

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor David E. Tanner, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Bonnie L.S. Parente, Trustees Christopher Siciliano, Robert M. Vella, Jr., James L. Iannone, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Marie L. Hausner, Village Clerk.

Also present: Michael Holland, James Clark, James Daw, Susan Corsello, Barbara Seixas, Ellen Ritz, Carla Strauss, John Azzara, Michael Guglielmo.

The Board met with Chairman Michael Holland of the Board of Zoning Appeals to discuss a possible change to the zoning code with regarding allowing apartments on the ground floor of the commercial buildings on Sagamore Avenue. Specifically, 470 Sagamore Avenue (former cleaners site). The owner of the property previously appeared before the Board of Zoning Appeals, for office space but did not have a sufficient number of parking spaces for the offices. Mr. Holland stated that he recused himself from the case, as he had business dealings with the applicant. Subsequently, the applicant withdrew his application because of strong opposition from the Zoning Board members about the parking issue (they requested a parking study).

Mr. Holland briefly reviewed the history of the use of the building, as his office had been located there in 1976.

Mayor Tanner felt that the application should have remained before the Zoning Board.

The applicant is now looking to have an office in the front of the building (first floor) and one residential apartment on the first floor in the rear.

Mr. Holland stated that the Board Zoning Appeals grants variances and said variance goes with the land (not the owner of the property). The Board of Trustees only grants a conditional use for the owner of the property at the time. Each Board is autonomous. The Board of Zoning Appeals has no flexibility in granting variances; they must follow the Village Zoning code. The Board of Trustees is a legislative body and can place constraints upon a property (for example, renting an apartment but stating that only two adults can reside at a property or that no dogs are allowed).

Trustee Vella stated that at first, he was concerned that with apartments on the first floor, the building would be a boarding house, however, essentially now, a business will be located in the front of the building with a residence in the rear first floor. As long as

there is a business in the front. He does not have a problem with the change in the Zoning. Code.

Trustee Parente added that she objected to adding any further residence at 470 Sagamore Avenue. She felt that the Zoning Board should have heard the application. She was troubled by the withdrawal of the application by the applicant and who advised him to do so.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Vella and Iannone all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of July 27, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, and seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Siciliano, Vella and Iannone all voting "aye", and Trustee Parente abstaining from said vote, the Board approved the minutes from the regular meeting of August 10, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Vella and Iannone all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, and Iannone all voting "aye", and Trustee Vella abstaining from said vote, the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of August 31, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Vella and Iannone all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for August 2015 as follows: 20150097 - 20150122.

Assistant Chief James Clark presented the report of the East Williston Fire Department for August 2015. The Department responded to a total of 15 calls during the month: seven rescue calls, six auto accidents, two transformer calls.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente stated that the senior group met on September 17th. On October 15th, the senior's will have a presentation on legal issues pertinent to the senior population.

Nassau County Clerk Maureen O'Connell sent information to the Village regarding the senior flu shot program for 2015. It will be held on October 8th from 9am to 2pm at the Williston Park American Legion Post 144 on Willis Avenue. Residents must call 571-2660 to make an appointment.

Trustee Parente thanked everyone who participated in the 9/11 ceremony, especially the Fire Department and the Girl and Boy Scouts.

TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.

Trustee Vella reported that the Justice Court collected a total of \$2,970.00 in fines from 49 violations in August 2015. The violations consisted of 43 parking violations, 6 moving and no Village ordinance violations. There was \$186.00 in New York State surcharges for the month.

Trustee Vella informed those present that yoga classes continue on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am, and gentle yoga takes place on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-7:15pm. Children's dance classes take place on Mondays with Miss Nicole. The "Come Play with Me" program takes place on Mondays between 10 and 11am. Fall tennis classes began on September 8th.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano reported that public works personnel continue to replace the street sign posts in the southeast quadrant of the Village.

Leaf bags will be available in the Village office in early October.

The sweeper has been out in the Village on a regular basis.

Trustee Siciliano reminded residents to call the Village office when they see a street light out so it can be reported to the street lighting contractor.

TRUSTEE JAMES L. IANNONE

Trustee Iannone thanked the members of the East Williston Department for participating in the 9/11 ceremony. He also commended them for their work at the Williston Street Fair.

The members of the East Williston Fire Department will be undertaking hazardous materials training.

Susan Corsello presented the Library Report:

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Library Book Clubs

Our “Day Time Book Club” met on September 8th to discuss “Xingu”, a short story by Edith Wharton. Our “Evening Book Club” met on September 10th to discuss “Transatlantic”, by Colum McCann.

Toddler Story Time

The Toddler Group resumed on September 18th. They will meet on Fridays at 11:30 am while school is in session.

East Williston Senior Group

The senior group met on September 17th to catch up with friends after a long summer.

Upcoming Events

- “*The New Rules for Treasury Bonds*”, presented by Kyle Lukaszewicz of Northeast Risk Management Group, Inc. – September 24th at 7:00 pm
- “*Fall Craft Project for Adults*”, hosted by Louise Bosnack – September 25th at 7:00 pm
- “*The Life of President Theodore Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill*”, presented by Professor Howard Ehrlich, National Park Ranger – October 1st at 7:30 pm
- “*E-Books and Audiobooks Online*”, presented by Sharper Training Solutions – October 24th from 11:00 am -1:00 pm
- Carol Alt will discuss her new book, “*A Healthy You*” – October 27th at 7:30 pm

Library Friends Display Cabinet We have a great collection on display featuring sports memorabilia on loan from local author, Hal Bock. Hal has published two books, “The Associated Press Pictorial History of Baseball” and “Willard Mullin’s Golden Age of Baseball Drawings”. His upcoming book, “The Last Chicago Cubs Dynasty”, will be published on Opening Day of the 2016 baseball season.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in August 2015:

388 Charles Street, kitchen addition & front portico. 7 Griffin Lane refurbish driveway. 4 Todd Ct. refurbish driveway. 26 Bengeyfield Drive, addition to house and front portico. 47 Meritoria Drive, legalization and maintenance of sunroom. 75 Bengeyfield Drive legalize and maintain rear deck. 61 Bengeyfield Drive construction of an in-ground swimming pool. 44 Meritoria Drive front portico. 8 Sumter Avenue, construction of new one family house with detached garage, central air conditioning system and new driveway. 370 Charles Street, refurbish driveway.

The Nassau County Police Department report for August 2015 showed the following activity: There were two reports of robberies at 201 Howard Street and 104 Robbins

Drive. 16 parking violations and nine moving violations were reported. There were three auto accidents and no auto injuries reported.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Ellen Ritz asked if the monies collected from the Justice court come to the Village as revenue. Mr. Blinkoff explained that a portion of the monies come to the Village (from parking violations, zoning code violations), however New York State receives a surcharge from all moving violations.

Michael Guglielmo asked about the status of water negotiations with Williston Park.

Trustee Parente stated that the Board is talking directly with Williston Park at this time and making some progress, but it is not prepared to say what the current progress is at this point.

Mayor Tanner stated that everyone should keep in mind that the Board is working for the benefit of the residents of East Williston in these negotiations.

Trustee Vella stated that numerous meetings were held with Williston Park. The East Williston Board asked for Williston Park's position in writing (about what they wanted included in a contract). Instead, Williston Park went to the local newspaper with an article. Now, East Williston has been served with another action from Williston Park with respect to the issue of penalties. He said he is encouraged by recent communication with Williston Park, but are constrained by what can be discussed with the public at this time.

Trustee Vella went on to say that at some point in the future, the Board will come back to residents outlining the options available to East Williston

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village is proceeding with the SEQRA process for the possible construction of a well. The Village is also running numbers on the cost of the well. The Village is running on "parallel paths", negotiating with Williston Park and exploring the construction of a well simultaneously.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the SEQRA (the State Environmental Quality Review Act) is undertaken when a large project is proposed to determine if there is any negative impact to the environment. It has been determined that there is no negative impact. A negative declaration has been approved to begin the process if the Village decides to move forward with the construction of its own well.

Trustee Parente stated that after East Williston contacted neighboring municipalities, it was determined that none of the neighboring districts could sufficiently supply East Williston with water.

Trustee Vella added that because of the intense new construction in Mineola, that Village could definitely not supply the water needs of East Williston.

Mayor Tanner stated that Mineola's engineer had confirmed the fact that Mineola did not have adequate capacity to supply East Williston. He reiterated that East Williston had reached out to other surrounding municipalities (Albertson Water District, Old Westbury and Carle Place Water District) and they too, are unable to supply water on a continuing basis to East Williston.

Trustee Vella stated that he was made aware of a burglary that took place near High Street and Howard Street in early August. He stated that residents should be vigilant, ensure that they set alarms and lock doors.

Trustee Parente stated that while no door is ever closed on a given situation, the Village has made every attempt to find alternative sources of water without success.

Mr. Guglielmo asked if arbitration can be used to settle this matter with Williston Park.

The Board stated that Williston Park has stated they are not willing to go with mediation in this matter.

James Daw stated that the East Williston should resist the urge to enter into mediation with Williston Park, as he did not think that someone who does not have "skin in the game" should be negotiating for what the Board of Trustees is expected to do.

Trustee Vella stated that he is opposed to mediation.

Trustee Iannone stated that the active law suit for penalties by Williston Park would complicate a mediation process.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village had to go through the SEQRA process before it can borrow monies to construct a water well.

Carla Strauss thanked the Village for the meaningful 9/11 service held on the Village Green.

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There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.