

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC.VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

Mayor Bonnie L.S. Parente, Trustees Christopher A. Siciliano, James Iannone, Raffaella Dunne, James Lark, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Also present: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kelapire, Marcia Weisser, Andrew Doulous, Henry Yuen.

By Executive Order 202.1 from of the Governor of the State of New York, the hearing was held remotely by a Webex conference hosted by the Village of East Williston. A verbatim transcript of said proceedings are annexed to these minutes.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone , seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Dunne and Lark all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of July 13, 2020.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Lark, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Dunne and Lark all voting "aye" the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of August 3, 2020.

On the motion of Mayor Parente , seconded by Trustee Dunne , and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Dunne and Lark voting "aye", the Board approved the abstracts for July 2020 claim numbers: 202000030 - 20200098.

The report of the East Williston Fire Department for July 2020 was presented by Trustee Iannone. The Department responded to eight calls during the month of July: two 9A EMS calls, four general alarms, one mutual aid and one signal 10, a working house fire on Charles Street.

During Tropical Storm Isaias on August 4th, the department had 11 calls for downed wires and one mutual aid call to Plandome for a house fire.

Mayor Parente thanked Trustees Siciliano and Iannone and all of the members of the East Williston Fire Department for all of their hard work during the tropical storm event on August 4th.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:
TRUSTEE IANNONE

Trustee Iannone reported that the East Williston Senior Group had put together fliers that were mailed outlining the Town of North Hempstead's program Project Independence and the valuable services provided by this endeavor.

The Senior Group has not met due to Covid-19, but were planning events to take place outside in the fall.

TRUSTEE SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano stated that the department of public works still has many trees that need to be removed due to the storm, as well as associated debris. In particular, a tree on Donald Street where the wires must be removed by PSEGLI before the tree can be worked on.

Residents were reminded to bundle branches together no larger than four foot lengths for removal by the sanitation contractor.

Mayor Parente complimented the employees in public works for the amazing job they did in response to the storm.

Trustee Siciliano reported that the Library hours are now Monday 2-6pm, Wednesday 10am to 2pm and Friday 10am to 2pm.

The Library programs/events have included celebrating Willie the Turtle's birthday with a fun craft, craft closet artwork posters, adult coloring books are still available, monster craft, the Library voted Cyril, the White Squirrel as the Library Mascot, National Friendship day was celebrated with creating friendship bracelets, book club will meet August 20th to discuss "The Last Year of the War" by Susan Meissner, adult flower arranging on the Village Green presented by Old Westbury Gardens on August 20th, Fairy Garden for children ages 7 and up on August 27th on the Village Green, Miss Steph Story Time is on You Tube, National Book Loves Day will be celebrated with an East Williston Library car magnet, book marks for "Shark Week" and shark craft give way the week of August 10th.

Mayor Parente commended the Library staff for all of the creative programs they have undertaken, as well as making home deliveries of books to those who cannot get out.

TRUSTEE DUNNE

Trustee Dunne reported that the Recreation Committee will be holding drive-in movie night on Friday, August 14th at 8pm in the village parking lot. Residents must pre-register, as there is a maximum of 30 vehicles. The cost is \$5.00 made payable to the Village of East Williston. Residents may contact Maeve Kilgo at 917-576-9928.

Summer tennis lessons are wrapping up and the instructor will be preparing for fall tennis lessons beginning on September 8th.

The Recreation Committee will also host pickleball at the tennis courts beginning September 1th from 9:30am to 11am. Fliers for activities will be mailed shortly.

Trustee Dunne stated that Jeanne Trotter and Ronnie Kelapire of the Beautification Committee have been working tirelessly to continue plantings in the public spaces in the village. Although there are many members of the committee, most members are not particularly active.

TRUSTEE LARK

Trustee Lark presented the Justice Court report for July 2020. 39 parking violations were issued during the month with \$1,500.00 in fines collect.

Trustee Lark stated that the East Williston Little League has had a limited summer schedule and is looking forward to the fall.

Trustee Lark stated that he has upgraded the Webex account so public hearings could be held with better communication. He added that he had received information today that needs to be reviewed for other remote meeting upgrades.

MAYOR PARENTE

Mayor Parente stated that a camera was installed today to view activities at the train station pavilion. The Village is still looking for better definition and clarity of the footage.

The Village was hit very hard by the winds from Tropical Storm Isaias on August 4th. Many large, healthy trees were felled by the wind causing widespread power outages. Six hundred residents are still without power.

The Mayor noted that she was in constant contact with PSEG working to restore power. She noted that the office staff fielded many calls and emails trying to help residents.

The Village has suspended the “no power tool” rule for this past Saturday, and Saturday, August 15th.

The overnight parking restriction has also been suspended until Monday, August 17, 2020.

Lastly, the Village was waiving fees for emergency tree removed for the next two weeks.

Mayor Parente reported that Sagamore Avenue is experiencing a significant issue with crime in recent weeks. Problems with youths congregating at the train station pavilion, leading to vandalism, drug deals, fist fights, picking flowers from private property have been reported. Most of the youths come from the Mineola area.

She endeavored to reach out to the Superintendent of Schools of Mineola to alert the district to this issue. The youths are also from Albertson and New Hyde Park.

Mayor Parente urged residents to call 911 if they see anything of a suspicious nature in the area.

Trustee Iannone added that a brick was thrown into a window at the village office. The act was not caught on camera unfortunately. The village will be changing the angle of the camera.

Mrs. Kelapire stated that it is dangerous to approach this gang of youths that hang out in the area. They feel like nothing is going to happen to them, so they continue to hang out and cause trouble.

It was mentioned that the MTA police could be contacted to aid in having a police presence in the area.

Mayor Parente stated that the owner of the Little Art Studio said women who worked there were intimidated by the gangs of youths when they went to leave to get in their cars.

Mr. Kelapire felt that the village should get in touch with the parents of these children.

Mayor Parente stated that in a prior vandalism incident that took place at Devlin Field, she and Trustee Lark met with the youths and their parents about the incident and restitution was made to the village. In this incident, the youths were from Mineola, Williston Park, and two of those involved went to Kellenberg High School.

Mayor Parente stated that the youth who took down the East Williston sign on the train pavilion lost his mother, his father threw him out of the house and he is living with a friend. Child Protective Services is on the case, but not much can be done at this time.

Mr. Kelapire asked what was the process for the proposed Code changes where the hearing was postponed on July 13th.

Mayor Parente stated that the Board had already met several times to discuss the proposed Code changes and was recommending said changes for consideration and approval.

It was hoped that a constructive meeting could be held with resident feedback, but must wait until the Village can upgrade the technology to enable this to happen. The Village will advise residents when this will take place.

Mr. Doulos stated that the storage chest at the tennis courts had been disassembled recently. He put it back together. He wanted to know what can be done legally to the youths causing the trouble. He added that he found liquor bottles at Devlin Field as well. He suggested installing barbed wire.

Mayor Parente advised that the Board was obtaining quotes for upgraded lighting and surveillance cameras at Devlin Field.

James Daw felt that those participating in the destruction be arrested.

Mayor Parente noted that the surveillance footage is not always clear, so it is difficult to determine who the perpetrators are.

On one occasion, Mayor Parente stated that the police were called twice to come to the field when crowds of youths were present. There just is not enough police. The youths also ignore the security patrol.

Trustee Dunne stated that the Teen Safety Committee and the Police liaisons worked well in the past, but the group of students who participated has graduated and moved on. The youths now are at an age where they are just leaving middle school.

Mayor Parente stated that this group that is loitering is now vandalizing property.

Kathy Daw felt that these kids should be reported to their respective schools and have to face consequences.

Mayor Parente thanked Jeanne Trotter for reporting the damage to the train station pavilion.

Mr. Doulos stated that cars speeding in the Village is another problem. Drivers go 30-40 miles per hour.

Mayor Parente stated that one of the upcoming public hearings is to consider a all way stop at the intersection of Downing Street and Feather Lane.

Mrs. Daw said a stop sign will not do any good on Downing Street. The Village needs to get a police officer stationed in the area.

Mayor Parente stated that the Village cannot lower the speed limit to less than 25 miles per hour.

Mr. Kelapire suggested the Village put in speed bumps.

Mayor Parente stated that the traffic study performed of the Downing Street area noted the usefulness of an all way stop at Downing and Feather.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Mayor Parente, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.