

Village of Old Field
Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes
Dec. 13, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Thomas Pirro-Code Enforcement, Building, Lighthouse Reno Project
Trustee Tom Gulbransen- Environmental Council, Fire & Safety
Trustee Rebecca VanDerBogart -Parks, Building and Street Trees, Lighthouse Reno Project
Trustee Morgan Morrison-Street & Roadside Repairs
Trustee William Schaefer-Special Projects, Website, Village Code Review
Attorney Anthony Guardino
Village Clerk Adrienne Kessel
Village Treasurer Andrea Podolsky
Building Insp. Joe Arico
Building Clerk, Dawn McCoy

Pledge to the Flag

Mayor Pirro led the pledge to the flag and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Building

- Building Dept. reports for Nov., 2022; delinquent permit renewal list and open permit list
Building Inspector Joe Arico discussed several building issues; a SWO (Stop Work Order) at 20 Evans Lane, emergency building repairs and boat removal at 173 Old Field, and a summons for multiple tree removal without a permit at 135 Old Field Road.
- Pending: Huang, Li, 15 Woodhull Cove Ln., permit #2022-0014, demo and build new family dwelling, site plan revision required as of 05 31 22, and 07 25 2022, by Village Engineer, revised plan submitted 08 25 22

Village Clerk

- On a motion by Trustee Schaefer, seconded by Trustee Gulbransen, the Board approved the minutes of Nov. 11, 2022, 5-0.

Treasurer

- On a motion by Trustee Schaefer, seconded by Trustee Gulbransen, the Board approved the warrants and Treasurer's report as presented for Nov. 2022, 5-0.
- Budget 23/24 Public Hearing on January 10, 2023, 7:00 PM.

Code Report

- Nov.2022, 667 property checks, 1 suspicious person investigations, 1 property damage report, 1 Code violation summons issued

Action Items

- On a motion by Trustee VanDerBogart, seconded by Trustee Schaefer, the Board approved the R & M Engineering proposal for bid documents for the Lighthouse renovation project, as amended on 12 12 22, 5-0.

Tom Cottone, a member of the Lighthouse Foundation, addressed the Board to request Foundation members be part of the decision making process regarding the Lighthouse project. Mr. Cottone said in order to raise funds, the Foundation needs confidence in the process, and wants the members to have a seat at the table, not to hear about decisions after the fact.

Village Attorney Anthony Guardino referred the members to both the Foundation Mission and Articles of Inc., and NYS Law, that makes clear the Foundation's only allowable role is to raise funds. All decisions are made by the Board of Trustees only.

Adrienne Owen, a Foundation member, said she was not comfortable to raise funds based on the current mission statement. Mayor Pirro and Attorney Anthony Guardino explained that any changes to the Mission statement can only come from the Foundation.

Tom Cottone and Adrienne Owen continued to support their request by referring to Foundation meetings and minutes, citing the original plans of the existing Lighthouse were drawn by Foundation member John Himmelsbach, Architect. They requested the Foundation's input to select the lead people to be involved in the project, and wanting assurance of future plans, including a Lighthouse Museum. John Himmelsbach also is in support of a museum

Village Treasurer Andrea Podolsky went over the timeline and the amended documents submitted by then Trustee Bruce Feller and Village Clerk Adrienne Kessel as requested by the grant administrator for DASNY.

In response to Mr. Cottone's request in wanting to be kept informed, Mayor Pirro pointed out the time he has invested in multiple conversations he has had with him regarding the project, and reiterated the Foundation is limited to fund raising only, the decisions to select all the professional services required are made only by the Village Board of Trustees.

The Board members stated it is not necessary for the Foundation to meet separately with the Board, as the Foundation members requested, in order to remain informed. All residents can attend Board meetings to receive updates and ask questions. Any meeting with a quorum of the Board requires a public notice and meeting. The Board also discussed that earlier restoration plans were considered among people who had different positions and understandings of what was involved at that time. At this point, more has been learned and this project is now a shared goal of all persons involved. The Board also unanimously stated that they support a Lighthouse museum.

Bob Muller, US Lighthouse Society member and President of the Long Island chapter, offered his continuing advice based on his place within the lighthouse preservation community, including consulting with other local and national groups and experts. He is also a NY State certified building code official, and can look at the project from that perspective, as well. He offered suggestions for an expansive fundraising strategy that would incorporate his experience with public events, and involving local businesses, such as placing flyers on the Port Jefferson ferry to raise awareness. He also is in support of a lighthouse museum to educate the public about lighthouse history, including Old Field Point's status as having forty years of female leadership in the early years of the station.

Trustee VanDerBogart said she would remain in touch with him for his valuable input and advice.

Jeff Schnee, a resident, past Village Trustee, and President of the Three Village Historical Society, said he and the Society would contribute any advice during the project as requested by the Village, and the society would contribute artifacts for a future Lighthouse museum.

Commissioners Reports:

Mayor Pirro-Code Enforcement, Lighthouse Reno Project, Building,

- Met with R & M Engineering re: Lighthouse Project

Trustee Gulbransen- Deputy Mayor, Fire & Safety, Environmental Council

- Revetment Meeting; served as the contact for the TOB Fire Marshall for an electrical fire on Blueberry Ridge Road.

Trustee VanDerBogart-Parks, Building & Street Trees, Lighthouse Reno Project

- Met with R & M Engineering, re: Lighthouse Project; National Historic Landmark designation

Trustee Morgan Morrison -Street & Roadside Repairs:

Trustee Schaefer-Special Projects, Liaison to the ADA/Court,

- Website updates ongoing, will require updating web site platform
- Proposed Revisions of Village Code; land clearing

Public Comments

Jeff Schnee, President of the Three Village Historical Society, presented a plaque to the Village for allowing the Keeper's Cottage to be part of their annual Candlelight House Tour, their largest fund raising event of the year in which \$73,000 was raised. He thanked Trustee Bill Schaefer for his participation in the event by serving as a docent at the Keeper's Cottage for both days during the tour.

Trustee Schaefer accepted the plaque on behalf of the Village.

12 08 22 Executive Session at Work Session, to discuss a personnel issue, in: 8:18, out: 8:24. No resolutions.

Executive Session: To discuss personnel or legal issue: In: 9:15 Out:

Adjourn:

Calendar: Work Session, Jan. 5, 2023, 7:00 PM, BOT, Monthly Meeting and Budget Public Hearing Jan. 10, 2023, 7:00 PM.

Adrienne Kessel
Village Clerk