

GENERAL VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES

Tuesday January 23, 2024, at 7:30 PM in person at 732 Smithtown Bypass Suite 100
Smithtown NY 11787 and via Zoom

January 23, 2024

Present: Mayor Gary Vegliante, Trustee John Eff. Trustee Harvey Gessin, Trustee Michael Craig,

Clerk-Robin Santora Village Attorney Joseph Prokop Village Treasurer Claire Vegliante, Sgt. Brian Hennig, Sgt. Tim Turner

Trustee Gary Trimarchi Village – via zoom

Opened Public Hearing 7:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance waved no flag

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MERGER OF 738 AND 742 DUNE ROAD AND THEN SUBDIVISION INTO THREE LOTS.

- Attorney Jim Hulme and applicant Alessandro Antonacci submitted a subdivision plan before the Planning Board. The plan details a two-lot parcel to be subdivided into three lots. They believe their plan to be compliant and are seeking relief from the Planning Board.

Village attorney Joseph Prokop had some reservations to the plan and advised to revisit application at the next board meeting.

- The submitted plan and survey are available for anyone to view and are posted on the village website. Go to the village website and click on the informational tab and then forms to view documents. Any further questions please feel free to contact the mayor.

Motion to close a public hearing 8:07 pm

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by Michael Craig

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

Mayor Report:

- Tax grievance day is approaching Tuesday February 20, 2024. All grievances must be in by 2/20/24 by 4pm for consideration. You must prove that the amount you are asking for in relief warrants a change.
- NYCOM Winter Legislative meeting will be held in Albany February 4-6th. The mayor will be attending.
- Storm update – the mayor surveyed the village and beaches. He felt we had no significant damage and that our beaches held up and performed incredibly well. The first couple of dunes got pushed back, but they did what they were designed to do. He attributes much of this to the Army Corps design and the work they have done.
- The mayor attended the swearing in /inauguration of both Maria Moore for Southampton Town Supervisor and Ed Romaine as the new Suffolk County Executive. He has a good relationship with both candidates and thinks working with them will be beneficial for our village.
- The building at 914 Dune Road is still in a bit of controversy with the BBPA. The village still plans to use the building as an office facility and hold meetings. The mayor would also like to sit down and have a discussion with the BBPA. If any resident would like to discuss this matter further, they should give him a call. Catherine Woolfson wrote in the chat that she would like to discuss the BBPA's position on 914 Dune Road, which differs from the mayor's opinion, and if anyone would like to speak with the BBPA Board, they should reach out to her at whdbarrierbeach@gmail.com.
- Trustee Gary Trimarchi opened the discussion on the Village Improvement District (VID). He explained that the group of homeowners that make up the VID are no longer working with First Coastal and are now in talks with a new engineering firm called VHB Engineering.
- Stanley Vickers, Theresa Mattioli and Gary Trimarchi who are all part of the VID and plan to be the lead coordinators with the new project, explained that partial funds had been sent to the village to start the project. Mayor Vegliante advised that a Board of Directors, elected by their own body (VID) would need to be appointed. Vickers, Mattioli and Trimarchi said they would be the Board of Directors representing the group. Mayor

Vegliante advised that all the funds along with all documentation authorizing Vickers, Mattioli and Trimarchi as the board of the VID, needed to be received before any funds could be dispersed to the new firm.

- The VID are having trouble getting in touch with the previous surveyor, Robert Fox, who is in possession of the CAD drawings they need for their new project. The VID has asked Joe Prokop to reach out and try to get in touch with Fox.
- Alan Green enquired about what the VID is? The VID consists of 12 single-family residential properties on the bayside (674 -696 Dune Rd). These 12 property owners are fully funding the project to build a living shoreline.
- Trustee Michael Craig is attempting to expand the VID to include 5 properties.

Trustees Report:

- Trustee Michael Craig surveyed the beach since the storms and said the beach is in great shape.

Particularly by walkway 2 to the western portion of the village, the secondary dune is in good condition. Michael attributed this to the snow fencing that was installed, which has been shown to be a key factor in maintaining the beach. Unfortunately, walkway 2 towards the east, the secondary dune took a big hit. Despite having snow fencing, the way the storm hit, between the wind and water direction, it crushed this portion of the beach.

Walkway 7, which is over 30 years old, is in bad shape and needs repairs. Mike has emailed the county to get some attention to our walkways. Suffolk County is who has the obligation to make the repairs. We are hoping to hear back soon.

- The front door at the Constabulary, 656A Dune Road needs to be repaired or replaced. The door was originally installed incorrectly, and they are getting wind driven rain coming in through the door.
- Village Transfer Tax for emergency beach restoration fund. The beach restoration fund started over 10 years ago. We have around \$800,000 in the fund. It is funded through assessments. Each year the taxpayers pay \$300.00 into the fund. We have been evaluating additional ways to raise funds. There is a chance that the village could have partial responsibilities for future renourishments or some other kind of wash over event and the hope is for us to be financially prepared. Therefore, we are evaluating a transfer tax, to help build up this fund, that would directly go to our community and into our beach nourishment fund. It is an insurance policy that we can fund now, instead of all at once in the future.

Treasurer Report:

- Bank statements and reconciliation reports were emailed to the board, attorney and accountant.
- The new auditors R.S Abrams & Co have started the audit and will visit the village office on February 5th and 6th to review additional documents.
- We will request budgets from all departments to start the budget process. Departments will start to send their budgets in the beginning of March.
- This fiscal year the general fund has received \$45,000 in interest from NYCLASS and we had only budgeted \$10,000 in total for interest.
- This fiscal year to date the Beach Assessment account has received \$22,777 in interest for a total of \$794,547 in the NYCLASS account.
- We have received \$67,000 in permits and had only budgeted \$35,000.

Constables Report:

- We have had three flooding events in the past few weeks which has led to temporary bridge and road closures.
- We have a great relationship with Westhampton Beach Police Department, if you tell them, you are in the village, they will do their best to get you to and from your homes. Sgt Hennig advised waiting for the water to recede before driving through any flooding water.
- With the recent flooding, it has become apparent that there is a need to secure items around the house more firmly. Items such as BBQ propane tanks, kayaks, canoes, were all found floating around properties. Please look around your homes and see if you need to secure or take in these types of items.
- Sgt. Hennig, while patrolling, spotted a house fire that began in a homeowner's garage. It was recommended that homeowners might want to look into installing heat sensor alarms.
- The village camera and plate reader system helped to locate an emotionally disturbed person. Around 2:49 am one morning a notification was sent that the vehicle had entered the village and constable Luhrs was able to locate him and call the proper authority to take the individual for care.

Attorney Report:

- As a precaution most municipalities in the middle of their budgets process adopt a local law allowing them to pierce the tax cap.
- Motion to set a public hearing at the next meeting to adopt local law authorizing to pierce the tax cap.

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Attorney Joe Prokop, as directed by the mayor, wrote a proposal to change the number of stories in our code from two to three stories. The original code was adopted in the 1990's and limited the number of stories to two. The proposed new law has been drafted and will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- There are two different VID projects going on. The 12 property owners we spoke earlier about and one that consists of 3 property owners that was established in 2021. This smaller VID would like to expand by adding two additional homes into their VID.
- We have a new legal contact person we are working with, in the Department of State. The previous person has retired. We are working to resolve any outstanding DOS issues that remain.

Resolutions:

- Resolution to set a hearing at the next meeting to expand the second VID created at 660-664 Dune Road

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

Recuse by Michael Craig

Recuse by Gary Trimarchi

- Motion to approve the claim vouchers by the Board of Trustees

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution waiving of the reading of the minutes of the November & December 2023 meeting

Motion by John Eff

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution to set Tax Grievance Day for 2.20.24

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution for the mayor to attend the NYCOM Legislative meeting in Albany from February 4-6th 2024

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Resolution to approve continued participation in Suffolk County All Hazard Plan 2025
Renewal and authorize letter to Suffolk County

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Resolution to approve intermunicipal agreement with Suffolk County Planning
Commission

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by Michael Craig

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Resolution setting a public hearing on a local law amending Chapter 220 Construction
Codes, and other local laws

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

Public Comment:

- Doug Milles asked for guidance on where to put snow fencing. It was recommended to reach out to First Coastal for assistance with the design and location of fences.
- Eileen Sapraicone had questions concerning the two- and three-story issue. The mayor recommended anyone with questions to call the office and he would be happy to go over it.

- Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of employment and upcoming budget at 9:26 pm

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:48 pm

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to reopen public meeting at 9:48 pm

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by Michael Craig

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to close a public meeting 9:50 pm

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed