

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 23, 2004**

Mayor Rocco Pellegrino called the regular meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustees to order at 6:30pm.

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Rocco Pellegrino
	Deputy Mayor	Roy Wynkoop
	Trustees	Richard Hurd
		Jose DeJesus

Absent:	Trustees	Mary Jean Norman
		Lauren Keator
		Greg Raymondo

Also Present:	James Politi, Village Manager
	Nancy Mitchell, Village Clerk
	Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney

**Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Hurd moved to adopt the minutes of November 9, 2004. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Wynkoop. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

**Public Portion**

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street stated that she has some pictures of signs and she also submitted a letter from Dr. Guneratne.

Mayor Pellegrino read the attached letter from Dr. Guneratne expressing his concerns about the signs that were erected in front of his business.

Mrs. Pearson further stated that there is a municipal parking sign there and when you go to look for the municipal parking lot there is no other sign that tells you about municipal parking, so nobody knows where to park. It's also blocking the two hour parking sign. She asked why the signs can't go on the pole.

Manager Politi stated that it's the state's signage. We can request that they move it. He will bring it to the state.

Deputy Wynkoop asked that the manager request the signs go up on the pole.

Mrs. Pearson indicated that the state also put a sign right in front of the senior building block the entrance and sometimes the ambulance has to get through there.

Deputy Mayor Wynkoop stated that the ambulance comes in the back of the building.

Manager Politi indicated that there is a blue sign at the corner of Main and Orchard Streets which indicates where municipal parking is.

Mrs. Pearson asked when the bridge will be opening.

Manager Politi stated that they stopped giving him a date.

Jennifer Mahan, George Street presented the Board with a letter from Mrs. Dietrick. She stated that when she moved to George Street she didn't realize there were so many multi family homes, but they are landlords too. What bothers them is the landlords are letting their houses go into disrepair and her street looks shabby. One house Mr. Samuels owns on North Montgomery Street looks like it should be torn down. This building should be looked at inside and out for fire hazards and plumbing. The other three family house by her is now selling Christmas trees. They have a sign out now that says, now closed. Landlords should be accountable for who is living there because it endangers other people. There is also a mobile home on the street that is falling apart. There is a couch on the front porch of the N. Montgomery Street house and she knows the code doesn't allow that.

Mr. Feffer indicated that the owner was cited for the sofa today.

Mayor Pellegrino read the attached letter from Mrs. Dietrick regarding her concerns with the multi-family house on N. Montgomery Street.

Mary Ellen Matisse, 21 Clinton Street stated that she wants to do a follow-up about the information she gave the board about Warwick and intermunicipal planning and zoning. She also asked if anyone has been named to the open space committee that the village was invited to participate in, by the town.

Mayor Pellegrino indicated that he wasn't.

Trustee DeJesus stated that was a grant, not a committee.

Mayor Pellegrino stated that there was \$4,000 that was available to the Town of Montgomery, Village of Montgomery, Village of Walden and Village of Maybrook. That money can be used for a steering committee or master plan to go over it or to pay for consultants.

Trustee Hurd stated that it was also very strictly limited and the purpose of the grant was already defined to open space management.

Ms. Matisse asked if the village was going to participate in it.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the board had talked about it. There were a couple of issues; by the time we got it here it was too late for us to join. The other issue was that it was open space related, but not very specific in terms of open space and what we would have liked to use it for. There was never any mention of a planning committee. If there was a committee it would be a different ball game, because the village would have had input from the beginning.

Ms. Matisse stated that they are now talking about forming an affordable housing committee commission and she doesn't know if they've contacted the village.

Mayor Pellegrino stated that would be town business and the village has never received any correspondence.

Trustee Hurd stated that he was at the same meeting as Ms. Matisse and he raised an objection to the fact that they seem to be ridged in their thinking and he thinks they've already made up their mind.

Trustee DeJesus stated that there was concern with four or five, because the fact was when they went to the meeting Mr. Hoyt indicated that language in the law did not pick up on the language from what was recommended and the language on the comprehensive plan was more what we would be looking for. It addressed the concerns the village had. If they had picked up the language from that law four and put it into a resolution form then it would have been more palatable to the village.

Ms. Matisse stated that the town did have a meeting today about setting up an affordable housing committee and they did discuss having one representative from each village on this committee.

Trustee Hurd stated that the town has said that all affordable housing, all clustered housing will be centered in the villages of Maybrook, Montgomery and Walden and they changed one acre to two acres and extended two acres in the entire town. They don't have any objection to clustering, but if 40 homes are allowed on 100 acres you can cluster them. You get forty clustered houses, not eighty.

Ms. Matisse stated that what interested her in the article was that he went through and analyzed Warwick and how Warwick dealt with these issues, its sets up an interesting model. There are certain ways we can interface with the town and try to bring the other villages in.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the Warwick concept is good but there are things that are particular to the Town of Montgomery. They need to start talking to the elected officials. Someone should call the Mayor as the head of this board, and say to the Mayor that they need to start talking about issues of concerns to the Village of Walden.

Supervisor Cockburn came to one of the village's comprehensive meetings and we explained some of the issues to her. She did mention that some of the concerns the village has she brought back and therefore some of them were included in the comprehensive plan. His opinion is there needs to be a phone call, Susan needs to get on the phone and call the Mayor and say we need to talk about the issues of concerns to Walden as they relate to the town.

Ms. Matisse stated that there is nothing that precludes the village from saying; you can talk to us too.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the village has sent letters in that regards.

Mayor Pellegrino stated that the village has been in touch with the Town of Montgomery's present and previous supervisors.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the village has made a lot of moves in terms of letting the town know how we feel, the next move is their, not ours.

Ms. Matisse also asked if the board saw the article in Sunday's paper about the Wallkill River and the Town of Wallkill being allowed to dump chloride in the river. Here we are trying to encourage tourism and trying to make recreation on the river and they are totally irresponsible to the communities downstream.

### **Payment of Audited Bills**

Trustee DeJesus moved to pay the audited bills of November 23, 2004. Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Resolution No. 5-04-05, Accepting a \$25,000 Legislative Grant for Use Towards Upgrading the Children's Playground at Wooster Grove Park to Include Components for Handicapped Children**

Mayor Pellegrino indicated that they had a wonderful meeting at Wooster Grove yesterday regarding this. There was a young gentleman, 16 years old who cares about people and he wants to serve the public, who initiated the grant. He has cerebral palsy and his idea was to have challenged children intermingle with the other children in the playground.

Trustee DeJesus stated that he works in the field of developmental disabilities and one of the goals, statewide, is to have programs that are inclusionary where children and adults are not segregated from the rest of the population. This is a step in the right direction. The Brugerhof build special equipment too.

Deputy Mayor Wynkoop moved to adopt Resolution No. 5-04-05, Accepting a \$25,000 Legislative Grant for Use Towards Upgrading the Children's Playground at

Wooster Grove Park to Include Components for Handicapped Children, (attached).  
Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes. Resolution adopted.

### **Abandoned Vehicles, 27 Ulster Avenue and 44 Seely Street**

Mayor Pellegrino stated that Mr. Wageman was in two meetings ago and he spoke about having to dismantle his vehicle which was in his yard.

Mr. Feffer, Code Enforcement Officer stated that he sent Mr. Wageman a letter in March and Mr. Wageman indicated that he would remove the vehicle over the summer. The way it stands right now the car is completely covered with plywood. He doesn't know if its dismantled or its removed. Mr. Dowd suggested they bring Mr. Wageman in and let him prove the car has been removed.

Mr. Dowd stated that the resolution before the board basically finds that its an abandoned vehicle, but under the abandoned vehicle law you must set a hearing for the property owner to come before the board and defend himself.

Deputy Mayor Wynkoop moved to adopt Resolution No. 6-04-05, Declaring a Certain Vehicle Located at 27 Ulster Avenue in the Village of Walden to be a Dismantled and Junked Vehicle as Defined in Chapter 47 of the Village Code and Ordering the Removal of Said Vehicle, (attached). Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Dowd stated that the other vehicle on Seely Street, when he received the information today, the definition requires a two prong test as to whether it qualifies under the code to be removed by the village. That doesn't mean it can't be cited and go to court. Just the mere unlicense of the vehicle is not enough for the board to take action and have it physically removed from the property and charge the property owner. It has to be either unlicensed and unable to pass a motor vehicle inspection or unlicensed and in a wrecked abandoned dismantled/partially dismantled state. One of the vehicles may qualify but we need to be more descriptive about the vehicle. Mr. Feffer will come back with more information.

Trustee Hurd asked if the village has to be careful, because there may be people that have cars that they only use in the summer and they keep in good condition.

Mr. Dowd indicated that you can have an unlicensed vehicle in your garage and leave it there all year round and no one is going to care. When you start taking them out and or putting more than one out you may get cited for having more than one unlicensed vehicle on your property. You can be taken to court for a violation hearing, but not for the board to take action against unless it also fits into some other criteria.

Trustee Hurd asked if there was any threshold where you get out of hand, if you start having five or six unlicensed vehicles.

Mr. Dowd stated that you're not allowed to have more than one unlicensed vehicle on your property unless it's in a garage.

### **Village Manager's Report**

Manager Politi reported the following to the Board:

The draft Comprehensive Plan had been completed and December 8, 2004 has been set for the Public Hearing.

An ad has been placed in the NYCOM Bulletin and the ICMA Newsletter for the position of Superintendent of Public Works.

Park signage is being made at this time for Alfred Place Park and the Marty Besdesky Playground.

A copy of the letter from the EPA that gives the sense of the value of the grant and the basic requirements for its cost sharing arrangements has been given to the board.

The Village is out to bid for the water meter replacement and the next will be the sewer plant.

### **Board Comments**

Trustee DeJesus asked if the village goes through state bid for fuel.

Manager Politi stated yes.

Trustee DeJesus asked if there was a set amount for the cost the engineering for the well development. Work for some of that stuff was already done.

Manager Politi stated that the bills are for test wells as well as the engineering.

Trustee DeJesus stated that some of the bills say data and he knows some of the data was available from before.

Deputy Mayor Wynkoop indicated that \$25,000 came from the selling of Well 3 to Big Apple Circus.

Trustee DeJesus stated that its important to keep track of what's been done already.

Mayor Pellegrino stated that with the boards approval he'd like to get together with the Manager and send a letter out, he noticed that the Ellenville Schrade Knife Company are restructuring under the Walden Knife Company. He feels they should

know of the properties available in Walden and any assistance through the Empire Zone. Maybe we can get a commemorative knife for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Adjournment**

Trustee DeJesus moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell  
Village Clerk