

**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
October 11, 2005**

Mayor Becky Pearson 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	Becky Pearson
	Deputy Mayor	Mary Ellen Matise
	Trustees	Roy Wynkoop
		Richard Hurd
		Jose DeJesus
		Lauren Keator

Absent:	Trustee	Mary Jean Norman
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Also Present:	James Politi, Village Manager
	Nancy Mitchell, Village Clerk
	Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney

Approval of Minutes

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that on Page 13, Paragraph 8, change clamors to calmers.

Trustee Hurd moved to adopt the minutes of September 27th as amended. Seconded by Trustee Keator. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Wynkoop moved to adopt the minutes of the special meeting on October 5, 2005. Seconded by Trustee DeJesus. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee DeJesus made the following correction to the minutes of October 5, 2005, Youth Committee meeting, Page 3, 2nd paragraph, change last sentence to read, We don't want to be the ones who will be directing kids to the criminal justice system if we can help them go in another direction.

Trustee DeJesus moved to adopt the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting of October 5, 2005 as amended. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matise. All ayes with the exception of Trustee Hurd abstaining. Minutes adopted.

Public Comment

Diane Sandbothe, 90 Liberty Street expressed her displeasure with the way the Village plows Liberty Street dumping it on the homeowner's property at 90 and 89 Liberty Street, which contains salt and sand. She is also concerned about the snow being dumped on their gas line shut off valve. She also stated that the swale behind her home is full of silt and mud and the retaining wall at Jacobs Ridge collapsed on Saturday.

Manager Politi indicated that the retaining wall and failure of the retaining wall is under review by the engineer and building inspector.

Patricia Henighan, 22 East Avenue stated her concerns with the condition of the Olley Park farmhouse. She further indicated that Neil Larsen, Historic Specialist made the following comment regarding the farmhouse: "It is a significant historic house in the village (a rare early 19th century farmhouse of the vintage of the Walden House.) It is in a condition that makes sense to rehab and put the house into productive use for the village and the park. (There is nothing seriously wrong with the structure that warrants demolition for that reason.) They could invest the cost of demolition (unless they plan to just torch it) into its stabilization and come out with an asset associated with the park. There are likely grant funds available for its rehabilitation and reuse. They should wait and explore all opportunities to preserve it before arbitrarily deciding on demolition."

Mayor Pearson stated that she doesn't disagree with Ms. Henighan.

Manager Politi stated that he is talking to NYS Office of Historic Preservation and the Village has had an engineer in there and Mr. Larson was in the house and he was there for that visit. There are a couple other people they are trying to contact to make sure whatever the next step there is that it is being done for the right reasons. He doesn't know who is telling Ms. Henighan that the Village wants to demolish the building.

Ms. Henighan stated that there are many people who would be interested in volunteering and helping out.

Manager Politi stated that he wants to make sure in the record its not just that it will take a handful of volunteers to repair the building, there's going to be significant amounts of money to upgrade that building to make it either public space, working space or living space.

Trustee DeJesus asked that the building be secured from the inside and to make sure the locks are appropriate.

Mayor Pearson stated that she is concerned about the heat factor in a house like that. She asked if Ms. Henighan had a volunteer that was a plumber who would like to donate something to get the furnace going.

Manager Politi stated that it is a complex problem because of the grant, the year of the grant, the current disrepair of the building and alienation are all complicated pieces and are playing against each other.

Ann Ilkiw stated that she has a petition with 20 signatures from people who want to save the park.

Althea Mullarky stated with the Scout Cabin they had some of the same problems and they had volunteer electricians that she still has contact with. If that same group of people are willing to go in and make this house water tight and make it safe for the winter can they do that?

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the volunteers to make the house water tight and to coordinate everything through the manager.

Audited Bills

Trustee Keator moved to pay the audited bills of October 11, 2005. Seconded by Trustee DeJesus. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 7-05-06, Request for Real Property Tax Exemption of the Village Owned Property Devoted to Water Supply Facilities

Trustee Hurd moved to adopt Resolution No. 7-05-06, Request for Real Property Tax Exemption of the Village Owned Property Devoted to Water Supply Facilities, (attached). Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Resolution adopted.

Introductory Local Law I-3 of 2005, “Vehicles and Traffic”, Hepper and Orchard Streets

Mayor Pearson asked that the businesses and residents on Hepper Street be notified of the public hearing.

Trustee Hurd introduced Introductory Local Law I-3 of 2005, “Vehicles and Traffic” and made a motion to hold a public hearing on October 25, 2005 at 6:30PM. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Schoonmaker Homes – Curbing Requirements on First Street Subdivision

Mayor Pearson read the letter from Mr. Steinberg, Schoonmaker Homes requesting a waiver from granite curbs on the First Street subdivision.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that she visited the site and she noticed the silt fencing wasn't installed properly. Will the curbs help that situation?

Mr. Steinberg indicated that he was there during the recent rain and the silt fence was doing its job.

Trustee Wynkoop asked if the Village was going to install curbing on First Street where there isn't any.

Manager Politi stated that the Village will be installing asphalt right now. If the Village is going to do a major road improvement and the Board wants to continue with granite curbing it would go to granite.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the Village came up with a law that we are not adhering to. He would like to change this to concrete. Asphalt is often moved when plowing occurs. He also indicated that he would like the policy looked at and he also stated that he is not willing to allow change from granite to blacktop.

Mayor Pearson stated that if there is one little section of granite and the rest is blacktop and she knows it's a subdivision but it's off of an existing street, not in its own development, it's a different case.

Manager Politi stated that it got to a point where the Village couldn't keep up with the pot holes and driving surfaces, so they went to overlays on a larger scale and we have the ability with our own labor to put asphalt curbs in. They are developing plans for Bank Street, Main Street and Ulster Avenue which will have granite curbs. You're doing your older sections first and build out. On East Avenue the Village is concentrating on sewers and an overlay and they will go with asphalt curbs.

Mr. Dowd stated that the regulation is in the street specifications and the Board has on occasion made some exceptions to those rules in certain hardship cases. You can look at this as a hardship because aesthetically it doesn't make any sense.

Mr. Steinberg explained that when he says it will require a lot of cutting and patching, in order to get a granite curb in they have to over excavate to put the granite curb in, then they have to patch back from the existing street to the curb. In his opinion it's not a great design. It's different when he's building a subdivision which he would put the granite curbs in first and blacktop to the curbs, which is a very good process. He's not asking for a favor, he's asking the Village to do what he thinks is appropriate.

The Mayor asked if the same thing was going to happen on Harvard Drive.

Mr. Steinberg stated no, because on Harvard Drive they will be putting the street in. They have to extend Harvard Drive and put a cul de sac in so they will be putting in granite curbs.

Trustee Hurd moved to waive the granite curb requirement for the First Street subdivision. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. On roll call Trustees Wynkoop, Hurd, Deputy Mayor Matise and Mayor Pearson voted yes. Trustees DeJesus and Keator voted no. Motion carried.

Village Historian-Discussion of Placing Three Village Monuments on the State Historic Register

Suzanne Isaksen, Village Historian explained her project to file an application, on behalf of the Village, placing the McKinley Statue, Firemen's Statue and Soldiers Monument on the State and National Historic Register. She walked the Board through the process. She would like to focus on the McKinley Statue because it's of national significance. She feels that just pursuing the McKinley Statue would be a way to celebrate the sesquicentennial in a lasting way.

Trustee DeJesus asked if the State wanted to widen the road in the future what would happen.

Ms. Isaksen stated that they would negotiate with the Village. You as the owner of the property would have the right to say yes or no.

Trustee DeJesus indicated that is a State road.

Trustee Hurd asked what the consequences would be if they were to move it.

Ms. Isaksen stated that the State would be responsible to provide the funding to do that.

Trustee Hurd asked if the intersection would need to be changed would that present and problem.

Ms. Isaksen stated that it doesn't matter where it goes.

Mayor Pearson indicated that she would like to see all three monuments done. It may help doing it at the same time.

Manager Politi stated that it might be worth having Mr. Kratenger see and tell the Village if we should do all three or just the one.

Mr. Dowd asked, aside from the documentation of the monument in the Washington archives what other benefit comes to the Village for doing that.

Ms. Isaksen stated that if you wanted to clean that monument you could get a grant. There are benefits to protect the monuments.

Trustee Hurd asked what if the Village decides to move the statue to a place of even more honor.

Ms. Isaksen stated that the only time the Village would have to answer to anyone is if they took State or Federal monies to do that.

Mr. Dowd stated that say you're successful with the application and you have this McKinley Statue on the National Register and then the State wants to do the road on Route 52 and Route 208, you don't think there is going to be any requirement to get approvals from SHPO to move that statue.

Ms. Isaksen stated yes, the State Historic Preservation Office would have to be involved in that.

Mr. Dowd asked how critical is the original location of the statue to its historical significance.

Ms. Isaksen indicated that right now it is in its original location.

Mr. Dowd asked how important is that to SHPO national registry that it stays there.

Ms. Isaksen stated that applications can be amended.

Mr. Dowd asked, once it's on the registry can you amend it to move it somewhere and what kind of a hurdle you would have to go through.

