, and that first paragraph parentheses statement there makes no sense whatsoever. It is Transportation Subcommittee that was intended there. I am giving everybody a chance to read it again while we sit here because I do want this to become the charter, and then we can send this to those who have submitted names and choose those next week. I would like to also delete the quotation marks from around "the public" in "meetings will be considered public." It unnecessary and does not gain anything from quotation marks. It could be useful to state when the agenda will be forwarded to the Village for publication some, at least, X number of days before the meeting so people have a chance to digest it. Our meetings, when we get it right, is five days. I think that is reasonable.

Trustee Apel: Sounds good.

Trustee Walker: I do not know that this must go into the charge, but there is a tremendous amount of interest in this topic in the Village and there will be a number of people who will want to attend these meetings who are not on the committee who may even volunteer to be on a subcommittee. But would it be helpful if this committee came up with policies or a set of public meetings when they first get started to help them prioritize the issues? Is there a way to provide more community guidance to this committee in a more formal way than just people showing up at meetings. It is that this is more of a discussion topic than a charge, really.

Mayor Swiderski: What does that mean, though?

Trustee Walker: They may need to have some public meetings that are about collecting ideas and prioritizations from to public rather than just to have meetings that people attend. We may want to suggest to them that once they have gotten themselves organized that they hold a series of public meetings on specific topics or in specific neighborhoods. So that people from that particular neighborhood could come and discuss issues.

Mayor Swiderski: OK, fine.

Trustee Apel: That would be fine, but I thought we were not going to micromanage them. I thought they were going to come up with that.

Mayor Swiderski: I would argue that the second bullet point on page two, "previous pedestrian plans are then community input," may be too subtly making the point you are looking to make. And maybe in parentheses, "e.g. community meetings specifically to seek input" will address what you are looking for.

Trustee Walker: Part of the reason is these things have been discussed for a long time, and there are even a set of very specific recommendations. However, just with the un-dog park dog park, the non-dog park, demographics change, communities change, new residents have moved in. So it is always good to vet these things again with the community.

Trustee Lemons: In the first page under committee structure, the last sentence says, "The working group can create working groups." Create sub working groups.

Trustee Armacost: Can we just cross out the word "working": "create groups composed of subsets of its own" would be fine.

Trustee Lemons: Fine.

Trustee Apel: We will get a revised copy of this?

Mayor Swiderski: Easy enough to do.

Mr. Metzger: I would like to speak as a former member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, which was a genesis for this committee. The most well-attended meeting we had on a specific topic as part of the Comprehensive Plan was on traffic and pedestrian issues. We had members of the community from all over the community. The meeting ran probably three and a half hours. We filled up pages and pages of notes. People are passionate about this. To Trustee Walker's recommendation, a public meeting, well-noticed well in advance I am sure will get good attendance. It is where we developed a lot of our information on what we presented in the Comprehensive Plan. I believe it is a critical component to this committee.

Mayor Swiderski: Mr. Skolnik, you have asked for time to speak in the Board discussion.

Mr. Skolnik: I did not know it was going to happen, and my legs are not moving. While I appreciate that some of the things I pointed out in my letter to you, and I do not know whether Trustee Walker passed along any of what I had sent on a follow-up to her, I hope you would share that. It expanded on the discussion that I thought was helpful about my feelings about this document and about the approach. I would wish that what I did submit to you would have as much consideration in your thinking as if I got up here and read it or tried

to remember every detail because it took a lot of time. I kept on thinking, even today, about it that to me, this seems to offer an opportunity to do something as a governing process quite differently in terms of engaging people. I understand that it would be naïve to think you could bring many people to a democratic task and be able to establish some kind of order and get something done. So I am not oblivious to that, but the aspects of this I was critical of and remain critical, as it sort of stands now, is that there is still within the structure a tremendous amount that is opaque. Again, as I told you, it is a function of open meetings law. The one thing I can tell you is, you are not responsible and in a way you are freed up. This is a structure that is completely unfettered by open meeting law. You do not have to be public. There is nothing you have to put out.

Mayor Swiderski: I know and I did read your document carefully. The problem is, with all due respect I still do not know what you are asking for. The few things where you were concrete I listened to you and made those changes. But suggest something that addresses some of your concerns in concrete word, because conceptually, this discussion is not about the open meeting law and it is not about changes to the open meeting law. It is about a transportation working group that has a two-page charter. At 10:45 at night, with all due respect, could you suggest one change that would address some of the concerns? And if not, we will move on. I don't mean to be so blunt.

Mr. Skolnik: No, I do not mind the bluntness but I do not think, in all due respect, that is fair. Because while it would be possible, yes, if my document to you was just as indecipherable as when I am standing up before you then it would certainly be helpful to be able to go through and say to you this is what this means, this is what this means. But it was not as completely obscure as your comment suggests if it were not for the hour. You want to forget open meetings law, I will not discuss that with you now except that it gives you latitude with this group. You have a lot more flexibility, even as Trustee Walker was trying to think of some changes, all the flexibility in the world. Because you are under no obligation. Everything you do with regard to minutes, agendas ...

Trustee Armacost: But, sir, I think Peter is asking you to tell us how you want us to be flexible. We know we can be flexible, so what exactly is the suggestion?

Mr. Skolnik: My concern, in part, was that the way you framed the whole mission, ultimately the agenda of this group, is already, from the beginning, too tied to, whether it is the Comprehensive Plan or the traffic studies that were done, that is suggests their objective has already been proscribed from the beginning. But that is why I was gratified to hear Trustee Walker's at least suggest that early in the process you start a bit anew and you give yourself another chance to do what we have not been able to do for years. I do not know if that is concrete.

Mayor Swiderski: It sounds like we have addressed that, at least in part.

Mr. Skolnik: Well, OK, then I do not think I will be able to help you. If you were able to address the structure that you have outlined here that would make it more of an open process.

Mayor Swiderski: But it is not intended as that. Let me be explicit about why we have set it up like this. The charge is not to talk. We have done quite a bit of that in the past. It is that the emphasis on the word here is "working" in multiple ways. Not just as a group that works on a topic, but an attempt to implement ideas.

Mr. Skolnik: But you do not know. That is exactly my biggest objection here. You are ready to implement and you do not know what you are implementing.

Mayor Swiderski: No, that is not true. We have talked about these topics over and over again, over the years.

Mr. Skolnik: I have been there.

Trustee Walker: David was at all the meetings. He and I go way back to around 2000 when we started.

Mr. Skolnik: It was 2003.

Trustee Walker: Anyway, you were at those early walkability meetings, we were part of the pedestrian plan that was done by George Jacquemart. You have been involved in these from the very beginning. We have been talking about it for 12 years, 13 years. So I know you have a long memory about this. But my gripe about all of this is that we have been talking about it for so long. The Comp Plan clearly spelled out a lot of things that could be done, as well, and we have not really done it.

Mr. Skolnik: It did not.

Trustee Walker: Yes, it does spell out a lot of specifics because we put them in. We made sure there were a lot of specific recommendations in that Comp Plan. I remember sitting down and working hard at getting those specifics into that Comp Plan. Did we not? There are. I did not look at it today to bring them up.

Mr. Skolnik: Well, to be clear I was on the circulation subcommittee.

Trustee Walker: We added more later. I do believe that it does merit some revisions perhaps and re-looking. That is why I suggested, taking your recommendation, that it is important to open it up to the public again. However, this is not another plan and I do not want to go through another planning process. One other thing is that this committee can also make recommendations of things that perhaps they do not want to improve this year or next year. They can put that into the update of the Comprehensive Plan, which is going to be going forward very soon. So there will be even another chance for the public to talk about all these issues yet again. There is going to be plenty of time for the public to weigh in.

Mr. Skolnik: But it is not in here.

Trustee Walker: Because these people are going to start implementation.

Mr. Skolnik: That is what disturbs me. Thank you.

Mayor Swiderski: There are a handful of chances here that while I will certainly make them and reflect them back, we have got in terms of reference that can be circulated to a group that I suggest we select next week. .

Trustee Armacost: Can we discuss the selection process? I do not know whether that is to be discussed here or then, but I do not know how we are going to be able to do it next week if we have not had a discussion with one another about that. For example, has the CV submitting process ended, or are there additional CVs that we can expect? Then there is what is the criteria on which people are going to be selected. One of the things we discussed is that people can not all come from the same street. Beyond that what are we looking for exactly? So that we are very clear in our selection process that we are judging candidates in the same way as one another.

Mayor Swiderski: To your first question, good point. I have got to put out an e-mail tomorrow to the community about both the topic discussed tonight on the Farmers' Market and some other issues. I will add a final call terminating a week from Friday so we will have the résumés in that week. As far as the process goes, the way we have done this in the past is typically you redistribute in electronic form the résumés to everybody so if we have lost some in the meanwhile we have them.

Trustee Armacost: You did not request people to send in CVs for the transportation group. We do not have any. What we have are letters of interest, and some of them are really terse. All we know is that the person lives on a particular street and is interested in a particular corner or roundabout or whatever the person is intended in. But we do not have a sense how that person might contribute.

Trustee Walker: That is an interesting point, because we do not want it to be made up of people who just want something done to their street corner or to calm traffic on their street.

Trustee Armacost: And for that, those people have viewpoints that are very important. But I do not know whether they really want to be on a committee.

Trustee Walker: They want their voices heard, and that is important, and we will ensure they are heard.

Trustee Apel: What we could do is what I did for the other committee. If you send out this job description it will give the person who is volunteering a clearer picture of what they are getting involved with. Then they will be able to reiterate whether they are interested in participating in this. Then the requirement is a CV and the letter and the application.

Mayor Swiderski: Or a reasonably detailed letter if a CV does not exist. I do not want to exclude somebody who has not had a CV for some period of time that has something to say.

Trustee Armacost: I think that is a clear and fair process, so we can do that.

Mayor Swiderski: Then we collect those, and at that point what we have done in the past is arrive at the executive session with our own individual rankings of the résumés and how we think they would fit on a board. You know what they say about sausage making, you never want to see it done. That is what happens. We individually share our individual understandings.

Trustee Armacost: Right. But normally what we have done is agreed that there are certain things we are looking for and then we rank the potential candidates. Maybe I missed a meeting, but I am not so clear what we are actually looking for among this group.

Mayor Swiderski: You are starting with a logical limitation. You do not want a geographic concentration or a single-interest member. So if somebody is fixated, whether through something in their letter or whatever, that is something we want to avoid. Professional qualifications are interesting, but not core. It is always important to have a mix in all ways. I think the interest in the subject extends to absolutely everybody in the Village professionally skilled in this particular area, which is probably five people in the Village, or just interested. The CV is of secondary interest. It helps to make sure we get a mix in terms of professional backgrounds, but I am not looking for transportation expertise. I can say that much.

Trustee Armacost: Right. If you are able to say in your note the two things we are less interested in, which is people who are fixed on a particular road but this is really to make clear to people this is about representing the Village as a whole. And also to give people notice that we will not choose everyone from one street, just so people are aware of that up front I think would be helpful. Then as people submit CVs and forms, they can mark clear what their kind of broader interest is in serving on this committee.

I think the other thing that might be helpful to people, if you are able to include this in your note, is what the time commitment is likely to be. Because I think it is difficult for people to run committees where people are not showing up to the meeting because they are over-committed with other things. So if people have a sense of exactly what kind of time commitment and over how long a period of time we think that commitment might be.

Mayor Swiderski: But at the moment it is open ended.

Trustee Armacost: Yes, it is. So then is it a two-year term, is it a one-year term, is it a three-year term?

Mayor Swiderski: Good question. We did not go as far as to formalize a committee that has terms. I think it is useful to do so, though, to set expectations. A popular length to be two years. That would be enough to get something done.

Trustee Walker: I have worked with committees like this in other communities. There frequently are high school students on these committees who are extremely energetic and knowledgeable because they are the ones walking and biking. And they can also poll their fellow students about issues they have. It might be interesting to invite some high school students to submit and see if anyone is interested.

Mayor Swiderski: I do not think there is any age restriction. High school is entirely appropriate.

Trustee Walker: But we would have to make a point of it. Obviously, we would welcome their submission now, but maybe we need to make a point of inviting a high school student to submit. I am not sure how we do that, but maybe through the principal. I also know, having worked with committees like this, that it is great to have extremely energetic people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Because this is one of these types of committees. They are not writing stuff, they are doing stuff.

Trustee Armacost: Have we forgotten anything important?

Mr. Metzger: This committee would probably have to interface with the Fire Department and the Police Department and the DPW because they should have some significant input about changes to the infrastructure.

Trustee Walker: Yes, that is in the charge actually.

Trustee Armacost: It says the Chief of Police. Where does it say Fire Department?

Trustee Armacost: I see Board of Trustees, Planning Board chair, Safety Council chair, Chief of Police and Superintendent of Public Works.

Village Manager Frobel: The Safety Council has the Fire Department.

Mayor Swiderski: All right, I have got my homework here. So I will make those changes and I will add a paragraph to the e-mail tomorrow, and we will see what we get.

5. Other

Village Attorney Whitehead: Fran, did we want to ask about the county parcel in the cluster law?

Village Manager Frobel: Susan had a question of clarification.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: All the parcels are in the southern approach to the Village except there is one parcel delineated by sheet block and lot that turns out to be a strip of land between the Saw Mill. The part you are talking about, the parcels, do not have sheet blocks and lots associated with them because they are just called county parkland.

Village Attorney Whitehead: When I blew up that map it did have the sheet block and lot, but I had to reduce it back down on the town's GIS. That is why it disappeared. Anyway, it is county-designated parkland.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Are there any properties along the Saw Mill River Road that should be specifically designated? Because right now, you are just talking about the strip. Between the strip and Saw Mill River Road are these parcels, and those have no designation. I do not know what to send to the county as our intention here.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Because you would reference the county property along 9-A, which is really the strip. It is all designated parkland, which means it cannot be developed without action of the state legislature because it is designated parkland. It would not be. So

it would not be alienation of parkland to even do any development on it. It would need the action of the state legislature. Part of the question is, we were having trouble identifying the property, which we have to do. And the other piece is, are you sure you want to include now that we have confirmed it is designated parkland.

Mayor Swiderski: No. It does not sound like it makes sense, does it?

Village Attorney Whitehead: No. That is why we wanted to bring it back to you to take that piece out.

Mayor Swiderski: No, that would seem to be something else.

Village Attorney Whitehead: OK. So in the local law that parking lot needs to just come out, and I need to make a change in my referral.

Trustee Walker: It makes me wonder about the state-owned property where you come into the Village on Farragut Parkway.

Village Attorney Whitehead: We were not including that either.

Trustee Walker: We were not including that either because that is part of the parkway. It is not separate from the parkway, even though it extends way into the Village.

Village Attorney Whitehead: We looked at all the maps. It is part of the parkland.

Trustee Walker: So they could not sell off a chunk of it. OK, good.

Village Attorney Whitehead: OK, thank you. The Board needed to clarify that because we were making a change.

Mayor Swiderski: Fran, there was an item brought up today and it is an item we have discussed. But I do not want it to fall off our agenda, and that is the Fairlane and Hillside sidewalks. If we can have that on the next meeting's agenda as a talking point to review, our understanding of the options both concrete, and any others that you have had a chance to investigate with the contractor for the Fairlane option. And on the Hillside option, I do not think anything other than concrete has been discussed here, what that looks like and what that would involve.

Village Manager Frobel: That is what I thought, at the next meeting. I spoke to the engineer and the architect on the sidewalk project just this week. He was going to re-contact

the contractor to get us a better estimate for the Hillside stretch. I was waiting for that, but perhaps by the next meeting we will be ready.

Trustee Walker: On Hillside, because it is adjacent to the stream, within a really short distance of the stream for one thing, and is a slope maybe you can describe, at the next meeting, what would it entail to actually build a sidewalk there. Having looked at it a number of times, it is a difficult site.

Village Manager Frobel: Hahn Engineering helped me on one of the estimates. I will have him here to help us, because there is talk about shifting the sidewalk into the pavement, eliminating the on-street parking, eliminating a number of those trees. It is a very complicated stretch. I contacted our grant writer because there is another round of grants for sidewalks. We want her to help us begin to explore that possibility. Both those things are happening.

Trustee Walker: I also walked Farlane and it does seem like there is, as Tim Downey brought up tonight, a considerable amount of space along the Hillside Woods side of Farlane except that big rock outcropping at the front.

Trustee Apel: Blast it away?

Trustee Walker: No. What if you did not blast it away, but you pinched the roadway down at that point so you are doing traffic calming to slow the traffic coming in; do the same thing at the other end; and maybe put a gravel path in between. But do not blast away the rock.

Trustee Lemons: That road is already pinched there. People cannot navigate that as it is

Trustee Armacost: Yes, I would not pinch that road.

Trustee Walker: I am coming from the point of view that it becomes a shared roadway. You slow that traffic down before they hit that point somehow, but I do not want to blast away that rock. That is inappropriate and expensive and not necessary, and I think we could come up with another solution for how the pedestrians and cars could share that point at the entrance.

Trustee Apel: The problem is that it is a shared roadway now, but people do not accept it is a shared roadway. They know they are going to drive and people are going to be walking and things are going on.

Trustee Walker: But the problem is they get up speed. They do not get up speed at the

entrance, they get up speed as they are driving down the hill. You get the pedestrians off the roadway where the cars tend to speed. We can also think of some other traffic calming measures there.

Trustee Lemons: But narrowing that spot will essentially make it one lane. That is very tight if you are coming up and making a dogleg left there.

Trustee Armacost: I agree with you on not blasting away the rock, which I think is gorgeous.

Trustee Walker: Maybe you do not pinch it down. But the idea is that you do not try to put a sidewalk there.

Trustee Apel: Then people are going to walk around the area.

Trustee Walker: I think that is OK. At that point it is not as dangerous as when they are walking along the street per event.

Trustee Lemons: I agree. Everybody is pretty slow at that point.

Trustee Armacost: That particular area requires a more creative and modern way of dealing with the idea of a sidewalk, modern in the sense of environmentally progressive as opposed to a classic cement sidewalk.

Trustee Walker: I agree because it is the woods. It is not an urban street.

Village Manager Frobel: The engineer points out there are ADA requirements. We went through this at Kinnally Cove, where even though we had the crushed stone it was not acceptable. You needed something for a chair.

Trustee Walker: I do not understand that. I have been on many trails that are ADA-compliant that are crushed stone.

Village Attorney Whitehead: Sidewalks are considered differently than trails.

Trustee Walker: Then we make this a trail.

Village Manager Frobel: At the next meeting, if we are ready I will have the engineer and we will talk about this.

Mr. Sbrega, 57 Hillside Avenue: To Trustee Walker's concern, no nature would be disrupted. The pavement of the road goes straight to the stream there so parking may be affected in a 30-foot stretch. But as I was saying before, the parking is very dangerous now. If you have a stroller you are on the other side of traffic. With cars parked there it is a one-way road. After years of complaining about the dog park a child was attacked and that got your attention, and rightfully so. It is going to be too late soon.

Mayor Swiderski: This is about the point in the season where we talk about the meters free for the holiday season. Is that done now, or is it the next meeting?

Village Manager Frobel: Next meeting. We generally indicate to you how much revenue we gain and lose during that period of time, then we show you historically what the period of time it has been. Also, this year we were looking for some data that would indicate that in fact the free parking helps the downtown merchants and to what degree.

Village Clerk Maggiotto: We also need to figure out how to cover the meters without using our red plastic bags, which I have a big stock of.

Trustee Walker: Are there little cloth bags?

Village Clerk Maggiotto: Cloth bags are problematic and very expensive, hard to store, and if they get wet they have to be dried. It is hard, so if you have any brilliant ideas let us know.

Mayor Swiderski: Any other Board discussions and comments?

Trustee Apel: I want to make an announcement. I want to take the opportunity to let all of you know that after much deliberation I have decided not to seek another term as Trustee. At the end of March, 2016 I will have been on the Board at two different times, totaling ten years, ten very exciting, thought-provoking, interesting years, as you can tell by tonight. It has been an honor to serve you, but now I need to put aside some time to spend with my family, travel a little, and tend to my two part-time jobs, my website AskNellie and my commercial real estate business. I will continue to be active with Village concerns, especially the Comp Plan, and will be available to assist in whatever way I can to help transition whomever is elected in my place. I will end with that, since I am not gone yet, and I will be here until April. Thank you.

Trustee Armacost: May we make comments, to say how much we will miss you, Marge?

Mayor Swiderski: We can, and I do not want it to feel like a wake five months before you leave.

Trustee Walker: And we really appreciate the fact that you will continue to work on the Comp Plan because now that the next phase is coming we will need you more than ever.

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 11:05 p.m.