

VILLAGE OF OLD FIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, 95 MAIN STREET, SETAUKET

Present

Mayor Michael Levine
Trustee Ted Rosenberg
Trustee Stephen Shybunko
Village Attorney Anthony Guardino
Village Clerk Dale Salzberg
Treasurer Andrea Brosnan

Present

Doug Casimir
Bruce Feller
Marianne Feller
Lee Lambert
Debra Masino
Rich Masino
Hayley Ogle
Jeff Owen
Fredelle Robinson
John Robinson
Margaret Sobel
Tom Taranto
Rebecca Vanderbogart
Marianne VonLintig

Mayor Levine called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF TRUSTEE PIUS

The Mayor and Members of the Board of Trustees expressed their deep appreciation for the valuable contributions made by Donald Pius as Trustee for the Village during the past two years. On motion made by Trustee Shybunko and seconded by Trustee Rosenberg, the following resolution was approved 3-0 with Trustees Rosenberg and Shybunko and Mayor Levine voting in favor of the motion:

RESOLVED, that the Village residents record their appreciation and gratitude to Donald Pius for his leadership, counsel and guidance to the Board of Trustees during his 2 years as Trustee; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village residents are grateful to Trustee Pius for the time he volunteered and interest shown in working toward the betterment of the Village of Old Field; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above resolution be recorded in the official minutes of the Village in recognition and with thanks from the Village residents he served so well.

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PUBLIC EXPRESSION

John Robinson addressed the Board.
Bruce Feller addressed the Board.
Doug Casimir addressed the Board.
Fredelle Robinson addressed the Board.
Marianne VonLintig addressed the Board.
Jeff Owen addressed the Board.

TREASURER’S REPORT

A motion was made by Trustee Rosenberg and seconded by Trustee Shybunko to approve the Treasurer’s Report and payment of warrants for February 2009. The motion was approved 3-0 with Trustees Rosenberg and Shybunko and Mayor Levine voting in favor of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

Margaret Sobel read her letter to the Board into the Minutes (attached as Exhibit A) outlining concerns for the surrounding waters, particularly the pollution from runoff and pesticides. The Mayor explained that the proposed Local Laws 1-5, which incorporate the findings of the Shoreline Management Study, address most of the issues mentioned in Ms. Sobel’s letter and that the Board is actively working to rewrite the proposed laws to balance the concerns of residents.

Doug Casimir addressed the Board.
Rich Masino addressed the Board.
Lee Lambert addressed the Board.
Fredelle Robinson addressed the Board.
Tom Taranto addressed the Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

A motion was made by Trustee Rosenberg and seconded by Trustee Shybunko to approve the application for a Zoning Permit for **Laufer, 178 Old Field Road**, to remove one tree. The motion was approved 3-0 with Trustees Rosenberg and Shybunko and Mayor Levine voting in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Trustee Rosenberg and seconded by Trustee Shybunko to approve the Building Permit application of **Eielson, 69 West Meadow Road** to construct first and second floor additions and a new screened porch. The motion was approved 3-0 with Trustees Rosenberg and Shybunko and Mayor Levine voting in favor of the motion.

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COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS

PARKS AND BUILDINGS

Trustee Shybunko reported that the Village is waiting for the Department of Health permit to begin repairs of the septic system on the Lighthouse grounds. Once the DOH permit is received, the project will be noticed for public bid. Trustee Shybunko also noted that 4 bids were received for the landscaping contract, and that the contract would be awarded shortly.

SAFETY

The Mayor invited residents to look at the Code Enforcement Report prepared for the Board meeting each month by Chief McGuire.

STREET AND ROADSIDES

Trustee Rosenberg reported that he had provided the Town of Brookhaven with a list of 46 potholes on Village roads and that dates for repairs were already scheduled. He also noted that the bid specification package for repairs to Village roads was now complete and that the notice for competitive bid would be going out shortly.

Rich Masino addressed the Board.
Rebecca Vanderbogart addressed the Board.

FIRE AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Trustee Pius is actively working to obtain a loan for the revetment. He is currently in the process of providing both HSBC and State Bank with the necessary documentation.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT

Mayor Levine appointed Rebecca Vanderbogart to fill the vacancy as Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The appointment was made for a full five-year term.

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PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Public bids for the Revetment project have been re-opened with a return date of April 6, 2009. The project consists of a 290 LF stone revetment, erosion and sediment control, and seeding and site restoration. Bid packages are available at Village Hall.

LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

Mayor Levine reported that the Village had been asked to participate in the 2009 Long Island Lighthouse Challenge to be held on the weekend of May 16-17, 2009. The Mayor also noted that volunteers would be needed to help out with the event.

A motion was made by Trustee Rosenberg and seconded by Trustee Shybunko to approve Village participation in the Lighthouse challenge subject to the same terms as last year, including proper cleanup and insurance provisions. The motion was unanimously approved 3-0 with Trustees Rosenberg and Shybunko and Mayor Levine voting in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Bruce Feller addressed the Board.
Margaret Sobel addressed the Board.
Doug Casimir addressed the Board.

UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

The Village Election for two (2) Trustee positions will take place on Wednesday, March 18th between noon and 9:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse.

The next work session of the Village of Old Field Board of Trustees is scheduled for April 9, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. at the Lighthouse.

The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Village of Old Field Board of Trustees will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood House.

A motion was made by Trustee Shybunko and seconded by Trustee Rosenberg to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:38 p.m.. The motion was approved 3-0 with Trustees Rosenberg and Shybunko and Mayor Levine voting in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Salzberg
Village Clerk
Appendix

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February 10, 2009

Dear Trustees,

I think that the village of Old Field with its privileged position on Long Island Sound has a duty and obligation to be vigilant about non-point source pollution, which accounts for 70 % of the pollution in the Sound. The southern part of Conscience Bay is closed to shellfishing. There has been a marked decrease in eelgrass and marsh habitats on Long Island over the past 20 years—so our actions on our *private* properties are affecting all of Long Island Sound and by extension our oceans.

As every parcel in Old Field is getting developed, the pressure is on to come up with ways that there can be a balance between property owners rights and protecting an ecosystem that was here before us, and we hope will be here long after we are gone.

Allowing clearing up to wetlands with rainwater running over lawns full of pesticides and fertilizers is not responsible stewardship of the environment. All sorts of studies have documented how nutrient over-loading affects marine life. One easy law that may be hard to enforce, but at least educates the residents about our environmental impact, is to ban fertilizers and pesticides within a certain zone next to wetlands.

Obviously someone who buys waterfront property wants a view and access to the water, but their should be a way of having a buffer zone with low-growing native shrubs that can absorb run-off and prevent erosion but can still allow a viewshed and access to the water.

Another way to preserve habitat for wildlife and cut down on run-off is to consider enforcing percentages of clearing and to encourage native vegetated buffers and underbrush between neighbors on all properties—whether they abut wetlands or not. Dry wells and French drains do not adequately address run-off—they get filled in, and do not replace the value of the natural vegetated buffers in our village. The Town of Brookhaven has a clearing limit law that requires that at least 35% of land is left uncleared (for 2-acres). It seems to me that so many residents complain about how Old Field has changed for the worse in the last 10 years and perhaps this is a way to preserve the character of the village that I think most residents have moved here for.

Marsh habitat in all of Long Island is getting scarcer and scarcer, and this has been specifically documented in Flax Pond. Looking at the maps prepared by the Environmental Consultants there are two main areas of marsh in Old Field--at the bottom of Conscience Bay and Flax Pond. Can we designate them as environmentally sensitive areas and “no dock zones” in our code? The DEC is not equipped to properly enforce regulations of our shoreline--they are overworked and understaffed, and Old Field should take a stand on how to protect its natural resources.

This whole thought process doesn't have to be an “us against them” scenario for the property owners of Old Field. Instead we can look at it as working together within guidelines for a common good.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.
Margaret Sobel