

**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 30, 2007**

Mayor Becky Pearson called the special meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustees to order at 8:00am.

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Becky Pearson
	Deputy Mayor	Mary Ellen Matisse
	Trustees	Mary Jean Norman
		Richard Hurd
		Roy Wynkoop
		Jose DeJesus
		Edmond Leonard

Also Present:	James C. Politi, Village Manager
	Nancy Mitchell, Village Clerk

Tree Grant

Mayor Pearson stated that there is a tree grant that is due September 1st and our next meeting is the end of August. She read the grant and it didn't say anything about a match. It is for trees and she would like to move forward with it.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that it's for trees and shrubs for buffer zones and his focus is the Wallkill River and Tinbrook.

Mayor Pearson indicated that they are small saplings so they would have to be planted some place until they get bigger.

Trustee Hurd moved to apply for the tree grant. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Planning Grant

Mayor Pearson stated that she knows the board had concerns about the planning grant and she spoke to the town which referred her back to Mr. Budd. There is nothing in writing because the grant hasn't been completed. It has to do with economic development.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked if the mayor has heard from Mr. Church.

Mayor Pearson stated no. She did leave him a message. She suggested giving up the New Years Eve fireworks and transfer that money into the park master plan if we don't find a grant out there.

Manager Politi stated that if you go back to the decision and what they went through with the park master plan, they did give \$5,000 in the budget so it is allocated and that so far is enough.

Trustee DeJesus asked what is the money going to do.

Mr. Budd stated that the money is going to put together for the town and participating villages an economic development plan. That was recommended in the town's master plan. There is a small section on economic development and it recommends that those strategies be outlined and formalized and that the town engage itself actively in looking for new businesses and put together programs that would help retain existing businesses so that you can expand your tax ratable base and provide employment for individuals in your community. In attending town board meetings he became aware that the town seemed to be missing opportunities and he provided the mayor copies of all the Orange County Partnership solicitations. The businesses are there and those solicitations have a very short response period. You have to provide a property bio. He showed the board an example. The companies that are coming here are looking to get in the ground within a year. That means the municipality has had to have done some planning work right up front to prepare for that. One of the components for this is that the town is using in conjunction with the villages planner to come in and identify and make property bios as part of the project, for every available vacant parcel in the village, underutilized building in the village or empty buildings in the village. That will be prepared and ready to go. The town will be marketing itself. Part of this project is also to identify target industries. Once you identify industries you can identify companies within those industries and market yourself. They do intend to do that too. The town will have a website and they will put that information on the web site. They will also be looking at the approval process. They are going to look to see if they can streamline the town's approval process for business and for industry without circumventing any of the steps that need to take place. There will be one person in the town that people can go to. Someone a business can go to after they are done meeting the supervisor and that person will take them by the hand through all the other permits and approvals they will need. They will do a GIS on the business/commercial sections of the town and villages. You have your basic SEQRA work done so all you need now is the applicant will need to do supplemental environmental impact work on his specific site. The major things will be done. That puts you in a prime position to market the properties. As a village you will have identified the types of businesses you're looking to bring in there. Another big component is railroad. He understands the village is looking for passenger service. They will be contacting the same people and look to see if they can work with them and their planner to develop a cargo aspect. A lot of companies are looking for rail access. What we have going against us is New York States high utility taxes. There are less expensive places to do business in Pennsylvania and over seas.

Trustee DeJesus asked if they would look at the big box warehouses, there is nothing in terms of office parks.

Mr. Budd stated that the town board doesn't want anymore truck stops. They are no in favor of big box storage or warehouses, even though those facilities that they have are paying a big chunk of the tax ratables.

Mayor Pearson stated that we are looking for more downtown, main street and smaller businesses.

Trustee Leonard stated that the supervisor's objections are increased truck traffic to the warehouses and low pay. Cardinal just signed on with the union and the pay will be going up and once you get one there will be a domino affect.

Mr. Budd stated that the town is going to identify its target industries the village will identify its target industries and a big component of this is going to be business retention. He doesn't think the town needs another plan and that expense, but to create this plan you have to have some basic information up front. He doesn't want this to be a plan that sits on a shelf. This will be an action plan. While they are doing this they will be marketing. The town is putting together their property bios now. They've reached out to almost every vacant landowner out there.

Trustee Leonard asked if they were going to rezone around the rail.

Mr. Budd stated that he doesn't believe there will be any rezoning involved.

Mr. Budd further stated that the village has a seat on the committee and will have the chance to influence the town's plan and so will each other participating village and then you can take this information and bring it back here and make it work for the village any way they want.

Trustee Hurd asked if the village was still applying for both.

Mayor Pearson stated that you can apply for both, but then he will call the village and ask which one you want.

Mr. Budd stated that he wouldn't be sitting here telling the village to apply for this grant if he hadn't had assurance from Dave Church and the county executive. This is going to fly. Also, Stewart Airport is going to present some tremendous opportunities. This plan is going to look at how we can benefit from the opportunities that Stewart Airport presents. There is going to be development around Orange County Airport too. He has also pitched to the county to do a regional plan for the communities around Stewart Airport. Next year the Orange County Partnership and Citizens Foundation will be kicking off an eastern county study which will include the town, three villages, Newburgh and New Windsor.

Mayor Pearson stated that there could be other grants out there for our park master plan too.

Trustee DeJesus moved to apply for the planning grant. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that Jill Ruger, Hudson Valley Materials Exchange would like a consensus from the board as to if they would be supportive of them moving into the leasing the building on Pine Street.

Manager Politi stated that there has been talk that the village needs to get into that building for inspection purposes, so when she goes in there the building inspector will be going in there.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that Ms. Ruger has been in touch with the building inspector.

The Board was in favor.

Trustee DeJesus stated that there was a motion at the last meeting to apply for the parks master plan grant. Do we have to have a motion to withdraw that?

Mayor Pearson stated that we may not. She asked to wait until she speaks to David Church.

Trustee DeJesus moved to rescind the motion approving the parks master plan grant through the county planning department, 2007. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Leonard moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee DeJesus. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk