

WPOA General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 12, 2016 7:30 PM

Officers, Officials, & Directors Present: M. Traxler, R. Aquino, A. Finamore, J. Blohm, B. Bolebruch, S. Makrinos, B. Holub, J. Licari, N. Vernice, G. Weinrich, R. Vernice, N. Bangalore
24 residents were in attendance.

Annual Meeting:

Nominating Committee Report:

Gloria Weinrich spoke for Mike Ryder, Nominating Committee Chairperson: The members of the committee were thanked for their efforts. The incoming slate of officers for 2016-2017 is:

Maureen Traxler - President
Ralph Aquino - Vice President
Arnold Finamore - Treasurer

The office of Secretary will be filled after an interview is conducted. The Directors will continue in their current positions. After no objections rose from the floor, a motion was made and accepted to approve the nominees for their respective positions.

General Meeting:

Minutes: A motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes from the general meeting of January 19, 2016.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and accepted to approve the treasurer's report with a March 24 closing balance of \$7,092.88. As of today, April 12, 2016 there are 243 paid members.

Guest Speaker: Kevin Ocker, Superintendent Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs

~ The Senior Center opened in February to great success. In the first twenty-two days there were 1300 visitors. There are many daily activities and monthly special events. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a free monthly luncheon by a local restaurant. The Senior Advisory Group has retained speakers and there is bridge, exercise classes, and billiards to name but a few activities.

~ The major goals of the Department of Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan - Phase 1 were presented. Improvements to Community Parks' fields, St. Paul's Cluett Hall & Fieldhouse, park facilities & fields (Nassau Haven, Stewart Field, Hemlock, Edgemere, Grove, Tullamore) were outlined. Maintenance plans and recreational programs & activities were discussed. As always, there remains the goal to optimize revenue to enhance Garden City's recreational assets.

~ Pool memberships are flowing in. New activities this year will be a camp for children, activities for teens, a level 7 lifeguard-training program, and three "parties under the stars." The renovations to the bathhouses should be completed by mid-May and new lounge chairs have been ordered.

~ In response to resident questions:

*The village is considering a dog park, but a proper location with adequate parking has yet to be chosen.

*Garden City is using an encapsulated turf product on the new playing fields, which is deemed safe.

*Registration for recreation programs is available online after first obtaining a password at the rec office.

*The pool bathhouse renovations are being funded by the pool enterprise fund.

*Curb cuts, signage, and painting of a crosswalk should facilitate the use of the parking area across the street from the Senior Center.

President's Report: Maureen Traxler

~ The WPOA on its website is now accepting payment of dues thru PayPal. The Department of Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan - Phase 1 for 2016-2020 may also be found on the WPOA website.

~ The Board of Trustees recently appointed Western area residents to various positions. Congratulations to John Ardito - Garden City Rep to Water Authority of Western Nassau, Suzie Alvey - Civic Beautification Committee, & Larry Quinn - Environmental Advisory Board.

~ A special committee is being formed to update the WPOA By-Laws of 2004. The goal is to accomplish the update by the fall of 2016.

~ Residents are urged to give their email addresses on their membership forms so that they may be informed of pertinent issues in a timely manner.

Trustees' Reports:

Steve Makrinos:

~ The village budget, which came in under the tax cap, was passed on April 4. It may be found on the village website. "The Village Budget is the culmination of a coordinated effort by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Staff to maintain the highest level of affordable municipal service while striving to keep property tax increases under the level imposed by the State Tax Cap." Ms. Woo, Village Treasurer, is to be commended for her efforts.

~ At a recent meeting in New Hyde Park re the proposed LIRR third track, the emphasis was on the improvement of the grade crossings at Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road. Some commercial, not residential, properties, may be affected, and the proposed construction times for improvements would be six months for Covert Avenue and nine months for New Hyde Park Road. While traffic lane usage is being planned, it was felt that there is also a need to consider a configuration for pedestrian traffic.

Bob Bolebruch:

~ The New York State Public Employment Relations Board appointed Mr. Stephen Bluth to assist the village and its CSEA "Rank and File" bargaining unit in resolving their impasse. Mr. Bluth agreed, almost entirely, with the village's position. The CSEA employees are not inclined to accept that today almost all public employees contribute to their health insurance costs.

~ A group of residents are concerned with the safety of the RF emissions from cell antenna units that are being installed in their backyards. The village retained Mr. Comi of The Center for Municipal Solutions to assist the village as it studies the situation and the village is looking to develop code for future standards.

~ In regard to the MHANY case, Garden City will be moving forward following all the regulations that the court has stipulated.

~ TJ Michon, a resident & President of the Local Firefighter's Union, questioned the recent cuts to the number of paid firefighters in the village. TJ said paid staffing has gone from 37 to 18 in the last eight years despite an increase in building infrastructure. He also stated that since 2012 the number of volunteer firefighters has decreased from 100 to 77. There will be an ongoing discussion with the village concerning this issue.

~ In response to a question on the status of St. Paul's, steps were explained that were being taken to preserve the structure. These steps include increased lighting & the closing of access holes.

Directors' & Officials' Reports:

Bill Holub (School Board):

~ This year on the May 17 ballot will be three items:

- a) 2016-2017 proposed school district budget
- b) Election of two school board trustees
- c) A referendum to use funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of the turf field at the high school, to air-condition the auditorium at the high school & to replace the windows in the middle school breezeway.

~ The budget has come in at approximately 110 million with a .61% increase. No services have been cut and there have been some new additions. Among the additions are a new Kindergarten class at Homestead, a new Grade 1 class at Locust, and a second engineering class at the high school. The complete 2016-2017 budget presentation may be found on the Garden City Schools website.

~ The CSEA contract has been resolved.

RoseAnn Vernice (Membership):

~ Asked residents to please add their email addresses to the sign-in sheet.

Gloria Weinrich (Parks/Landscaping, SAC & Library Board):

~ The Senior Center is working beautifully. Many people are availing themselves of the daytime programs and a number of meetings are being held there in the evening.

~ The library is doing well and the work on the elevator should be completed by July or August. An architectural firm has been hired to propose a reconfiguration of library facilities to better reflect modern sensibilities. The Friends of the Garden City Library is not generating as much income as in the past, so other revenue sources are being considered.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

J Blohm