

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
September 6, 2016**

Mayor Rumbold 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	Sue Rumbold
Deputy Mayor	Sean Hoffman
Trustees	Brenda Adams
	Edmond Leonard
	Gerald Mishk, Jr.
	John Ramos

Absent:

Brian Sebring

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager
Tara Bliss, Village Clerk
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Village Manager's Report

- Walden Quarterly information was all submitted and it should be out soon.
- Had our end of year picnic for summer camp which went over well.
- Summer Youth Employment Graduation was great too.
- Had a few meetings with the Building Inspector regarding property maintenance issues one of which is on the agenda tonight.
- Been going over the DPW facility upgrades with the Engineer and working leader which has been going well. There has been progress at the site, drainage is being done now, steel has been ordered and demo is next to happen.
- Patterns for Progress site visit was great and they are very happy with the Village and happy with our community and will continue to try to market the Village with the assets we have and maybe more to entice people to come here.
- Had a feature film recording on Second Street and Millspaugh Court and they were, very happy with us and said they would recommend us for future filming projects. Neighbors were happy too to actually be "on set".
- Had a presentation from Sports Illustrated Play for our Recreation Department which would supply online registration and promotions for the department. Looking at other areas that are using it for feedback on the program and will consider it for the Village.
- Had a random EPA inspection at DPW that said we were in compliance with everything just needed copies of reports. Have not gotten anything in writing since that visit.
- Water/sewer billing and Commercial Garbage billing is a little late this quarter as the finance department was working on the new utility software which is a good option

for residents to pay on line and be able to see their usage etc. so we thought the delay would be productive.

- Had a water break on Main Street and we are thankful for NYS DOT being able to help us. Had 6 men on site to do traffic which reduced our overtime.
- Attended the Association of Towns Villages and Cities meeting with several Board members where they talked about energy options.
- We attended the Town of Montgomery Board meeting last week. Trustees Ramos, Mishk, Sebring, Leonard, Mayor Rumbold, himself and the Recreation Coordinator all attended and provided each member documentation regarding the need to have the Village of Walden come into parity with Montgomery.
- Crosswalks update. DOT Representative gave him a template for the request and the location and we sent the numbers and the specs for the request to get the information to the signage approval department. No time frame given but it should be a quick turn around. Also provide the number of tickets issues at the location and should turn around within a week.

Mayor Rumbold commented that the spraying of grass and weeds went well on Main Street, but have some stubborn spots, can we spray again.

Manager Revella replied yes.

Approval of August 9, 2016 Minutes

The following corrections have been made: Page 5 – first full paragraph – re: 14 Riverview St. – Trustee Mishk made the last motion and Trustee Adams seconded. Page 5 – “Zoning Petition – North Montgomery Street” - it’s an increase of total units, not per acre. Page 7 – second paragraph – should be Trustee Adams not Trustee Brenda. Page 7 – next to last paragraph – Charles Savasta; He’s seen knives in the front “lawn” not “long”.

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the August 9, 2016 Minutes with the aforementioned corrections. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of August 22, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the August 22, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Hoffman). Motion carried.

Trustee’s Committee Reports

Town of Montgomery & Library Board liaison – Trustee Leonard

Trustee Leonard reported he attended the Town ZBA meeting last Wednesday and gave a report to Manager about the tax certiorari meetings. Also the Library will host the Health care Advocacy and Planning meeting on the 17th of September.

Recreation & Parks Department and Valley Central School Board Liaison – Trustee Ramos

Trustee Ramos reported that he met with Mr. Xanthis and Walden Elementary School Principal Mr. Heidermann and Mr. Bellarosa who happened to be there the Athletic Director for VC. He asked them to reconsider polling places back to the elementary schools to help seniors and disabled. He will continue to bring it up. Also discussed firming up our communication between staff, students and PTA. There was an instance

last year where information was not flowed through in a timely fashion. There will be a few repairs at Walden Elementary but they won't affect school opening on time. Did attend the Town Board meeting to discuss parity between our 365 day a year department and getting more funding for future programs.

Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Building Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Hoffman

Deputy Mayor Hoffman reported that he was unable to meet with Dean as he was on vacation last week returning today. He will meet with him later this week to follow up on items.

DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring

Trustee Sebring was absent.

Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Adams

Trustee Adams reported that the office is short handed and has been concentrating on garbage and water/sewer conversion.

Police Department and Justice Department Liaison – Trustee Mishk

Trustee Mishk reported that he met with Chief today and he reported they upgraded software for the car computers that issue tickets and accident reports. DARE instruction will start this Friday at Walden Elementary School.

Mayor Rumbold read the community events into the minutes.

Public Comment on Business of the Board

Lynn Thompson, 34 Riverview Street, happy to know that we are going to hear the update for 14 and 15 Riverview Street. Festivities continue on a daily basis. Not sure what we will do if it ever stops. Been looking into the occupancy issues and landlord registry and has talked with Mr. Ciardullo who has worked with Trustee Mishk on the Landlord registry and agrees that it should be revisited to make it a little more of a powerful tool to go after some landlords. Have a lot of people who are paying attention to this situation and want to know what they can do in their own neighborhoods. She advised those people that they come to the Board and things will happen.

Beth Keator, 37 Riverview Street, is glad 14 Riverview is on the agenda. Was wondering if there were any updates on the dog situation there. One was licensed and 5 were given summons. They weren't supposed to be there and then have come back and are there now.

Manager Revella stated he will ask the Town for an update.

Beth stated she had several calls into them and they don't reply to her.

Charles Savasta, 16 Riverview Street, wanted to give an update on 14 Riverview Street, his neighbor. The people who were living in the tent are now living in a green van. He sent photos today and will continue to do so. The 3 dogs had a fight with another neighbor through the fence, he saw it himself. There are 2 more people living in a car in the driveway. Witnessed a man get out and urinate in the driveway. Will continue to bring this information to the Board. He doesn't know what else to do. Wished he could express how

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enraging this situation is but he's trying to control himself. He feels he can't go outside without seeing someone urinating in the driveway or smelling dog feces. Neighbor is now threatening people with shot guns. At 15 Riverview, across the street, a resident got arrested for Heroin in the MPB parking lot. What happened to their kid friendly neighborhood? This is a block from the school and we now have this to contend with. He has his own ideas of how to deal with it but the gentleman in the back might not like that. He has lived there for 20 years now and not sure what else to do about it. He's not letting them make him move, but he doesn't want to feel this anger and he wants to feel safe there. Kid friendly neighborhood is what it was and should be.

Manager Revella stated that the Board will be taking action tonight on the matter.

Don Gaudinier, 11 Rifton Place, echoed what Chuck stated. His rear yard is adjoining to 14 Riverview Street's rear yard. He witnessed the arrest as he saw it through his window. They are not selling marijuana, they are selling death. Heroin is death. Junkies and prostitutes are in his neighborhood. Once they get busted they change their tactics like football teams do, they park in the driveways of vacant homes. He's fearful for the children his grandchildren and his children. Used to leave his doors open every day. Been here 20 years but things have changed quite a bit. Very serious situation going on. You can't blame the people who live there as much as you can blame the landlord who lives across the street. He is retired and is thinking about selling his home but really wants to stay here. If the situation doesn't improve or change he will have to move. He is tired of accosting people in the street.

Action Items

Hearing Request – 42 Bank Street

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that this matter should have been up for a hearing tonight. A lot of the property has been cleaned up but there is still construction debris on the porch and other items covered by a tarp that need to be cleaned up. We need to re-notice the property as it wasn't properly noticed.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to set a hearing for 14 Riverview Street for the Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

14 Riverview Street

Attorney Donovan stated that the Board adopted a resolution at the Special Meeting on August 22, 2016 which authorized the clean-up of the exterior of the building which has been done. Also authorized and he has completed an administrative search warrant which allowed the Building Inspector and Structural Engineer Deutsch to have access to the interior of the premise which was done on September 1st. A report of the findings is included in the packet. There is another resolution before the Board tonight which does a few things. The inspection on September 1st deems the building is dangerous and unsafe at the property and needs to be remedied immediately and compliant with Code 109 and if not done immediately would like to schedule a hearing for the 20th and would allow the Board to take action either pursuant to Village Code Section 109 or NYS Fire Prevention building code which would include if, deemed necessary, demo of the building. That would all be on the table on September 20th as our code requires an additional hearing based on the internal inspection. We would like to have the building either remedied, or vacated, or September 6, 2016

demoed. We do want to have Mr. Deutsch's report before that hearing and he will draft the property notice.

Dean Stickles, Building Inspector, stated that the Structural Engineer's report will be in this week and he will send to the Board.

Trustee Ramos made a motion to approve Resolution 12-16-17 for 14 Riverview Street also setting a hearing for Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Mishk suggested contacting agencies of the state who might be giving subsidies.

Dean to contact those agencies.

Manager Revella stated that all reports would be included in the packet for the September 20th hearing.

Trustee Adams asked how long after the hearing will this be remedied.

Attorney Donovan stated we will need to evaluate circumstances at that time but moving at deliberate speed. The residents living there would need time to find other sufficient housing so they are not on the streets. Not too long but we will need to talk about it.

Introductory Local Law #7 – Abandonment of Use

Attorney Donovan recapped that this law modifies a provision of the code deleting the word voluntary to remove the intent.

Trustee Adams made a motion to set a public hearing for Introductory Local Law #7 – Abandonment of Use for Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Illegal Drug Use, Possession or Sale

Attorney Donovan stated this is based on legislation by NYS and recently adopted by Village of Maybrook where if there is a property that has a resident with 2 or more convictions of a person in the property they can go ahead and have the residents evicted locally. If the Board is interested in this he can go ahead and draft a local law accordingly.

The Board asked the Village Attorney to draft said local law for the September 20, 2016 meeting.

Naming of Pavilion at Bradley Park

Manager Revella explained that thanks to a generous grant from Senator Larkin we were able to build the pavilion and thought we would name it in his honor for the donation.

Trustee Ramos made a motion to name the Pavilion at Bradley Park the William J. Larkin Jr. Pavilion and Play Area. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Set Larkin Pavilion and Play Area Dedication – 9/25/16 2pm

Trustee Leonard made a motion to set the William J. Larkin Jr. Pavilion and Play Area Dedication Ceremony for Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 2pm. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mary Ellen Matise, 54 Gladstone Avenue, stated that tomorrow night she is talking to the Shawangunk Historical Society in Wallkill 7pm about how Walden became a factory town. She explained there is a rose bush obstructing site distance on the corner of Gladstone and Clinton and she was told the notice went out about a month ago and at this point it has gone beyond the time. She took photos and even took photos of where her tires are when she can see, which are well beyond the stop bar. Perhaps the stop bars are too far back. Code says 50 feet.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman asked for the address and then stated it would need to go through the same channels as the other property maintenance issues; she should contact the Code Enforcement Officer.

Mary Ellen wasn't sure of the address.

Manager Revella stated he would follow up.

Charles Savasta, 16 Riverview Street, heard what they had to say regarding 14 Riverview Street and heard the comments made. If it is deemed unsafe and demoed will it be left empty or a park? He doesn't want a parking lot for the church next to him either.

Manager Revella replied if it was demoed we would leave it in a vacant condition and the property owner would do what they wanted with the property, sell it, rebuild, that's up to them.

Chuck asked what if he fixes the property up to the minimum, he will likely get more people in there and the same process would start up again.

Mayor Rumbold replied that for someone to make that kind of a monetary investment one would think they would comply but that's just her, can't speak for the owner. Don't get it, why allow someone to destroy their property.

Manager Revella added they would be allowed to do what is legally allowed on the property which is zoned single family residential.

Chuck stated that he just doesn't want to repeat this process as it would be very unfortunate, a travesty.

Mayor Rumbold stated that it happens a lot it's in all the papers. When she was first on the Board saw one that went on for 11 years.

Chuck stated the Board will continue to see him if this continues to happen.

Mayor Rumbold stated she hopes we do see him and the neighborhood that came together to see that we see this kind of thing all the time. Our police department is very
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aggressive and has many accomplishments with overcoming drug situations. But every t has to be crossed and I has to be dotted which does take time. Wheels of justice sometimes roll very slowly.

Anita Vandermark, 76 Highland Avenue, explained that the Historical Society has a few fundraisers in place to raise funds for a new furnace one is at Daxxon eat in or take out. Please consider coming to a Community Council meeting we are in need of members.

Payment of the Audited Bills

Trustee Adams made a motion to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Trustee Adams and Trustee Mishk each received thank you cards from PEOPLE Inc. for attending Open house at 108 Ulster Avenue.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Leonard attended the end of summer camp picnic which was well attended and a great wrap up to the summer camp. Music in the Grove was a wonderful series.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman stated that at the August 9th meeting a committee was to be formed that had 4 Trustees and Trustee Leonard has stepped down. So we will set up a meeting with Trustee Adams, himself, Trustee Ramos, Manager Revella and Attorney Donovan.

Trustee Adams stated that everyone should have gotten the invitation to partake in the opening ceremony of Harvest Fest at 8:30am at the VFW, hope everyone will be there. Still looking for help for Health Alley.

Trustee Mishk commented that he wanted the Board to know that the Mayor and he met with Mike Ciardullo with regards to 14 Riverview and different items back and forth. Also, after begging the county we have gotten that they will give us an electric car which should help us a bit.

Mayor Rumbold commented that we get invitations to go to meetings and events from time to time. If we don't RSVP we don't go because it's rude and they have to set up seating so keep in mind to RSVP via email with the Clerk. Music in the Grove was fabulous again this year and had great attendance. Thanks to Hannaford for their generous donations of food and snacks. Looking forward to it next year.

Adjournment

Trustee Adams moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

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Motions & Resolutions**

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