

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 12, 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 September 12, 2017. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Albrecht, Botto, Carro and Newman, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Teri Mequia, Building Inspector Joe Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:29 pm. Mayor Delaney also had a moment of silence for former Mayor and Trustee Tom Keon, who just recently passed away after over 40 years of service to the Village.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the Board of Trustee's July minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Trustee Albrecht and Mayor Delaney abstained since they were not present at the meeting.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Board of Trustee's July work session minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Trustee Albrecht abstained since he was not present at the meeting.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Board of Trustee's August work session minutes. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mayor Delaney abstained since he was not present at the meeting.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Board of Trustee's August work session minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Trustee Carro abstained since he was not present at the meeting.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Board of Trustee's August minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Trustee Botto and Carro abstained since they were not present at the meeting.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Sonnenberg snow contract bid for 2017-2018. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to advertise for the leaf and brush contract bid in the Smithtown News. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to advertise for the drainage contract bid in the Smithtown News. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

At this time the Board went over the Special Use Permits:

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the St. Patrick's Church Block party on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 as an affair \$75 fee. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the Smithtown Historical Society First Birthday party on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 as an affair \$75 fee. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the Smithtown Historical Society Vanderbilt Vintage Flea Market on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 as an affair \$75 fee. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports and reported that:

- Still waiting on mortgage tax receipts to come in to be able to process final numbers for fiscal year.
- 16 delinquent taxes, if no word from second letter, will forward them to Attorney Chris Ring.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2128 totaling \$. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

At this time the meeting was opened to the Public:

Caroline Sciotto – Senior Director of Citizens Inc. Started off by answering questions that the residents and Trustees put together. They are not a mental health facility, so there are no drug addicts or paranoid schizophrenics. They are developmentally disabled persons (ie: mental retardation, autistic, cerebral palsy, downs syndrome.) These people basically need more help and assistance than the average person. They are supervised 24/7. The staff helps them cook, shower, go to a day program, come home, they eat dinner and go to bed. They haven't been convicted of any crimes. Police are only called to house if they were to fall and get hurt /injured just like you would. There is no medical waste for these types of people. There will be 6 young adults and a Manager and Assistant Manager who work opposing days. There is a Supervisor and direct staff support as well as a program coordinator and clinical professional that assist with the people. Citizens are required by the State to have a minimum number of staff. The staff has strict background checks performed and all have HS diplomas and go through 2 week training program. There will not be a business office in the home. The employees work shift schedules. There will be 4 staff during the day and 2 at night. Mortgage Company CSSC actually owns the house and Citizens is a sister agency to Nassau AHRC. Citizens actually run the house. Citizens are one of four not-for-profit agency that has obtained Compass Status, which means they go above and beyond regulations and standards. They are audited by the State as well as CQL. The home is intended to have 6 individual bedrooms which will all meet fire safety regulations – sprinkler systems. They are required to do monthly and quarterly fire drills as well. They will have 2 minivan registered to Citizens and up to 4 employees cars there at any given time. They will have a landscaper to take care of the property and also a snow contractor to plow the driveways and paths of egress for emergency purposes. The State is responsible to maintain the home once it is renovated.

Roberta Romano – Director Residential Citizens – answered questions regarding training. The staff receives 4 months of training. They even do defensive driving. They have a 4-6 month probation period. They are certified in SKIP, which is a method to work with developmentally disabled persons, CPR and AMAC (administering medications.)

Nicole Kern – Assistant Director Property Management, Grants & Enrollment– AHRC Nassau Submitted plans through the architect to Joe Arico. Proposing a circular driveway and extending the driveway to side of house to allow for more parking.

George Tannenbaum – Resident 21 Oaktree Dr. Feels greater congestion will be at the top of the block and thinks it will be a hazard. Wants to know why AHRC is in Village of The Branch? Asked if zoned commercially and told absolutely not. Feels value of his property will decrease due to their presence. Mayor Delany stepped in and said property value is based upon appearance and shouldn't have an effect.

Keith Ording – Resident 22 Oaktree Dr. Stated he is opposed to 6 bedroom facility, doesn't want it in the Village.

Mary Faraldo – Resident 29 Oaktree Dr. Asked if residents will be male or female? Answer was a mixture of both. Wanted to know where the residents are currently residing? They are currently residing in Melville in institutional like campuses. Are they Suffolk or Nassau residents? It is a mixture of both. Who is actually in charge? The funding is from Medicaid. Citizens are always trying to find alternate funding services as well. Do taxes ever get factored in when choosing homes? Will there be handicap ramps? Answer was no wheelchairs at this time.

Len Scotto – represents mother in law who lives at 10 Oaktree Dr. Asked if any Veterans were going to be living there? Told no by Citizens. Mentioned if neighbors get together and put in natural gas line, that it would help them by lowering their costs.

Len Farano – Resident 3 Oaktree Dr. Will neighbors be notified of fire drills? Yes they will supply a list of drills. Wanted to make clear he thought the site selection was disastrous. There are safety concerns with circular driveway blocking the view at a dangerous intersection. Would like to see a fence along the border of Rte.111 and the house. Also asked about the septic system? Citizens responded putting in a new one.

Dennis Sciacca – Resident 9 Oaktree Dr. Hopes Citizens is advocating for safety in the neighborhood at the intersection. It would be very welcomed among the residents.

Barbara Schaer- Resident 59 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Spoke she is sick and tired of speeding cars and cars not stopping at stop signs. What is the limit of group homes in the Village? Not supposed to have 2 homes within ½ mile radius. It was explained that since there is a major road that divides the two neighborhoods, the ½ mile restriction doesn't apply. Also wanted to point out that this is now a tax exempt house!!!

Andrea Newman – Resident 20 Oaktree Dr. Trying to turn in and out of the neighborhood is very dangerous. Please try and not have your cars parked on the street.

Brian Monahan – 1 Oaktree Dr. Concerned as to why you have to have 6 people in the house? Is worried about the frequency of cars visiting and parking in street.

David Wetzel – 47 Branchbrook Dr. Concerned with the number of residents living in the home and impact on parking. Still wants to know WHY that location was chosen? Does not make sense to him. Do you use real estate agents? Yes they use 3 of them.

Mike Newman – Resident 49 Branchbrook Dr. Wants to know if they can look into a new location due to the nature of the dangerous intersection.

At this point the Trustees decided that there were 2 important questions that need answers from Citizens and AHRC Nassau and they would get back to the Board within 2 weeks:

- What are the criteria that you use to select the homes?
- Can you reduce the amount of people in the home?

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### **Building Inspector's Report**

Building Inspector Arico reported that:

- Interior alterations reviewed for Village Hall
- Reviewed plans for Shells only, 1 family residence at 22 Clearbrook
- Returned to review plans for propane gas conversion at 1 Claremont Court
- Reviewed plans for Hot Bagels
- Reviewed project at 122 Rte. 111
- Inspected Damianos plumbing interior
- Dimaggio oil to gas conversion at 14 Woodhollow Dr.
- 3 Building permits for solar panels
- Cabo Fresh revised plan for interior alteration
- Revise plan for Vitality Bowl

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Snow contract approved
- Drainage contract coming due September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Leaf/brush contract coming due September 28<sup>th</sup>
- Received response from DOT.
- Justice Court – 7 cases: 4 settled, 1 dismissed, 1 adjourned, 1 mail in proof

### **Trustee Carro's Report**

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Met with Mayor Delaney and John Evans from FES to go over street lights
- Discovered we have twice as many street lights
- Village Hall needs a new router. Will contact Scott Weber to inquire about it.

### **Trustee Botto's Report**

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Got final square footage numbers for the roof bid
- Will be putting in a pocket door for Building Inspectors office
- Lockbox will be put on the plans

### **Trustee Newman's Report**

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Anonymous complaint for commercial vehicle parked at 5 Daisy Lane between 10pm-6am.

- Claremont Ct is going to be monitored by Public Safety, but have not received any feedback yet.
- 5 Birchbrook has possible double family living there and drug activity and lots of parking issues.

### **Trustee Albrecht's Report**

Trustee Albrecht reported that:

- Spoke to Celeste Richards of PSEG; 9 dead trees need to come down on Darling and they will cut them down.
- Spoke with Maggie Ramos about Plaza Dr.; she wasn't aware of any problems there.
- Emailed Smithtown Highway Superintendent Robert Murphy about setting up super sucker schedule for Village streets.
- How much money do we have for paving and patching for drainage work?

### **Mayor Delaney's Report**

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Sat down with Legislator Leslie Kennedy regarding Village Way property - either cut back more and mulch or transfer the property to us.
- Voted on shared services agreement; still needs Attorney Ring to review it.

Libby Smith Planning Board Chairman mentioned that Acadia dropped off new site plan to revise the sidewalk to be ADA handicap compliant.

Ms. Smith also mentioned that 289 Middle Country Road will need to come before the Board to propose demolishing the historic building and building a new one similar in characteristics to the old one. It is a NYS Historic Site with some original parts still intact from 1769.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cozine  
Village Clerk