

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

Agenda Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, April 29, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor Bonnie L.S. Parente, Trustees Christopher Siciliano, Raffaella Dunne, Marie L. Hausner, Village Clerk, Treasurer Michael Delury, Bonnie Kreisman, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Village Attorney Jeffrey Blinkoff..

Excused from meeting: Trustee Anthony Casella, Trustee James Iannone.

Also present: Ray Gaudio, Lisa Sklow, Walter Rivera, Timothy Kelly, Matthew Cuomo, Philip Chappo, Rita Botensten.

Lisa Sklow and Ray Gaudio were present at the meeting to discuss noise from landscaping activities in the Village.

Mrs. Sklow stated that landscapers go from house to house on the street using power equipment and leave mowers idling. This noise can go on for six to seven hours a day. It is difficult to enjoy one's yard while this work is going on.

Mr. Gaudio outlined some of the issues with the noise caused by leaf blowers: respiratory problems, hydrocarbons from 2 stroke engines, quality of life, stress, hypertension, headaches, noise induced hearing loss, noise pollution (about 100 db per machine).

He noted possible solutions: mandate battery powered leaf blowers, ban GLPB's during non-leaf periods, limit two GPLB's per property, create a time limit per property, ban 2 stroke engines, mandate GPLB machines be 65 decibels or less, defined distance from property lines, ban "walk behind" GPLB's, possibly divide Village into set work days for commercial landscapers.

Trustee Dunne stated that living on a cul-de-sac, neighbors agreed amongst themselves not to have landscape work performed on Saturdays.

Mayor Parente stated that perhaps the Village can consider amending the Village Code to limit commercial landscape work on Saturdays from 9am to 2pm.

Consideration could also be given to restricting the use of gas powered equipment between May 1 through Oct. 31, increasing fines for each infraction of the code (first offense, second offense, and revocation of the permit for a third offense). For the 2020

landscaping permit, the fee should be increased to \$125, with a \$25 reduction for those landscapers who can provide proof of purchase of four stroke or battery operated leaf blowers.

Mayor Parente also suggested the formation of an Eco-Green Committee to discuss ongoing issues of this kind.

Mayor Parente felt that future purchases of equipment for the Department of Public Works should be more “eco-green”.

RESOLUTION #2019-14 A RESOLUTION SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, MAY 13 2019 TO CONSIDER A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 89-11 TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS AS TO COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPING WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

On the motion of Mayor Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Parente, and Trustees Siciliano, and Dunne all voting “aye”, the Board set a date for a public hearing on Monday, May 13, 2019 to consider a local law amending the Village Code Chapter 89-11 to include additional provisions as to commercial landscaping within the Village.

Mayor Parente stated that she is meeting with Mayor Paul Ehrbar of Williston Park and the Nassau County Police Department “POP cops” on Wednesday, May 1st at 10:30am to discuss safety issues within the two villages.

Mayor Parente said she endeavored to revive the Teen Safety Committee. Both Tim Kelly and Trustee Dunne were members of that committee a few years back. Both Bridget Kelly and Amanda Leonick (teens at the time) were members of the committee.

Issues of late have included a rogue 8th grade group planning to meet at Devlin Field to have a fight. Due to an anonymous tip to the Village, the group moved the fight to the Cross Street School in Williston Park.

It is the hope of both Mayor Parente and Mayor Ehrbar that the objective of the Teen Safety Committee is to give the youths awareness of who they can speak to when issues like the one above occurs. It will show that the villages and law enforcement are taking them seriously to protect them. The representatives from each village and the police department will meet with the youths to exchange ideas.

Mayor Parente noted that the East Williston Little League coaches have served as informal watchdogs at Devlin Field.

Trustee Dunne noted that the police were called the night of the incident, but did not show up. An adult presence caused the teens to move their venue for the fight into Williston Park.

Mr. Kelly brought up recent events requiring a call to police about an explosion on a lawn, and a group of kids going up to a home and “body-slammimg” the front door of a home. He noted that there was supposed to be video surveillance of the body slammimg incident.

Mr. Rivera stated that the Nassau County Police Department third precinct needs to issue summons to youths who congregate in parks after dark. Especially where signs are posted. They are acting out because there is no presence of police and/or adults.

Mayor Parente asked that Devlin Field be checked to ensure that signage is in place about trespassing.

Mayor Parente felt that the Village should undertake providing a security detail from 11pm to 2am, perhaps using the old East Williston Fire Chief’s vehicle to go around to the park and other parts of the Village.

Mr. Rivera suggested outfitting the vehicle with white halogen lights that can be shined into the park.

Mr. Blinkoff said he will check with the Village of Flower Hill, as they have an ex-police officer who patrols that village.

Mayor Parente asked that the Village office check with the chiefs of the East Williston Fire Department about getting the security system up and working. Another camera should be installed where Sagamore Avenue meets Ogden Avenue

A letter should be sent to the Fire Department thanking them for changing the location of the Thursday night drills to in front of the Village Hall.

The Board set the May 2019 agenda meeting to Tuesday, May 28th, since the last Monday of May is Memorial Day.

Mayor Parente asked that the Village office contact Reverend Tillery of the Community Church of East Williston to give the invocation at the Memorial Day ceremony and ask Ariana Arralde if she can sing the National Anthem.

Mayor Parente discussed the possibility of adopting a local law prohibiting the sale of marijuana in East Williston.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that it would be best to hold off until New York State passes any such law regarding the sale of marijuana, as it is still illegal to sell the substance in New York State.

On the motion of Mayor Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 9:17pm to discuss potential litigation.

The Board re-convened at 9:38pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Rita Botensten, Matthew Cuomo and Philip Chappo were present at the meeting to discuss the East Williston School District's plans to install a fence around the North Side School.

Mayor Parente noted that the School District did not cooperate with the Village in providing information with regard to the fence. The Village had to file a Freedom of Information Request to the New York State Education Department for the plans and information.

Mrs. Botensten stated that only they have seen the plans and that the plans should be made public.

Mayor Parente said the Village has been in contact with the School District from the onset, but has not received very much feedback from the District.

She added that the East Williston Fire Chiefs and Commissioners met with Nick Fusco of Buildings and Grounds about fire truck access to the property.

Mayor Parente had met with Superintendent of School Elaine Kanas about the fence. She said that the School District can install a fence as tall as eight feet high. She further stated that Trustee Iannone will be meeting with her on Wednesday, May 1st and will request that the school install a four foot fence.

Mayor Parente said there are two open spots on the school board, and felt that someone from East Williston should run for those posts.

Mr. Cuomo felt the Village should ask the School District to apply for a permit to install the fence, just like any other resident in the Village. He further stated that the Village has zoning laws that apply, and School District should have no absolute immunity.

Mr. Cuomo brought up the court case in the Third Department regarding schools and local zoning laws.

Mr. Blinkoff explained that case.

Mr. Cuomo stated that nothing in the State Education Law requires the School District to go before with State Education Department with regard to the installation of a fence.

Mr. Chappo questioned the sidewalk on Andrews Road. Mayor Parente said the Village will have to find out information about the sidewalk.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that it was his understanding that on advice from Homeland Security that the fence was intended to keep people from entering the school.

Mr. Chappo said he was not sure what the objective was for the installation of a six foot fence.

Mayor Parente stated that when she met with Dr. Kanas, he thoughts and concerns did not get through to her.

Mrs. Botensten felt that it was terrible that the Village had to FOIL the information from the State Education Department. In essence, the School District is not listening to the Village and it's residents.

Mayor Parente encouraged communication on this matter.

Trustee Siciliano stated that when the members of the Village Board attended the School Board meeting on the fence, hardly any residents were there to speak out against it.

Mr. Cuomo asked what the Village will lose if it challenges the School Board zealously to apply Village Zoning Laws.

Mayor Parente stated that there are other issues between the Village and the School District.

Mr. Chappo felt that the School Board is being dismissive of the Village.

Mayor Parente stated that the Village Board was advised that it has no jurisdiction over the plans the school has for the fencing. The School Board has stated they do not have to cooperate.

Mr. Cuomo reiterated that the Village should tell the School Board that the Village Code applies, that they have to obtain a permit to erect the fence, and force them to follow the process.

Mr. Blinkoff questioned what is the best way to get the School District to do what the Village wants.

Mr. Cuomo said he has spoken with School Board member David Keefe and that this whole thing is a boondoggle.

Mayor Parente reiterated that James Iannone will be meeting with Dr. Kanas on May 1st, so the Village is still in talks with them. The plan as it stands does not make any sense.

Mr. Cuomo stated that the School District is enamored with all things security driven.

Mr. Cuomo also stated that Trustee Iannone should tell Dr. Kanas that a six foot fence could be dangerous for drivers at the intersection of Andrews Road and Downing Street, due to a blind spot.

Mayor Parente also stated that Trustee Iannone will also bring up to Dr. Kanas issues of community use of the field when school is closed, and where will the mesh be placed on the fencing (will it obstruct view of the field, etc.).

Mayor Parente stated that every time the Village met with representative of the School District; a different rationale was presented each time it was discussed.

Mrs. Botensten felt that the Village should post the plans for the fence in the Village Hall and send out an email blast that they are available for viewing. She also felt that the email blast should include information that the Village had to FOIL the documents from the State Education Department.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Village received a quote for a new flag pole at Devlin Field. The new pole is aluminum and the assembly is located inside the pole preventing damage to the lines and flag. The Company Pole Tech provided a quote of \$4,375.00 for the equipment and installation.

RESOLUTION #2019-15 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE QUOTE FROM POLE TECH FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FLAG POLE AND INSTALLATION AT DEVLIN FIELD AT A COST OF \$4,375.00.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Mayor Parente and with Mayor Parente, and Trustees Siciliano, and Dunne all voting "aye", the Board accepted the quote from Pole Tech for the purchase of a new flag pole and installation at Devlin Field at a cost of \$4,375.00.

Trustee Siciliano stated that hydrant flushing will commence on Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 11pm and will go until 4am. The flushing will continue until May 16th during those hours. With information provided by John Mirando, certain valves will be shut off at different times as part of a water system sequence. An email blast will be sent out, as well as a flier alerting residents to the flushing.

Trustee Dunne stated that she received correspondence from Michelle Tanner on behalf of the Beautification Committee about the purchasing of new planters for the train station pavilion.

Trustee Siciliano said they can coordinate with Jim Bailey in public works.

Trustee Dunne also stated that she attended a meeting with Mayor Parente recently and was presented with information about participating in an energy efficiency audit for the Village. The audit may enable the Village to procure future grants for energy related programs

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18pm.