

VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES

GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pike's Beach, West Hampton Dunes on Saturday September 9, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Present: Mayor Gary Vegliante, Trustee John Eff, Trustee Harvey Gessin, Trustee Michael Craig, Trustee Gary Trimarchi, Village Attorney Joseph Prokop, Village Treasurer Claire Vegliante, Village Clerk Robin Santora, Sgt Brian Hennig

Meeting called to order 11:03 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Annual meeting at Pike's Beach and picnic to follow.

Mayor's Report:

- Village Propane Tank Survey: John McAlary our building inspector and Trustee Harvey Gessin along with one of Harvey's employees have been working extremely hard going door to door inspecting and measuring propane tanks of the entire village.

Trustee Harvey Gessin spoke how John and he were able to cover every house in the village in just over a 2 ½ weeks' time. Generally, 80-85% of all tanks were compliant. Any tanks with issues were all minor stuff that can be easily repaired. Therefore, when John gets the list out to everyone, there is no need to panic, the repairs should all be things your propane company can easily fix.

John and Harvey noticed there was one company that had no violations on any of their tanks and that was Peconic Propane. They reached out to Peconic Propane to see if they did anything different when installing their equipment and the only difference was that their tanks are painted

silver, and the company does regular maintenance on their equipment. There was a general agreement with the residents at the meeting that those who use Peconic Propane are very pleased with the company's service.

Aesthetically, the silver tanks look nicer and don't seem to rust like many of the white above ground tanks.

The mayor mentioned he might make a rule that propane tanks will need to be annually inspected.

- Suspend all building /construction during summer months: One resident has asked to restrict building in the summer months. This will have to be a conversation to open with the Board about whether we would limit any building or work in the summer. The mayor did not think it would be a complete stop work order, only looking to control some of the noise and construction chatter, so summer residents have a more peace during their summer residency. It will be brought to the Board over the winter and then to the people after that.
- Seabeach Amaranth Fencing: Bird fencing was a little more restrictive than in the past. In the whole Northeast, we have been the one of the most successful in the fledging of the piping plovers. Along with the protective fencing for the plovers, Seabeach Amaranth is fenced in. Seabeach Amaranth is a type of vegetation that is an endangered species. We had a particularly large crop from when the storms last year washed and spread the spores on shore. A week ago, we had the beach run up and once the saltwater hits the Seabeach Amaranth it no longer survives, therefore the fencing can now be taken down. If you still have fencing in front of your house, let us know and we can get it removed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Because of the early meeting this month Claire will send bank statements and reconciliation reports to the Trustees & Boards as soon as they are received. Cullen & Danowski our auditors, is still not complete but we are finalizing our year end, which is May 31, 2023 and the annual update document and moving forward with our new auditors R.S Abrams & Co.
- We have received 99% of tax payments. We have deposited one million three hundred thousand into NY Class fund. As of last month, we have received \$18,000.00 in interest and had only budgeted for \$10,000.00 for the entire year, so we are doing well. Financially we are in great shape!

- Any questions or concerns call or contact Claire at the office.

Trustee Report:

- Trustee John Eff spoke of his role in sustainability. John has been in negotiations with Altice for the village's franchise agreement. The agreement expires every 10 years and is up for renewal. The agreement is for Altice to access our road easement to get to the lines. Altice is preparing to bring in fiber optics, some of the lines have been put down, but it is unclear as to when it will be done. We are not ready to sign an agreement, there needs to be more clarity about construction, codes and timing.
- Trustee Michael Craig reported expressed how there have been a lot of accomplishments this year. To start with the Constabulary, it was a substantial investment and the village is going to benefit greatly from it. Cameras were installed and have already had a big effect. The cameras take over 10,000 photos a day of licenses and vehicles. It has led to a successful arrest for the only burglary the village has recently had, already providing a safety impact.
- The village is in great shape with vehicles. The constables have two new vehicles and through Claire and John's help using CHIPS money are receiving new a truck that can be used for just about anything from snow removal or to rescues.
- We are in hurricane season, we look okay for the next couple of weeks, but if you are leaving and not going to be back for a while, take your furniture in. If your BBQ is hardwired to a propane tank, turn off the gas and strap it down. Be prepared!
- There is one more replenishment coming next fall on the old stipulation. After that FIMP (Fire Island to Montauk Point) comes in, which has been approved congressionally. The mayor says we will be good for another 30 years, with minimal financial contribution needed from the village to maintain. You might notice the beach fund/ nourishment fund on your tax bill which is between \$300 - \$500 per year. We have nearly a million dollars in it right now. By the time the first nourishment requires a contribution, we hopefully will not need any assessment from our village.
- One resident asked whether the new camera's measure speed? They do not. There are two new automatic speed signs, one facing Cupsogue at the west end and one facing east at the east end. John, our building inspector, was able to get both signs from money through the CHIPS program.
- Another resident asked what the plan is for the 914 Dune Road Building? Are we selling the building? The mayor explained it is being used for the building department and it is the village meeting office. They are looking at plans to expand the building a little bit on the backside and it needs some maintenance to the decks and railings. There will also be a bedroom at the back to provide for visiting dignitaries, like people from the Army Corp. to have a place for them to stay. So, as a small residential area, a meeting area and a place to store village records, we won't be selling the building.

- Trustee Harvey Gessin wanted to remind residents who have strip drains at the end of their driveway to ask their landscapers to clean them out periodically. On rain days, the roads seem to be flooding more and clearing these drains of sand should help.
- Trustee Gary Trimarchi wanted to let residents know that now is a great opportunity for sand fencing (red fencing) and what it can do to help the Dunes. Every year that you put the fencing up, you will get about 4ft of sand when you come back in the spring and can really help build up the dune. Aram can help with the design and direct you on who can install the fence.

Village Attorney Report:

- Village attorney, Joseph Prokop wanted to recognize the original founders. Bruno DiCapite, whose son John is in attendance, George Asem, Bob Strecker, Charlie Brown and Gary.
- He further recognized the Westhampton Beach Courthouse. Judge Gomeran is an amazing judge. The clerk, Jackie McKay and the stenographer, Colleen Track have all been doing incredible work and play important roles in this Village.
- We now have a top rate building inspector, John McAlary. John has been doing an amazing job. He has done a lot of work on his own to get his certification and the background that he needs, in addition to his other talents that he brought to the job.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals, who volunteer, meet just about monthly and have been doing important work for the village. Several members are here: Irwin Krasnow, the Chair Eric Saretsky, Jeff Farkas, Joe Mizzi, and Jim Cashin.
- NYS Department of State is the latest agency to give us a hard time. They are focusing on propane tanks, building code items, and making sure we are reviewing them. As Trustee Harvey Gessin said, you may be hearing from us on some of these issues, but we are looking to cooperate with you and help work through any situation.

Constable's Report:

- Sgt Hening says it has been the quietest summer in the 26 years that he has been here.
- Sgt Hening wants to remind residents to prepare for the winter. Hurricane season goes through November 30th, so have a plan for all your outdoor items.
- All residents should update their contact information with the Constables.
- If anyone would like to tour the new Constabulary, call Brian anytime for a tour.

Resolutions:

- Motion to adopt a resolution waiving of the reading of the minutes of the August 2023 meeting

Motion by: John J. Eff Jr.
Seconded by: Gary Trimarchi
All in favor: unanimous
Opposed: none

- Motion to adopt a resolution awarding the contract for the purchase of a Public Works Vehicle

Using NYS CHIPS FUNDING to Smithtown Ford, based on lowest bid:

Motion by: Michael Craig
Second by: John J. Eff Jr.
All in favor: unanimous
Opposed: none

- Motion to authorize the Village Clerk to let out Bid to repair potholes on Dune Road.

Motion by: John J. Eff Jr.
Seconded by: Gary Trimarchi
All in favor: unanimous
Opposed: none

- A motion to pay presented bills and abstracts including ratification of approval of agreement with Northport Caterer and Alan Party & Tent Rentals and approval.

Motion by: John J. Eff Jr.
Seconded by: Michael Craig
All in favor: unanimous
Opposed: none

- Motion setting a public hearing on a local law created a Chapter on Subdivisions in the West Hampton Dunes Village Code.

Motion by: Gary Trimarchi

Seconded by: Michael Craig

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

- Motion to settle a claim for a repair on a car with Anthony Guma

Motion by: Harvey Gessin

Seconded by: Gary Trimarchi

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

The Mayor would like to thank the donors we had for our 30th celebration today.

- Salerno Brokerage Corp., who we have been with for the last 30 years, generously donated a case of Champagne.
- John Scott's Surf Shack supplied us with all the beer.
- Dee Kerrigan from Kerrigan Country Reality kindly donated the wine.

Public Comment:

- Resident Karyn Sporkin 663 Dune Rd would like to organize a group for installing sand fencing. The village can help coordinate people interested in installing fencing but cannot be involved in the hiring of a company.
- A resident asked about garbage on the beach. We cannot have a program or company that regularly comes and cleans the beach, since it is federally mandated to protect the plovers. They don't want to disturb the natural beach foliage that protects the birds. There can be an organized beach cleanup along with individually picking up trash as you see it. We are also reminded that you need to clean up your dog poop, or you can be fined.

- Our next beach nourishment is scheduled for next fall. When Gary started this village 30 years ago, there was much controversy on whether the beaches would be open to the public. Gary believed if the federal government was paying for the rebuild, then the public should have access to the beaches. It was not a popular position in the Town of Southampton, but it has been one of our greatest resources. Every time one of the nourishments gets challenged, the simple answer is that it is not our beaches are public beaches. We have two public beaches with lifeguards and seven walkways within 2 ½ miles all open to the public.
- Survey stakes are for advocating for a new channel to be dredged in the back bay on the west end. It would run from Pikes to Cove Lane and allow access for power boats to get back and forth.

Motion to close a public meeting at 12:12 pm.

Motion by: Gary Trimarchi

Seconded by: John J Eff Jr

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none