

VILLAGE OF OLD FIELD
Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Mayor Tom Gulbransen- Fire and Safety, Code Enforcement, Environmental
Deputy Mayor William Schaefer- Operations, Special Projects, Website
Trustee Rebecca VanDerBogart - Building, Lighthouse Project
Trustee Morgan Morrison - Roadside, Trees, Streets and Parks
Trustee Hannah Smith – At large
Village Attorney - Anthony Guardino
Village Clerk - Patty Rodier
Village Treasurer - Andrea Podolsky
Building Inspector - Joseph Arico
Building Clerk - Dawn McCoy – Not in attendance
Code Enforcement – Frank Croce – Not in attendance

Pledge - 7:01

Public Comment - None

Building

- Building Department Reports
- Motion to approve 64 Crane Neck the site plan for 1st floor and 2nd floor addition and balconies made by Trustee Schaefer and 2nd by Trustee Morrison. Motion passed 5-0.
- Motion to approve 94 Old Field Road dock made by Trustee Morrison and 2nd by Trustee Vander Bogart contingent on DEC permit # and the requirement to take down the old dock. Passed 5-0.
- Annual NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) Report. Report is in progress and will be completed by the end of February.
- 70 Crane Neck Road/61 Crane Neck Road – Bamboo – discrepancy on where the property line sits between the two properties. Joe advised the resident to get a survey to determine the property lines and that this is a civil matter.
- 34 Crane Neck Road Tree Removal + Unpermitted Construction. Building Department to issue a violation.

Clerk

- Motion made by Trustee Schaefer and 2nd by Trustee Vander Bogart to approve the minutes from January 2025 BOT and budget meeting. Passed 5-0

Treasurer

- Motion made by Trustee Schaefer and 2nd by Trustee Morrison to approve the warrants and Treasurer's report for January of 2025. Passed 5-0

Environmental Committee

- 7 Dodge Lane has reinitiated her request for tree removal. ECC scheduled to site visit. Determined the trees fell within the Village Code guidelines permitting removal

Deer Fence

- No new applications
- Mammon is confused about needing DEC permission for the portion of fencing to be installed on the bluff. DFC Chair Ogle inquired if we could approve the fence with the exception of the portion on the bluff. The Building Department was requested to notify the owner of the need for DEC approval.

Code

- Code has been requested to be in attendance at the meetings and Trustee Schaefer requested an explanation as to why there is no representation
- Trustee Schaefer is requesting information regarding why there are no informal notices given to trucks parked on the road where it is egregious.
- Code Report:
 - 554 Property Checks
 - 15 Field reports (25-001 thru 25-015)
 - 4 Code Violations investigation reports
 - 1 aided person reports
 - 1 Fire investigation report
 - 3 Dead deer investigation reports
 - 4 Village information reports
 - 2 suspicious vehicle investigation
 - 0 Notice of violation notices issued
 - 0 Informal warnings issued
 - 2 F.A.T (field appearance ticket) summonses issued by Constabulary

New Business

- Code amendment language on driveway aprons. Building department reviewed the proposed wording. This will need to be brought for code changes.
- Cell Tower for Crane Neck – Trustee Smith and Mayor Gulbransen to investigate. Discussion should include Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES) and Brookhaven.
- Motion was made by Trustee Schaefer and 2nd by Trustee Morrison to hold a public hearing for a Local Law #1 for a Village Administrator position and other Village Operations. Passed 5-0
- Trustee Schaefer inquired about the trigger for snow removal in the village. Trustee Morrison contacted the vendor and confirmed the vendor is using fair judgement.

Old Business

- Modern Ruins Contract review. Indemnification is a sticking point on the proposed contract.
 - Discussion continues concerning an indemnity clause. Currently, Modern Ruins attorney and the Village attorney are in agreement while Walter does not.
 - Trustee Schaefer argued that the indemnification clause requested by the Village complies with the standards set forth by the AIA, the organization representing Architects.
 - Trustee Vander Bogart expressed concerns that money already spent on the renovation have been wasted.
 - Mayor Gulbransen indicated that the Village requested to approach the project in separate stages so that we can move forward consistent with the funds we have. The vendor did not agree to this proposal.
 - Mayor Gulbransen indicated the Village tried to get sequential drawings from MR but Walter will not agree to that. Trustee Schaefer expressed concerns as to the level of compromise demonstrated by the Vendor.
- Motion was made by Trustee Morrison and 2nd by Trustee Smith to approve contracting with Servpro to clean up the lead paint subject to Trustee Morrisons approval of the tools to be used. Passed 5-0
- Review of village code for clearing and fees.
 - Effort underway to reduce the verbiage in the code while maintaining content and providing clarity.
 - The extent of clearing depends on the current percent of clearing of the property
 - ECC Chair Feller noted that the village should be looking at clearing from a 300' view and cited California as an example of the need for clearing. He stated that there are properties in the village that need clearing for the purposes of fire prevention.
- Village attorney discussed needing a public hearing for code changes and that the proposed changes should already be worked out (at least 7 days) before the public hearing. Mayor Gulbransen suggested the changes be posted on-line. Decision to hold off on the hearing for code changes.
- Any code changes regarding building such as the changes suggested for driveway aprons, need to have the updates to the code sent to the town.
- Trustee Schaefer noted that the village needs clear definition for what the uniform code can issue a summons vs. what needs professional personnel to issue a summons. Joe will map out what each group can do.
- Trustee Morrison inquired about the fee schedule for other villages. It was noted that Joe has provided this information to the Mayor.
- Trustee Schaefer requested a second notification regarding the upcoming election and polling place.

Correspondence

- Mayor received a correspondence regarding the purchase of village land by the department of conservation for preservation. Sunset View is one of the locations they would consider.
 - Trustee Schaefer and Mayor Gulbransen expressed concern about losing tax payer income if village land is moved to preservation.
 - Mayor Gulbransen to speak to neighboring properties to the proposed land.
- Suggestion was made to utilize Kaltenborn as a frisbee golf court.

Public Comment

- Laura Hirsch noted that she was informed by DEC that any dock construction needs to have plastic under the dock to prevent it from resting directly on the ground at low tide.
- Lisa Pius contributed to Trustee Schaefer's discussion on re-establishing a ways and means committee, providing information about a newsletter (The Pulse) that the Village used to have in circulation as a possible extension of the ways and means committee
- Discussion on an Old Field Handbook that was maintained by Margaret Sobel.
- Laura Hirsch suggested the village install cement chessboard in Kaltenborn commons.

Trustee Reports

- Mayor Tom Gulbransen – Fire & Safety, Code Enforcement, Environmental
- Trustee Rebecca VanDerBogart -Building, Lighthouse Project
- Trustee Morgan Morrison-Roadside, Trees, Streets & Parks – waiting on pot hole quote from Opal
- Trustee William Schaefer-Operations, Special Projects, Website – inquiring if there is any interest in re-establishing ways and means for the purposes of creating community events similar to what has been done in the past.
- Trustee Hannah Smith – at Large

Executive Session

In: NA

Out: NA

Adjourned: 9:08

Calendar

- Next Work Session Thursday March 6, 2025
- Monthly Meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2025