

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
July 11, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held in the Village Hall, 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY 11787 at seven thirty p.m. on July 11, 2017. Trustees Carro, Newman, and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Attorney Chris Ring, and Building Inspector Gerard Harris were present. Mayor Delaney, Trustee Albrecht, and Village Clerk Cozine were absent.

Trustee Carro called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:29 pm.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the July work session minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All in favor and was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the June Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Newman seconded the motion. All in favor and was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- 96% of taxes levied have been received
- CHIPS money was received
- Mortgage tax money received through March 31, 2017

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2126 totaling \$199,476.22. Trustee Newman seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Snow contract has to go out to bid
- Drainage contract has to go to bid
- Leaf & Brush contract has to go to bid
- Fire contract to come in
- Letter written regarding 3 Cresthill Place
- Justice Court was not held in June so there is no report

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to hold a public hearing at the Board of Trustees meeting on September 12, 2017 to discuss the proposed group home opening at 2 Oaktree Drive. Trustee Newman seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris reported that:

- 5 permits issued
- 8 C/O & C/C

Trustee Carro informed the board of the retirement of the Building Inspector Gerard Harris. Applause.

At this time, the meeting was open to the Public:

Marianne Howard from the Smithtown Historical Society asked about approval for the 2 applications before the board. The Oddities Market on 9/23/17 was approved, all in favor. The Fall Vendor Fair was approved, all in favor.

Len Farano of 3 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- Questioning of the timeline of notification and the village's response
- Questioning of the appropriateness of the location
- Process going forward
- Did anyone violate the process

Dennis Sciacca of 9 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- Concerns for safety of children in the neighborhood
- Concern for safety at the intersection
- Concerns about possible house renovations
- Who really owns the house

Bill Schade of 46 Branch Brook Drive was heard

- Concerns about the maintenance of the home
- Concerns about better enforcement of code
- Concerns about who the residents will be

Marie Farano of 3 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- Called Citizens United herself. They told her there would be 6 residents with 24 hour supervision and staff living there.
- Someone was in the driveway at 3am.
- Was told they were in contract in February then was inactive on MLS

Mary Faraldo of 29 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- Who do the homeowners answer to?
- Would there be escalating fines?

Marie Steinberg of 36 Branch Brook Drive was heard:

- Can they change the residents to addicts from a residence for the disabled?

David Wetzel of 45 Branch Brook Drive was heard:

- Expressed disappointment in communication to the residents
- Concerns about enforcement of the village codes

Steve Fruchter of 50 Branch Brook Drive was heard:

- Can the residents see the list of homes
- Concerns that there will be 6 residents and staff living there

Brian Monahan of 1 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- Concerns about the safety of the residents
- Are they bound legally to keep them to a certain resident in the home
- Neighbors cannot always police everyone
- Can we take on enforcement as a small village
- What is the saturation rate of homes?
- When does the 40 day clock start?

Roseann Spevack of 31 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- How do we (the residents) find out about information about the home

Genevieve Carter of 11 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- Concerns of safety at the intersection
- Can a traffic light be installed
- We should have an addition to the website to email updates to the residents when the website is updated

Leo Lombardi of 34 Branch Brook Drive was heard:

- Group home is going to happen.
- Real estate agent was unethical – we should go after the unethical behavior
- Son works in group home
- Spoke to Vincent Trimarco who told him it was hopeless

Mike Anno of 39 Branch Brook drive was heard:

- Can someone else buy the house?

Dave Wetzel

- Can we ask for more information about who is going into the home

Theresa Guleksen of 27 Oaktree Drive was heard:

- What can the village do if they don't comply to code and just pay the fines all the time?

In general:

- Can the intersection be changed?
- Can we give them alternative sites?

At this time the meeting was closed to the public.

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman reported that:

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to go out to bid for the Snow Removal contract. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All in favor and approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to go out to bid for the Drainage and Leaf and Brush Contract. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All in favor and approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- The architect's plans for the Village Hall renovation are complete and he will have them at the August Board of Trustees meeting.

Trustee Albrecht's Report

Trustee Albrecht was absent.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Mequia
Deputy Clerk