

**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JUNE 28, 2005**

Mayor Becky Pearson called the regular meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustee to order at 6:30pm.

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Becky Pearson
	Deputy Mayor	Mary Ellen Matise
	Trustees	Richard Hurd
		Mary Jean Norman
		Roy Wynkoop
		Lauren Keator

Absent:	Trustee	Jose DeJesus, later present
		Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney

Also Present:		James Politi, Village Manager
		Nancy Mitchell, Village Clerk
		Charles T. Bazydlo, Attorney

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Keator moved to adopt the minutes of June 14, 2005 and June 21, 2005. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Public Comment

Jonathan Lozier, Conservation Advisory Council, Town of Montgomery requested a letter of support from the Board of Trustees for a \$40,000 grant through Hudson River Estuary Program which is funded by DEC. This grant is due by Thursday, June 30th, 2005. Their main goal is water quality of the Wallkill River.

Trustee Hurd asked if there was something in writing organization and the grant so the Board has time to study this.

The consensus of the Board was; Mayor Pearson and Deputy Mayor Matise yes, Trustee DeJesus wasn't present for the presentation therefore he didn't vote. Trustees Hurd, Wynkoop no. Trustee Keator abstained. It was the consensus of the Board to write a letter of support for the Hudson River Estuary's grant.

Brenda Adams, 31 Valley Avenue addressed the Board regarding the problems with gangs on Valley Avenue, Woodruff Street and William Street. She indicated that the

police are doing a great job, but that's a short term solution. She asked the Board to enact legislation to protect the residents. She also expressed her concerns with the recent decision by the Supreme Court regarding eminent domain. She sees the waterfront in Newburgh, it's a slum and where are the people going to do when the developers take over that property, to Walden.

Vincent Mongalluzzo, 32 Valley Avenue stated his concerns with the problem with the kids on Valley Avenue.

Katie Connolly, 36 Valley Avenue stated that in the area where the gangs are there are 12 children under the age of 9. Out of the 25 kids two live on Ulster Avenue and one female lives in a rental on Valley Avenue. They find drug bags and beer bottles in their front yard. They sit on their porches until midnight just so the kids see that they are there. They are looking to move. She doesn't understand why Walden doesn't have a curfew, other towns do.

Donna Elis, 64 Valley Avenue stated that the street is becoming a hang out for teenage kids and it will get worse over the summer. What upsets her is the underage kids smoking. They are getting the cigarettes locally. The littering also upsets her.

Wendy Baker, 19 William Street also complained about the kids hanging out on Valley Avenue.

Tom Larcuccia, 52 Valley Avenue also complained about the kids hanging out on Valley Avenue.

Lucy Pazarro, 16 Valley Avenue stated that she's lived here 11 years and when they came here it was a very peaceful place and now she is running. She works nights and she has to sleep during the day and she can't. They are so disrespectful. The same drug dealers you see in Newburgh you see coming down Valley Avenue.

Dan Wilson, 10 Woodruff Street stated that this isn't a group of friends that talk with one another on the street, they are organized and when the police show up they use their cell phones to communicate to each other. Down at the factory they are dealing drugs and drinking beer. They are a gang, they are organized and they know what they are doing. They are terrorizing the neighborhood.

Sam Donaldson, 47 Valley Avenue stated that he lives next to the house where the kids like to gather. They talk about gang fights, weapons and he had to kick them out of his driveway when they were looking for bricks. They talk about the girls they've raped and the girls are talking about getting raped.

Gary Pazarro, 16 Valley Avenue also stated that the same gangs that are in Newburgh are here.

Al Wright, born in Walden 81 Years ago on Albany Avenue held up the article that was in the Times Herald Record on Monday morning and explained that he received a call from his sister in Elmira who watched this situation on the internet. She said she was ready to move back to Walden and now she doesn't know. He remembers Walden as the best place you could ever grow up. You can't let Newburgh move out to Walden and that is what's happening. The police are doing a great job. He asked the Board to do one thing, last weeks paper had some bickering in there about protocol. We don't have time for politics. He asked the Board to put aside the petty stuff and get to work for the Village to make it the Village we all love.

Mrs. Strafford 39 Valley Avenue stated that she's concerned with her daughter seeing this. She feels there should be a curfew.

Rob MacNear, 17 Valley Avenue stated that he's lived in Walden all his life and the Board has done a great job fixing up the Village. He's seen the drug dealing. He asked if they could install cameras on Valley Avenue. He also suggested that the police patrol on bikes down there. He's noticed that there is more than one group. It's a bad situation.

Chief Holmes stated that there are three rentals that are creating the problems, one being at 42 Valley Avenue. One of the things on the books that we really need to try is the parental responsibility law. The cameras were very successful on Main Street. The majority of the kids are within 2 ½ miles of Valley Avenue. They are children, 17 down to 12. The past two weekends they've had undercover officers were down there. Arma Textiles is finally working with the department. They have charged 12 people down there for drinking and trespassing. Right now the department has 9 full time officers and they will be hiring 3 more full time officers. He has been talking to Senator Larkin in trying to get two more cameras, one they want to put by the Mobil Station. He thinks if they put the other camera by 42 Valley Avenue it would work. A camera cost \$5,000. The issue is they've moved the kids off of Main Street, but they moved them to Valley Avenue. He can promise the residents that they will have more patrols down there.

Mr. MacNear stated that the other problem is speeding. He asked that the speed trailer be put on Valley Avenue.

Mayor Pearson indicated that she has some information she received from NYCOM, there is an opinion from the Attorney General regarding curfews. She also made copies of other village's ordinances regarding curfews and she also knows that Montgomery has a curfew. This opinion may help.

Mr. MacNear asked about a drug free zone.

Chief Holmes stated that they have the drug free zones by the schools. He can't answer about having drug free zones in a residential area. He hasn't seen too many of them. They did find someone that was providing the kids beer and they will be turning

themselves in tomorrow. They will be continuing having plain cloths officers down there throughout the summer.

Terry Soles, 61 Valley Avenue stated that she's lived on Valley Avenue almost 41 years and she's raised her children and 67 foster children and has never had a problem. The cops come and the kids run and as soon as the cops leave they are out again. They curse something terrible.

Robert Stuardo, 12 Valley Avenue stated that the other day he had to pick up garbage. The kids are very disrespectful.

Mayor Pearson asked about a neighborhood watch.

Chief Holmes stated that they have their own neighborhood watch. A neighborhood watch gets your street and enacts certain things. They work together and calls the police and that is what they are doing right now.

Mayor Pearson indicated that she would like the subject of curfews put on the next work session agenda.

Trustee Keator stated that she would also like parental responsibility put on the agenda too.

Trustee Wynkoop asked the Chief to come to the work session.

Maria VanLeuven asked the Board to remove or reduce the lien on her taxes for property maintenance in the amount of \$200.

Manager Politi indicated that Mrs. VanLeuven has been noticed on numerous occasions and Dean has given her warnings and the Village had someone go in and do the work and that is what it cost. The Village has asked that the property maintenance code be enforced and that is what they are doing.

Trustee Keator asked about the car port on Mrs. VanLeuven's property.

Manager Politi stated that it took a long time with numerous letters to get it removed.

Mrs. VanLeuven stated that her son was there shortly next to her business and the inspector told her son it was all right to be there. When she found out it wasn't all right they took it down.

Trustee Keator moved not to remove or reduce the lien on Mr. VanLeuven's taxes. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Simon Gruber stated that he has spoken to the Mayor and Village Manager about submitting a grant proposal to the Hudson River Estuary Program.

Manager Politi asked if the Board members received an email regarding the grant proposal.

Mayor Pearson indicated that some did and some didn't.

Mr. Gruber stated that he is an environmental planning consultant and he is doing work with the county on soil and water management and other water quality issues. He is not here representing the county. He has a concept of doing some training to address a gap in the existing training programs that are being provided by the state. This grant would be submitted by the Village and if awarded the funding would enable development of training.

Manager Politi explained that the Mayor requested this be brought before the board. There is nothing in the Board's packet.

Mayor Pearson stated that this came about a week ago and the time frame is short. We are looking at monies for things that would be worth while. There was a mix up with phone calls.

Mr. Gruber stated that the deadline is the day after tomorrow. It does not require funding from the Village. There is a 25% local match which will be made up with the time of the staff and local officials who participate.

Trustee DeJesus asked why the county isn't doing something county wide.

Mr. Gruber stated that the amount of money available, \$15,000.00 is not really enough for county wide.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the problem he has is not with the project or the concept, but the problem he has is this is due in two days. He doesn't see anything in front of him. He can't say go ahead on behalf of the Village when he doesn't have anything in front of him. It is unfair to Mr. Gruber and unfair to this Board.

The consensus of the Board as to if they want to see the project happen or not happen; Deputy Mayor Matise yes, Trustee DeJesus stated that it's not that he doesn't want to see it happen, the issue is he wants to have the option of having the information in front of him, he's not going to commit money and resources without knowing the credentials of the person, fully, without having the information in front of him and not understanding what the project is going to do and whether the county or town should do the application. Trustee Hurd no, Trustee Wynkoop no, Trustee Norman no, Trustee Keator no.

Brenda Adams, 31 Valley Avenue stated that there are signs in the Valley Avenue area that need to be put in the right direction so people can see them.

Ann Ilkiew spoke to the Board regarding the recent legislation that passed for Olley Park to alienate the farm house. She has a petition against the alienation containing over 200 signatures which she will be sending to Governor Pataki.

Ken Vassalotis, 198 Frey Rd., Pine Bush also spoke on the alienation of the farm house at Olley Park.

Ruth Gardner, Maybrook stated that she is the liaison for the Walden Senior Citizens and they are looking for a place to hold their meetings that has a kitchen because there is a problem with parking where they have their meetings now.

Ken Rose suggested they approach the ambulance corp.

Audited Bills

Trustee DeJesus moved to pay the audited bills of June 28th, 2005. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Olley Park House Grant Resolution

Suzanne Isakson thanked the Board for the opportunity to approach them regarding pursuing a grant for stabilization of the farm house at Olley Park. She explained the grant to the Board.

Trustee DeJesus moved to adopt Resolution No. 3-05-06, Rehabilitation of the James Olley Park House, (attached). Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Resolution adopted.

SEQR-Wooster Grove Building Upgrades-Grant

Deputy Mayor Matise moved to declare the Board of Trustees lead agency and to declare an unlisted action under SEQRA for the Wooster Grove Building Upgrade. Seconded by Trustee Keator. All ayes. Motion carried.

Subordination Agreement – 5 Gladstone Avenue

Trustee DeJesus moved to approve the subordination agreement for 5 Gladstone Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Tsechen Kunchab Ling-Buddhist Temple Presentation

Venerable Lama Kalsang Gyaltsen and Annie Kunga, presented the Board with the plans for the Tsechen Kunchag Ling new temple building on Edmunds Lane.

Housing Rehab Loan Program Guidelines Review

Manager Politi explained the housing rehab loan program guidelines to the Board.

Trustee DeJesus stated that he would like the Board to consider possible grants for the entrances to the Village. He asked the Board to review the guidelines and put something together that they can all live with. The other concern is if you have a house that is not owner occupied; loans are not meant for that. Sometimes that is not a bad idea. That also should be looked at.

Manager Politi stated that there should be checks and balances.

Mayor Pearson stated that she would like to throw in multi family housing inspections.

Manager Politi indicated that he will get some information and discuss multi family inspections at a work session.

Trustee Keator asked for a better description of Section 8.

It was the consensus of the Board to set a deadline of July 26th for the rehab loan guidelines.

It was also the consensus of the Board to discuss multi family housing inspections and Section 8 housing on July 12th.

Public Comment on Discussion Items

There were no comments from the public.

Informational & Village Manager's Report

Manager Politi reported the following:

- Correspondence was sent to Walden Elementary School advising them of the new parking regulations.
- 79-83 W. Main Street has been boarded up.
- The Village did not receive the Small Cities Grant for the trails. There is other possibilities for money.
- Mr. Millspaugh's water report was given to the engineer
- Stan Plato, Planning Board Chairman has requested an overview of the off street parking requirements from the Village Engineer
- They are still doing last minute review of the parking law.
- The manager will be meeting with A-Plus Striping on Friday to do Grant Street

- The manager was not able to make the Hudson River Scenic By-Ways meeting. He will look to see if there was anything he can do.
- Department Heads reports are in the Board's packets.

Board Comments

Deputy Mayor Matise advised the Board that on July 1st, 2005 there will be a meeting on sustainable Montgomery at 1pm at the Town Hall. The Empire State Games are going to be in the Hudson Valley starting the end of July.

Trustee DeJesus asked if a letter was sent to the owner of 79-83 W. Main Street and what is the next step.

Manager Politi indicated that the building has been boarded up.

Trustee Hurd asked the Board to think about the procedure that will help them all, we have action items and we have discussion items and some action items are very simple that don't require a great deal of time and thought, but the nature of the Board is agreement and disagreement and he'd like the Board to think about and discuss that on matters of Village policy or direction on high impact projects that they can appear as discussion items first before they appear as action items. Tonight he felt he didn't have enough time to look at the merits pro and con.

Trustee DeJesus stated that this also came up a couple years ago regarding things being brought up last minute and they are expected to make a decision. We also need to think in terms of what a work session is and use it as what it's intended for. When they get the agenda they should get the information. Emergencies are different.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that he was surprised about the article in the Times Herald Record regarding 34 Capron Street. What bothers him is the police were trying to set up something to arrest the drug dealers. They will move somewhere else and keep dealing.

Trustee Norman stated that she agrees with Trustee Wynkoop regarding the article in the paper. She also thanked Trustee DeJesus for the pamphlet he sent out to the residents. Also, coming out of Olley Park there is a stop sign that is overgrown with weeds and you get see it.

Trustee Keator stated that in the back of the board's packets every meeting there is a list from the Code Enforcement Officer and contrary to Mrs. VanLeuven she has been on the list several time. She also agrees with the article in the paper, but they shot themselves in the foot. The police had something on going.

Mayor Pearson asked about the top soil that was purchased.

Manager Politi stated that it will be used where the Village replaced curbs on Highland Avenue, Sadlier Place and Wileman Avenue to fill them in.

Mayor Pearson stated that she received a letter from the Knights of Columbus stating that on Saturday, July 9th at 5pm at the Church of the Assumption in Maybrook they will host the first blue mass for residents that actively serve our community and everyone is invited. She also asked if the no trespassing signs are to be removed at Olley Park.

Manager Politi indicated that they were to come down.

Mayor Pearson asked if the fire escape in the back of the Municipal Building was still being worked on.

Manager Politi stated that it's still being painted.

Mayor Pearson asked what happened at 49 Main Street, sewer pumping out that we paid for.

Manager Politi stated that he will let her know.

Mayor Pearson asked if the Village has gotten any responses on the MEO position that is available.

Manager Politi stated that they have gotten quite a few responses and he's reviewing them.

Mayor Pearson stated that that she spoke to the Building Inspector regarding the trees that were cut down on First Street. She would like to see meetings with the developers happen before they start site clearing.

Mayor Pearson asked about the cleaning of the Municipal Building, This needs to be addressed. She would like to know what the cleaning procedure is. This building needs a lot of work.

Trustee Norman stated that she would like to meet with the Manager and start doing pictures.

Trustee DeJesus stated that he would like to see the roll of honor hung up.

Mayor Pearson stated that she's had comments on the front of the building. The main entrance should be where the steps come up and its not being utilized the way it should be. It can be locked at night.

Mayor Pearson read a statement regarding her disappointment at the last meeting. She will not tolerate Board members out of order. Everyone will have an opportunity to speak.

Manager Politi stated that after he puts the agenda together and it goes out, if anyone wants something on the agenda they will have to bring it to the Board themselves.

Keith Millspaugh stated that he listened to over an hours worth of Valley Avenue residents complaining tonight. He doesn't think they want to wait two weeks, the Board should be talking about what is going to happen tonight or tomorrow.

Trustee Wynkoop indicated that the police are working on it. They have been down there every night.

Mr. Millspaugh stated that this is the Board's responsibilities are. The Board should spend more time here and come up with a solution.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the Police Chief explained everything tonight to the residents and there is action being taken.

Adjournment

Trustee Hurd moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Keator. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk