

**Western Property Owners Association**  
**General Meeting**  
**September 20, 2016; 7:30PM**  
**Homestead School**

**Officers, Officials, & Directors Present:** B. Bolebruch, A. Finamore, T. McCarthy, T. Nastasi, T. Pinou, S. Quill, M. Traxler, R. Vallely, R. Vernice, G. Weinrich

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made and accepted to approve the report by Arnold Finamore. The period ending August 24 had a balance of \$6,394.72. There were 278 paid members as of 9/20/16.

**Minutes:** A motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes from the general meeting of April 2016.

**Guest Speaker:** Brad Gustavson, Chairman, Planning Commission

- The Village Planning Commission reviews plans for the development of vacant areas, streets, parks and other public places, and subdivisions of private property to assure consistency with established community standards.
- With the exception of a one-family dwelling on a single plot, the Planning Commission also performs site plan review for all new buildings, additions to buildings, altered land use activities and projects containing more than one home.
- The Commission also conducts studies and is advisory to the Board of Trustees on matters relating to zoning, parking and other issues.
- An example of the Commission's work includes the new Adelphi Nursing School. They had to review access from the road, make sure there was a big enough drop off zone, how parking flowed, and how emergency trucks gained access to the building.
- There is an interview process for those interested in joining the commission.

In response to questions:

- There are not many vacant lots in the Village, but he wants the Village to do more long-term planning.
- Solar panels have to go before the review board. The best option is facing North/South.
- The Newsday property in East Garden City is privately owned. Proposal hasn't come to fruition.
- He would like electric car charging stations included in a proposal to board of Trustees.
- The Village is working on handicapped parking
- Speed bumps are not the purview of the Commission
- St. Paul's is adding parking spaces but the Commission isn't involved since it is Village property

**President's Report:** Maureen Traxler

- The WPOA needs seven nominees for Village Trustee. The WPOA solicits resumes and then the Nominating Committee reviews and selects. The following residents volunteered for the nomination:
  - Maureen Lyons
  - TJ Michon
  - Rich Vallely
  - Gloria Weinrich
  - Tom Nastasi
  - Terry McCarthy
  - RoseAnn Vernice

- GCWPOA.com has the following information on it:
  - The LIRR final scoping document for the third track proposal, including a review of all comments. The document can also be found on amodernli.com.
  - Documents from the Mayor's Commission on Zoning Change presented to the Trustees for the R-6 and R-8 lots. The board will vote on it. There are two documents related to the Architectural Design Review Board and setbacks. The Village is accepting comments on these via the village clerk, Karen Altman.
- The By-Laws Committee has not finalized changes to the WPOA by-laws which were last amended in 2004. We hope to present them at the November general meeting, with possible vote to adopt them in January 2017.

### **Director's and Official's Reports:**

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

- The elevator is in the process of being repaired. Computers, A/V were brought up to the first floor during the renovation. If residents have problems getting into the stacks the library staff can assist.
- The air conditioning has had many problems and is still not working at capacity. The Village has installed portable a/c's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Heating coils were put in before the winter.
- There is now a Bloomberg terminal at the library
- Gloria and Trustees went to Darien, CT to visit another library, whose Friends of the Library give over \$1million/year. Garden City does an excellent job and numbers keep going up. The Library Directors works with the board very well.

#### Rich Vallely (Building/Zoning):

- The Mayor's Commission on Zoning Change just completed a major effort to review zoning
- 81% of all lots in Garden City are R-6 and R-8 lots. He encourages everyone to take a look at the website to review the proposals. If anyone has issues with local houses, let him know.

#### RoseAnn Vernice (Membership):

- Asked residents to encourage neighbors and friends to join the WPOA.
- Asked residents to please sign in with their email address to facilitate better communication

#### Terry McCarthy (Director of Finance and Taxes):

- Was introduced as the new director. He joined in the Spring of 2016

#### Gerry Kelly (Communications):

- On behalf of the mobility and impaired community Kelly initiated a new group at the Pool to address the handicapped perspective. They are trying to make access to the adult pool easier. He commended the Parks and Recreation Dept for working with him. They are proposing changes to handicapped parking. There is a meeting September 26<sup>th</sup> at the old senior center to discuss better parking. He is going to follow up on the pool and enforcement of handicapped parking also at the High School.
- During the winter people who are impaired need water. Kelly is looking to Adelphi as an option.
- Re: Clinch Ave/Stewart Ave intersection, there is discussion on how to make it safer. If the neighbors come to a consensus he will bring it to the board. His suggestion is to start the school zone earlier from New Hyde Park Road to Stratford Avenue.
  - Resident comments:
    - Speed limits are not enforced in the area. It used to be patrolled, but cops haven't been around lately. Break-ins are also happening. Putting up signs doesn't work
    - Trucks are a problem too.

- In Suffolk there are signs that show car's speed
- We have the opportunity to create options to drive slower
- We need more police officers
- Near the high school there are flashing lights – why not here?
- NHP/Stewart Ave intersection: Traffic commission lengthened the timing sequences to lower chances of accidents. No Right on Red signed will be installed soon.

Tom Nastasi (Schools Director):

- Have been working with high school ambassadors for the second year. The program is a way to get students involved with local government. Samantha Holub is the senior ambassador and the WPOA is looking for a junior now. They attend meeting and report back to the group. The application can be found on the WPOA website and in the high school guidance office.

Tom Pinou and Bill Holub (School Board)

- School opening occurred. August 24<sup>th</sup> was the new teacher orientation. Dr. Frierson presented the goals at the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting including preparing students for college readiness
- They are working on emergency preparations. Tom sits on district-wide safety committee. All plans for the schools have been provided. They are expanding camera entrance review process. All locks have been changed in school. One master key was created so that any teacher's key can lock down any room.
- They are prepping for teacher negotiations
- Water testing: an independent company tested the water system. All from the Village came back clean. The EPA guidelines were changed by Gov. Cuomo on September 6<sup>th</sup> to 15 parts/billion. They received two emails so far with areas of concern in all schools, including the Homestead new music and library wing; Hemlock and Stratford Nurse's offices; and at Stewart, the Middle and High schools. They are waiting for the full report, but because of the Cuomo mandate the labs are backlogged. In the meantime, all areas of concern were taken out of commission.

**Trustee Reports:**

Bob Bolebruch and Steve Makrinos:

- The Village reached a settlement regarding the water plume in the amount of \$10million. It's not a windfall for the village. The money will be reimbursing the Village. It is necessary to replace the water tower at Old Country Road. They can repair it for \$3million or get a new one for \$8million. They will probably replace it.
- The Village will be adding 50-60 parking spaces at St. Paul's without clearing trees, or at the most one tree. The new spaces will be near Cluett Hall and toward the exit to Rockaway Avenue.
- There was a ribbon cutting at the Community Park fields 3 & 4. The new turf fields all look great. In all parks the Village is repairing and upgrading.
- Paving: the Village is trying to catch up on paving. They try to coordinate with the utility company on timing
- Village Newsletter has updates on all projects
- LIRR third track: they encouraged residents to speak up. They are working on a quiet zone at Greenridge Avenue.
- Some residents commented that pinhole pipes are now back, a form of old copper plumbing
- Maureen Lyons brought up the Plattsdale Rd and said people are driving both ways on the one-way street. She feels it's not safe and wants to solve it for safety reasons. Bob Bolebruch responded that the road cannot be closed off because of emergency vehicle access. Shauna Quill wondered if there had been an economic impact study done to access how the businesses on New Hyde Park Rd were affected by the changes to parking in the area.

- RoseAnn asked if anything was being done to upgrade the Stewart Manor Station parking lot and Steve responded that the pictures were sent to Robert Mangan.
- TJ Michon, head of the Firefighter's Union, expressed concern about the shutdown of the Edgemere station for four days due to maintenance on the pumper. The only manned engine was on Clinton Rd. He hopes to work with the Fire Chief to centrally locate equipment so the first response isn't from Clinton.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. Quill