Ms. Isaksen stated that if you are doing it to preserve the monument then SHPO will work with you.

Mr. Dowd asked, if its on the register what effect if any does it have upon any other buildings or structures that are in the view of that monument.

Ms. Isaksen stated that it is brought to the attention of SHPO and then it would be their determination. Generally they put a fifty foot radius around something that is on the State Register.

It was the consensus of the Board to start the process to put the McKinley Statue on the State Historic Register.

Mayor Pearson stated that the cost of the historic survey of buildings and properties would be \$15,000. The town is paying for half of that and the three villages would split the remainder \$7500. We are a little larger so our share would be \$3,000. To do our own would cost between \$4500 and \$5000.

Trustee DeJesus asked that the cost of the historic survey be on the next agenda for discussion.

Small Cities Loan – 26 Walker Street

Mr. Barnes indicated that because this rehabilitation program loan for 26 Walker Street exceeds \$15,000 it needs Board approval. What he has is an estimate of the project.

Mayor Pearson stated that the homeowner only wanted just one thing done and there are other items listed. She is very concerned with the roof.

Mr. Barnes stated that under the HUD Program the Village is expected to correct any code violations as a priority. He will be talking to the homeowner tomorrow. He will get back to the Board with the results of the bids.

Trustee DeJesus stated that he understands that the roof needs to be done, but he's like to know if the homeowner wants the rest of the work done.

Trustee Keator stated that if the homeowner contacted someone in June and this is dated October 3, why did it take from June to October for this to come before the Board.

Mr. Barnes stated that they went through an application process and he got documents that were unreadable and he met with the homeowner to go through it and schedule an inspection and the Building Inspector did a write up.

Trustee DeJesus asked if there's been that many applicants that it would take this long.

Mr. Barnes stated that they've just finished up a few cases. There is a half a dozen in process.

Trustee DeJesus moved to approve the rehabilitation program loan for 26 Walker Street, not to exceed \$25,000. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee DeJesus stated that once this loan is done they have to make sure its recorded properly.

Public Comment on Discussion Items

There were no comments from the public.

Informational & Village Manager's Report

Manager Politi stated that the question came up whether the open space grant, \$55,000, which will be applied to the well, if the county have to be part ownership. That question is still out there.

Mr. Dowd indicated he will be talking to the County Attorney and he will have the information for the next meeting.

The Manager also stated that the new well is under way. Its 80' deed and they now have to do the pump test.

Manager Politi further stated that an order to remedy went to the Ronk family.

Comments by Board Members

Trustee DeJesus stated that the application for the rehab loan was from June. There's no excuse for that. He also indicated that there is a serious problem on Route 52 where the children cross from East Avenue to catch the school bus. Something needs to be done there.

Trustee Keator stated that she also agrees with the time frame on the rehab loan. The process took way too long. Also, when her two streets were done there is an area where the blacktop doesn't meet the curbing and there is a gap. She is afraid someone will twist an ankle.

Trustee Keator indicated that the Harvest Moon Ball is scheduled for Saturday night at 7pm.

Deputy Mayor Maise stated that the State wants to institute restrictions on level 3 sex offenders to restrict them from not being within 1,000 feet of a school or day care. She suggested the Village send a letter of support. She would like it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Trustee Wynkoop indicated that he was out Saturday night during the storm and DPW were out all over doing a great job.

Mayor Pearson stated that the Town Supervisor wrote a letter about doing some planning together between the Village and Town properties. She will bring it up again at the next meeting.

Trustee Keator indicated that she would be interested to know if it was with the other villages.

Mayor Pearson stated that a letter was received from the Town of Cornwall regarding school property tax reform. She will make copies for the Board. Also, the Town of Goshen is generating a letter and the purpose of this letter is to request action that would temporarily suspend or reduce New York State gasoline road tax.

Mayor Pearson asked about the Rotary building.

Manager Politi stated that the bids came in and they were broken into four components; the structure, delivery and placement of the structure, concrete base and the fourth choice is to do all three. One bidder bid everything and the other bidder just did the manufacturing of the structure and the delivery and set up. The concrete base came in much higher than we thought so the Village is talking to the State to go back to the original concept to let the Village replace the concrete that was there and go back to the

two bids. The one bid for the two components was \$35000.00. The other bid was much higher.

Mayor Pearson stated that she met with the kids at Wooster Grove on Friday night. There were some good comments made. They would like the skateboard park there instead of Bradley Park.

Mayor Pearson stated that they've talked about crosswalks on State roads, has the manager started anything yet.

Manager Politi stated that he has the applications.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk