

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES – November 16, 2015

The mid-month meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Inc. Village of Brightwaters held on Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 40 Seneca Drive, Brightwaters, NY, with the following officers present:

Joseph McDermott
Diane Urso
Bernadette Whitwell
Laurie Elliott
Christian Sullivan
Donna M. Barnett
Charles J. Casolaro
John Catania
Robert O'Shea
Dan Falasco

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Clerk-Treasurer
Village Attorney
DPW Foreman
Building Inspector
Village Engineer

At 7:30 pm, Mayor McDermott called the meeting to order followed by a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for the people in Paris.

Presentation of Eagle Scout Project by Justin Allen of Troop 153. Justin is a 5th generation Brightwaters resident and would like to install 2 benches and a trash receptacle around the Lakes. He would like to fundraise for the equipment with a pancake breakfast and would be very involved in the purchase and installation of the equipment.

Presentation by Patrick Fawcett, Chairman of the Downtown Revitalization Committee:

- Just received notification that the Village was awarded Round 13 funding in the amount of \$59,514. This amount plus the \$ 38,625 and the \$27,000 committed from the Village amounts to \$125,139
- Committee was formed with residents, Board members from the Trustees and the Planning Board, Village engineer Dan Falasco and business owners to discuss ways to improve the four corners area. The committee has had over 100 volunteer hours on this project. We tried to have as many voices as possible involved in the process.
- This was not to create a grand plan for the downtown, which would be unachievable. A survey of the entire downtown would cost more than \$150,000. This committee was focused on what was achievable. With the expertise of Dan Falasco and Dan Dolman we tried to identify what we could actually do
- A grant application for Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization fund was initiated for Round 12 by Denise Gibson, with support from the Suffolk County committee member and Village resident, Donna Periconi. The Village was awarded \$38,625 this round
- The funds were to be used for decorative street lights and trees along the sidewalk and decorative pavers. The dollars are eaten up very quickly for this project
- Our first round of funding was focused on the area on the Southwest corner because of the electric. There are three light poles there that could be removed
- We have to start the project and spend the money before we can be reimbursed. We have two and a half years to spend the money. Round 12 needs to be spent by April 2017. This gives enough lead time to fund the project and get the money reimbursed for the next phase

- Maureen Liccione, a member of the committee, reiterated that the committee is an advisory group to the Board of Trustees. It is up to the Board to decide how to ultimately move forward with the recommendations
- The lamp posts were selected to develop a common theme throughout the Village. We wanted to make sure they were dark sky compliant and kept with the lights already in the Village. This would create a uniformity. This would spill over to the Planning Board in determining a uniformity in signage and lit signage

Comments:

- Initial discussion was how far the pavers would go. There is some confusion as to where the Village right of way ends and where the store owners' responsibility start. There are many moving pieces as there are questions regarding maintenance and liability issues. Have the owners been contacted and will they contribute to the repairs
- Starting at that corner already has a seam going around the edge, which would cause the least amount of damage
- Shouldn't there be a survey before we start? The cost of a survey is prohibitive. Dan Dollman of the Town of Islip found some documentation delineating the right of way. Once again, we are focusing on what we can do today. We could have spent two years creating a master plan but chose to focus on what was achievable
- Discussion of a traffic light at the intersection would involve much more conversation. It is in the works, but not decided and would need to be coordinated with the Union light
- National Grid would be involved in the conversation to see if they would be able to contribute any funds to the project
- Do we have a cost of light posts or selection of the pavers? We should be able to share the cost information with the residents. The dollar costs for the lights are around \$5,500 each. When we have the hard costs of the equipment, we will share it with everyone
- Can't we use cast iron poles from New York City? They are probably much cheaper than \$5,500. The light could be placed on top of the pole
- Is there any plan to bond for additional money to make this project go quicker? The answer is no
- Is this program set to come to an end soon? The answer is no. This SC Downtown Revitalization Program is probably one of the most effective programs in the County and is not in jeopardy. The entire grant amount available for this Round was \$500,000 and the Village received \$59,000, which is a good amount
- Is there any interest from potential tenants to fill vacant store fronts? The Building Inspector replied: the department receives various applications. There is one now for the hardware store to turn it into a luncheonette. The owners need to go before the Zoning Board for some variance relief on expansion and a clock on top. The Planning Board will be reviewing tomorrow and making recommendations to the ZBA and then they will need the Board of Trustees permission to relax a height restriction. The owners have made some maintenance changes to improve the look of the building
- Parking is an issue. The Committee looked into parking and spoke to other municipalities.

Appoint Virginia Anitra and Jane Arbeiter as temporary clerks to assist with the archive grant at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for 3 months.

Motion: Trustee Urso

Second: Trustee Elliott

Vote: 5 ayes

0 nays

Topics discussed:

- Term limits – possible call for Public Hearing at December meeting for vote in January
- Business Association will sponsor a holiday party on December 13th at the cabin to coordinate with Light the Night. Bring a dessert to share and they will provide hot chocolate
- Possibly purchasing a used portable light for the Village which can also be used as a generator
- Dates for nativity blessing and Menorah lighting. Develop a rationale for the ceremonies such as the beginning of advent until the date of the epiphany. The menorah would be erected before Hannukah, light it on Monday and have a celebration on Tuesday. Keep it lit as long as the other symbols and turn them all off together
- Thanking the SCPD in writing for their assistance in controlling the crowds at Halloween. Next year it will be on a Monday. Develop the plan for next year. Continue the efforts to break the cycle. Possibly start the parade a little earlier when it falls on a weekend
- Planting boxes with winter plants and possibly doing the cascades. Wreaths with ribbons will be distributed to downtown businesses

At 8:50 PM, a vote was held to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter

Motion: Trustee Elliott

Second: Trustee Urso

Vote: 5 ayes

0 nays

At 9:04 PM the Board returned. No action was voted on

Motion to Adjourn: Trustee Sullivan

Second: Trustee Whitwell

Vote: 5 ayes

0 nays

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Approximately 20 people in attendance