

**VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 1999**

A Regular Meeting was held by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 26, 1999 at 8:10 p.m. in the Municipal Offices, 615 Broadway.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr., Trustee James B. Keaney, Trustee Elsa C. DeVita (8:25 p.m.), Trustee Michael Holdstein (8:12 p.m.), Trustee Anthony Gagliardi, Village Manager Neil P. Hess, Village Attorney Brian Murphy, and Village Clerk Susan Maggiotto.

**CITIZENS:** 9

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On MOTION of Trustee Keaney, SECONDED by Trustee Gagliardi with a voice vote of all in favor, the minutes of the Public Hearing of January 12, 1999 were approved as presented.

On MOTION of Trustee Keaney, SECONDED by Trustee Gagliardi with a voice vote of all in favor, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 1999 were approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

On MOTION of Trustee Gagliardi, SECONDED by Trustee Keaney with a voice vote of all in favor, the following warrants were approved:

Multi-Fund No. 69-1998-99	\$ 142,589.54
Multi-Fund No. 70-1998-99	\$ 196,107.80
Multi-Fund No. 73-1998-99	\$ 100.00

**10:99 BUILDING PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY - HUDSON VALLEY HEALTH AND TENNIS CLUB, INC.**

**Mayor Kinnally:** We have had a public hearing on this application for an expansion of the Tennis Club.

**Bruce Levy, Hudson Valley Tennis Club:** We wish to delete the word "gravel" in the easement suggestion.

**Mayor Kinnally:** Put in "existing" in lieu of "gravel."

**Trustee Gagliardi:** Is there any timetable for the repair of the walkway?

**Village Manager Hess:** We will make that part of the approved site plan; before they receive the final C of O they have to complete the improvements.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Keaney, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the application of Hudson Valley Health and Tennis Club, Inc. for a building permit, and approve the application for a certificate of occupancy contingent on compliance with the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations, and contingent upon the owner's granting of easements for public pedestrian access along the existing path on the north side of the site extending from River Street to the Hudson River and along the entire length of the western side of the site and the decking adjacent to the River, such easements to be dedicated in perpetuity to the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and executed by the lot owner and recorded in the Westchester County Land Records.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	Absent	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

#### **11:99 VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

**Mayor Kinnally:** The Board has discussed a change in the way we constitute the Board of Assessment Review to deal with tax grievances. In the past the Board of Trustees has sat as the Board of Assessment Review. Given our workload and in reviewing the practice in adjacent communities, we are proposing a separate Board of Assessment Review to handle the grievances and hearings and render decisions.

**Trustee Keaney:** I have misgivings about the change. I have learned a lot from going to the various sites and seeing the houses and properties that were under review. It was helpful in my other tasks on the Board to get to know the various areas of town. It is time-consuming but it serves a purpose. Maybe it is a good thing for the people that elected representatives are the ones that finally decide this.

**Mayor Kinnally:** In response to the ultimate decision resting in the Board of Trustees: more often than not the ultimate decision rests in the hands of the small claims arbitrator or the judicial hearing officer. It is a frustrating experience to sit as the Board of Assessment Review and go through the claims, visit the site, deliberate with the Board, and make rational decisions, and then have people submit small claims petitions.

The procedure of having small claims review after Grievance Day is sheer folly, and it really renders what the Board of Assessment Review does on a Grievance Day an exercise in futility. I do not say that your comments are not well-taken, but given all the time on the waterfront and everything else, it might be better to parcel this out.

**Betty Wagner, 2 Sunset Street:** I do not recognize anyone from the Board that is knowledgeable as far as construction. What is their background?

**Mayor Kinnally:** All three people we have appointed are former members of the Board of Trustees and are familiar with the process. The state sets guidelines for likely candidates for Board of Assessment Review, and these people have that experience, expertise, independence, and common sense.

[Trustee DeVita arrives and Mayor Kinnally asks if she has any comment, restating Trustee Keaney's position.]

**Trustee DeVita:** I feel that it is a good move forward to have a separate board. I believe that there certainly are some advantages to it, but I am more than willing to give it up.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee Gagliardi, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that there is constituted pursuant to Section 523 of the Real Property Tax Law, a Board of Assessment Review of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, which shall have the powers and duties as provided by law and which Board shall be composed of three (3) members serving without compensation, for terms of office of five (5) years commencing on October 1 and expiring on September 30 of the pertinent year, except for the first Board appointed which shall have the terms set forth below as required by law; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the following persons are appointed to the first Board of Assessment Review of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson:

	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
1.	Frances MacEachron	September 30, 2002
2.	William Goodwin	September 30, 2003
3.	John Gavin	September 30, 2004

and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the Board of Assessment Review shall annually choose a chairman from its number and upon doing so shall notify the Village Clerk of a designation, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the Village Clerk shall notify the State Board of Equalization and Assessment and the County Director of Real Property Tax Services of appointments to the Board and designation of the chairman within twenty (20) days after such appointments or designation are made, as the case may be.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney		X
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

**12:99 WESTCHESTER URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**Village Manager Hess:** This is part of our grant funds that we received from Westchester County under the Development Block Grant Program. This project would provide street improvements on Southside Avenue and Washington Avenue and in the area of the train station. The county would provide \$325,000 towards this project, which is estimated to cost \$615,000. The preliminary design has been provided to the Village by the county. There was a review at a public meeting several weeks ago at the library. The Planning Board reviewed the project. Staff is having a meeting tomorrow on this project, and the Board reviewed it last week at a work session.

This resolution is to sign the contract for the funding with the county. The scope of services may be modified based on the input we provide the county. They are looking to commence the project in spring of '99, and have it completed by the fall.

On MOTION of Trustee Holdstein, SECONDED by Trustee DeVita, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to sign the Westchester Urban County Community Development Project Contract for Sidewalk Improvements in the amount of \$325,000 for the term 1/15/99 - 1/14/2000.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

### **13:99 PUBLIC SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**Village Manager Hess:** Senator Spano has been able to secure funding through Empire State Development Corporation for a Village Public Safety Enhancement Project. Susan and Rafael worked on the grant program, along with the Police Department and Fire Department. The grant budget has been approved: \$25,000 for police computers funded at 100 percent; bulletproof vests funded at 100 percent; and the electronic fire system at \$16,500 funded at 97 percent, for a total grant of \$50,000 for a total project budget of \$50,425.

On MOTION of Trustee Gagliardi, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees authorize the Village Manager to sign the Grant Disbursement Agreement with the Empire State Development Corporation for a Public Safety Enhancement Project in the amount of \$50,000.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

**14:99 BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHANGE OF MEETING DATE**

**Mayor Kinnally:** This is to accommodate the Board of Assessment Review meeting on February 16. Our second meeting in January is late in the month, so rather than having Board meetings two weeks in a row we are changing the dates.

**Trustee Holdstein:** I will not be able to attend one of the meetings, so I am not in favor of this. I do not like to miss meetings. I will be out-of-town.

On MOTION of Trustee DeVita, SECONDED by Trustee Keaney, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees change the dates of the February Regular Board Meetings from February 2 and 16, 1999 to February 9 and 23, 1999.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein		X
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

**15:99 VILLAGE ELECTION INSPECTORS - DEMOCRATIC**

On MOTION of Trustee DeVita, SECONDED by Trustee Gagliardi, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint the following Village Elections Inspectors for General Village Election Day, Tuesday, March 16, 1999 as Democratic Inspectors:

<b>INSPECTORS</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>
Viola Kepcher Elizabeth Waczek	18 <sup>th</sup>
Gloria Matzura Sara Neiditz	19 <sup>th</sup>
Evelyn Smith Eleanor Matza	20 <sup>th</sup>
Olga Loukrezis Ezra Matza	21 <sup>st</sup>
Anna Zahurak Mary Gebhardt	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Susan Marchionni Dorothy Bagon	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Eve Feinstein Adele Bean	52 <sup>nd</sup>
Olga Porucznik John Russo	59 <sup>th</sup>

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

**16:99 VILLAGE ELECTION INSPECTORS - REPUBLICAN**

On MOTION of Trustee Keaney, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein, the following resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor and Board of Trustees appoint the following Village Elections Inspectors for General Village Election Day, Tuesday, March 16, 1999 as Republican Inspectors:

Bessie Kochan 18<sup>th</sup>  
Rose Pezzuto

Lillian Guerin 19<sup>th</sup>  
Cecelia Kingston

Valerie Callas 20<sup>th</sup>  
Frank Sherkus

David Riggs 21<sup>st</sup>  
Walter Honovich

Eleanor McGinigle 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Anna Zajac

Mariam Anthony 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Martha Koblosh

Norman DiChiara 52<sup>nd</sup>  
Theresa Matzura

Meriba Gursky 59<sup>th</sup>  
Steffanie Selvaggio

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Trustee James B. Keaney	X	
Trustee Elsa C. DeVita	X	
Trustee Michael Holdstein	X	
Trustee Anthony Gagliardi	X	
Mayor Wm. Lee Kinnally, Jr.	X	

**VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Village Manager Hess:** The Municipal Building renovations are still proceeding on-schedule. Some questions have been raised that will need to be answered by the State Codes Bureau.



We have received preliminary designs from the County Department of Public Works for the traffic light at Farragut and Olinda. We will meet with County Public Works and the school to review the design and comment on it.

The Affordable Housing Committee has requested an extension from the Town of Greenburgh until February 11, 2000 as preferred developer on the Division site. The county has completed Phase I and Phase II Environmental Review. It was determined a gas station was previously at the site, and that there was still an underground tank on the site and evidence of some leakage; a hazardous materials study must be done before a feasibility study.

The Planning Board has had a preliminary conference on the cluster development on Dudley, the 15-unit cluster that was approved in 1986 by the Planning Board and the Board of Trustees, and was renewed in the mid-90s. There is a contract vendee, Mr. Ginsburg, who is proposing to build the cluster. There is a public hearing before the Planning Board on February 18 and a recommendation to the Board for final approval on the cluster, on the subdivision, and on the site plan. At our February 9 meeting we will call for a public hearing on February 23 on this cluster.

On February 23 I will present the proposed preliminary budget for 1999-2000. If the Board has any items for inclusion in the preliminary budget please let me know as soon as possible.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

### **1. Update on the Waterfront**

**Mayor Kinnally:** Today I received a copy through Assemblyman Brodsky of a letter sent by General Electric to the DEC commenting on the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and, in particular, the requirement for the removal of the PCB's in the highly contaminated areas to a depth of 42 feet. GE does not think that there should be excavation of any of the materials, and there is a question as to whether or not GE has standing to submit comments of this nature to the DEC. GE does not want a precedent to be established in Hastings that would affect any other sites on the Hudson in which GE was found to have either contaminated the site directly or contributed on-shore to any pollution that found its way into the Hudson River.

We are revising our comments to the DEC on the PRAP, addressing not only the bulkhead and the removal of the PCB's but some other areas of concern, and calling on the DEC to let us have input into the design of the additional testing. The final document will go out either at the end of the week or the beginning of next week, and a draft is available to the public.

**Trustee Holdstein:** Regarding the legal standing, if the letter has been read by Heitzman, would he be told to disregard the letter if GE does not have the legal standing to submit comments?

I find this offensive, that GE is blatantly covering itself, and I would like to find out what, if anything, we could do about it.

**Mayor Kinnally:** We can talk to counsel about that. Whether it will be considered, or incorporated as part of the record, I do not know.

**Trustee Holdstein:** The fact that we have discussed the letter in public obviously states that it is perfectly legal for us to have it, as it would for anybody in this Village to have a copy. Is that a fair assumption?

**Mayor Kinnally:** It is a public document.

**Trustee Holdstein:** So if the Waterfront Watch or other people with concerns want to take issue with GE, and make last-minute statements in those letters, they should?

**Mayor Kinnally:** Of course.

## **2. Hastings 1999**

**Trustee Keaney:** The committee met last Saturday morning and talked about projects upcoming in the year to continue our celebrations of 1999, principally the July 4th celebrations and also the county firemen's parade in September.

## **3. Safety Council Report**

**Mayor Kinnally:** The Board discussed the safety council report at the last meeting, and we are continuing the discussion to make sure that everything was covered and to see if there is reaction to the Chief's findings.

**Barry Weiner, 621 S. Clinton:** The major concern of the people on South Clinton and Stanley is that it has become an access road to and from the Saw Mill Parkway for people on Jackson Avenue. It seems to have decreased in the winter months. I am not sure if the signs Children at Play have helped. We are all concerned with what is going to happen with the opening of the Austin Avenue Development, and what appears to be the inevitable opening of Sprain Road.

There are no signs on Saw Mill River Road directing traffic to access the Parkway from that road. There used to be a sign on Ravensdale before South Clinton indicating access to the Saw Mill River Parkway from Farragut Parkway. That sign was removed sometime last year and was never replaced. We see people cross the bridge and begin to hunt for a way to get on the Saw Mill River Parkway.

A solution we would love would be to close that entrance. It is not fair that a small residential street bears through traffic. I believe the Village Manager came up with a solution to create a no left turn on Ravensdale, and at the safety meeting a suggestion was made on Farragut Avenue. Both these solutions are appropriate and will not cause much disruption for anyone. The people on Stanley and South Clinton do not mind the sign going up on Ravensdale, and we would be the most affected. We are willing to give up our access, or make us go around the block.

**Mayor Kinnally:** We should try again to make our voice heard in Albany. We have had concerns over the years of the safety of the entrances and exits on the Saw Mill River Parkway; the reaction has been to show us the body count. Anecdotal evidence about how dangerous it is to get on and off these roads carries no weight with the DOT.

**Trustee Holdstein:** We should pursue with Greenburgh or DOT about posting signs at Jackson at the light, directing traffic north and south to Lawrence and to Tompkins.

**Village Manager Hess:** We will ask the DOT about that.

**Mayor Kinnally:** Chief, what is your reaction to the no left turn idea?

**Police Chief Marsic:** I think you are just shifting the problem up to Kent and Branford or to Clarence.

**Village Manager Hess:** The only viable option is if the Cliff, Clarence, and Farragut exits could be closed completely. There are no other communities along the Parkway with four exits and entrances.

**Trustee Holdstein:** I think that is a good argument to put in writing and get our legislators in Albany to work with us.

**Village Manager Hess:** We will invite DOT down first and see what their reaction is, and if it is necessary, then we will go farther than that.

**Mr. Weiner:** No one is trying to shift the burden to somewhere else, but my fear is that simply a no-solution option may be simpler for you. Unfortunately, it leaves us with our problem. There has to be at least a creative solution to this problem, because it is not an unreasonable request to not have small residential streets used as a cloverleaf to the Saw Mill River Parkway.

**Mayor Kinnally:** I agree. We will send it back to the Safety Council and let us see what they can come up with. I do not want to be too negative, but I foresee problems from some of the other streets. People will find a way through those other streets. Also, we are going to contact the DOT.

**Mr. Weiner:** Regarding signs, not only are there no signs at the intersection of Jackson and Saw Mill River Parkway, but on Saw Mill River Road there are no signs to indicate which streets have entrances on Saw Mill River Parkway.

**Mayor Kinnally:** We will add that to the letter to the DOT.

**Ed Seiden, 29 S. Clinton:** The concern began with Shoprite but continues with the mega-mall on Austin. We have a baseline of traffic now. So if the traffic increases a great deal I hope we can do something more.

**Village Manager Hess:** Chief, could we get your traffic counts? Also, I had sent a map to the safety council with the suggestion of a three-way stop at Stanley and South Clinton.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I do not remember receiving it, but we can take it up at our next meeting. Our recommendation was for a no left turn onto the Saw Mill River Parkway from South Clinton. Our hope is that it would prevent people from coming down those streets without funneling additional traffic into the other streets, so that local residents who are trying to get to their homes would be able to make that left if they want to.

**Mayor Kinnally:** How do you police that?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** You enforce it sporadically. Ordinarily, traffic takes the path of least resistance. Coupled with a way-finding system on 9-A telling drivers that they can go north or south to other accesses to the Parkway, it would help to alleviate the problem on the two residential streets. A sign on Ravensdale indicating that Parkway access is straight ahead might completely alleviate it.

**Trustee Gagliardi:** Do we have to talk to DOT before we make any decision that affects their entrances and exits?

**Village Manager Hess:** I do not believe so, but we will check on it.

**Robert Piccone, 34 S. Clinton:** To sum up, the Village Board has decided to write letters to the state. Is that it?

**Mayor Kinnally:** We will contact DOT to deal with the possibility of closing some of the exits and entrances to the Parkway and the signage on the roads leading to and from the Parkway; we will deal with the Town of Greenburgh, also, on that; and we will look into no left turn, if we can put that there.

**Mr. Piccone:** The no left turn was a recommendation of the safety council, and when we discussed it last month I thought that the Village Board favored putting the no left turn sign at the end of Stanley. I thought from the last meeting that that was basically under the Village of Hastings' jurisdiction.

**Village Manager Hess:** Trustee Gagliardi has raised the question of whether we could restrict in the Village access onto the Parkway; we will have to check on that with DOT.

#### **4. 1998 Small Claims Assessment Review Cases**

**Mayor Kinnally:** The law allows small claims relief from the consideration by the Board of Assessment Review of grievances. Last year there were 16 cases filed, and each of the cases was given a reduction by small claim, ranging from 3 percent to almost 20 percent of the amount. We had reductions from \$500 to almost \$6,000 in assessed valuation this year.

This has a substantial impact on the community. The individual saves on taxes, but everybody else has their taxes raised to absorb that. We set our tax rate at the end of April and these decisions come down in May or June, so we get an erosion in the surplus that we are hoping to generate at the end of the year. It is difficult to budget and set a fair tax rate that way.

#### **5. Southside/Washington Project**

**Mayor Kinnally:** We looked at this last week informally after our meeting. The improvements go from the intersection of Spring and Southside to Washington Avenue and up Washington Avenue. The island in the area between Spring and the Con Ed lot has to be improved. Some of the other "improvements" have to do with widening the sidewalks in front of Fulton Park and the library and in front of the stretch of stores that includes Maud's and Buffet de la Gare. Those sidewalks would be extended four feet into the roadway, and I think the consensus of the Board and people who have looked at this area is that that is a significant incursion into the roadway. Given that there is parking on both sides of that street, it would be an impediment to traffic, and would cause a nightmare at commuting times both in the morning and in the evening.

Continuing south on Southside, the area in adjacent to the Con Ed lot, the walkway would be shifted somewhat to the north. They have introduced at the extension of that pathway an island in the middle of Southside, plus a crosswalk that extends from the extension of that walkway coming down the stairs across to the west side of Southside. There is also a little bulge area that they have added to the north of that crosswalk. What is the purpose of that?

**Village Manager Hess:** Impeding traffic: to slow it down.

**Mayor Kinnally:** The island does not exist presently. If its purpose is to define the flow of traffic, it is a thin line between defining and impeding. That is a very difficult turn there. I believe Trustee Holdstein indicated that it would be tough for tractor trailers making that turn. Also coming out of the plaza to make a left-hand turn might be kind of tough.

**Village Manager Hess:** County DOT people looked at it in terms of truck movements and felt it was workable. Some of the staff have the same questions on this.

They are proposing putting in an island in front of the station and a new crosswalk, although the latest plans we got today shifted this over to protect against the blind spot.

**Mayor Kinnally:** Will there be enough room for two-way traffic with the new island?

**Village Manager Hess:** Supposedly their DOT people determined appropriate width and turning radiuses. We felt that it should be narrowed up and made round as opposed to this shape, just to provide some additional room in here.

You will have to remember that all this is Metro North property. They have to approve these designs. One of the questions I had was that if we were granted \$325,000 for this project I am not sure we should be spending our 50 percent share on improvements to the other piece of property. That is something we have to be very cautious about.

**Mayor Kinnally:** The extension of what I call the peninsula there seems that it will impede traffic.

**Trustee Holdstein:** I think they are putting too much in there. It is just crazy.

**Mayor Kinnally:** It narrows down that turn where cars are going to be coming out, especially in the morning, to head south and also to head north. Because they have to give a pretty wide berth to the traffic that is coming down the hill. When the traffic comes down the hill and turns to go across the bridge that traffic does not hug the sidewalk. It is a pretty wide berth when they make that turn. That is a steep turning radius there.

Graphically it may look like it is going to work, but given the topography there I do not think it will. They are narrowing the whole flow of traffic. Maybe you want to define it in some way but the combination of adding to the peninsula, adding the island in the upper plaza, and extending the sidewalk and narrowing the whole roadway, is making a bad situation worse.

**Trustee Holdstein:** I agree. As much as I like the overall plan, it almost feels like they are trying to do so much to justify doing the project. I do not think they have sat down there for a few days and gotten a real sense of what the rush-hours and the daily traffic and the bridge traffic are.

**Village Manager Hess:** We told them that what we have is an area, especially during commuter hours, that is controlled chaos, but it works. They are trying to make this area more pedestrian-friendly as opposed to car-friendly. If you are a pedestrian commuter that is great. But if you either drive, or are being picked up at the train station, it is going to be a problem.

**Trustee Holdstein:** Trying to make it more pedestrian-friendly sounds very nice, but it is not going to make people change their minds about driving, and yet that controlled chaos will be a lot more difficult because you are going to have the same number of cars.

**Mayor Kinnally:** I do not think that there is a problem with people who walk to the station in the morning through Spring Street. Very few people use the east side of the street, and the west side of the street can accommodate everyone. I do not see that it is a problem. Those people who come down the stairs, I do not see that there is an impediment to their moving from the east side of the street to the west side and getting to the train.

The four feet on the east side is not necessary. You are going to have a much narrower road coming northbound.

**Village Manager Hess:** Right now you can have cars parked along here and you can have a delivery truck pull up by the restaurants, and still get traffic by. Under the change you will not be able to do that.

**Village Manager Hess:** In the lower portion of the train station, there are seven or eight spaces now. The original proposal was four spaces with a plaza area, kiosk, and benches. The new design has added a space and has increased the plaza area. The kiosk could be for information, telephones, or anything else. The question I have heard is whether this area would be used. It is probably not an area where people, or commuters, will congregate.

**Mayor Kinnally:** I think it might be used, but for the wrong things.

**Trustee Keaney:** If you were up in the Village I do not think you would walk down there to get information from the kiosk.

**Trustee Holdstein:** People gather on the other side of the tracks to wait for a train to go in. This plaza is where they are getting off the train and they are going right home.

**Village Manager Hess:** Currently there are no sidewalks in front of the commuter parking lot. They are extending the sidewalk area into the street, narrowing the street along here, and hashing out the area on the other side of the street next to the concrete sidewalk as a pick-up zone. The sidewalks are a great idea, but it is going to be difficult to have double-parking for pick-ups, which is what happens now. This will force a shift of some of the traffic up Washington Avenue.

**Mayor Kinnally:** Or people are going to make U-turns, or broken U-turns, and it is going to be havoc.

**Village Manager Hess:** Other improvements include new street trees up and down Washington and Southside, and decorative light poles similar to the ones in the downtown, with appropriate fixtures so we can extend our tree-lighting and decorations during the holiday season.

We are submitting all the combined comments tomorrow afternoon.

**Trustee Holdstein:** Does this Board, even including the properties that are owned by Metro North, make a final seal of approval?

**Village Manager Hess:** Yes. It is our project. You have the final say on it. Part of the problem with the downtown project years ago was that we were forced into a design on VFW Park, although some of the concepts were good. It will not be on this one.

**Mayor Kinnally:** A number of our concerns have been borne out. The lighting there was inappropriate. The box in the ramp going up the stairs: we always knew it was not going to work, and they assured us that with plantings it would soften it and it hasn't.

**Village Manager Hess:** Those pavers heave. We have had people trip on them. We have to do major work up at that park.

**Trustee Holdstein:** I am down there every day as Trustee Keaney and Mayor Kinnally are. We live through that controlled chaos. I am not sure how much these people have studied it and gone through it for a week or two. The overall is great. I am thrilled that we are doing the project, but there are some issues on Southside.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Ms. Wagner:** You have Boulanger Plaza parking area in the Village, which I think is pretty empty during commuter hours. Would it be possible to have a jitney at the train station, and take people up, and have all the good wives and husbands sitting at the parking lot there rather than at the train station?

**Mayor Kinnally:** That is a good point, to try to get some of that traffic out of that area.



**Trustee Holdstein:** If the taxis were to go up top in the circle area and everybody went up there to get into their cabs it would free some of that area. But having said that, and having commuted in this Village for 14 years and having served as a Trustee and heard lots of complaints about a lot of things, nobody has ever really complained about this. They will complain about the parking meters and the amount of spaces, but nobody has ever complained about the flow of traffic, or getting their car at the end of the day, or going home. There seems to be an acceptance that it is a narrow street. That is why I am concerned about narrowing the street.

Some things may not need fixing; they may just need improving.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On MOTION of Trustee Gagliardi, SECONDED by Trustee Holdstein with a voice vote of all in favor, the Board scheduled an Executive Session immediately following the Regular Meeting to discuss litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION of Trustee Keaney, SECONDED by Trustee Gagliardi with a voice vote of all in favor, Mayor Kinnally adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:00 p.m.