

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, November 7th, 2011, beginning at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Batista	- Present
	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Watson	- Present
	Trustee Dominguez	- Present
	Mayor Kohut	- Present

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Participation inviting the public to ask questions or make comments.

Larry Levine, 1414 Round Pointe Drive: Mr. Levine reminded the Board that he had previously inquired about a "STOP" sign and he would like the Board to consider installing one in the area of the new sidewalk where the road splits into West Street and Maple Avenue.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson informed Mr. Levine that he has spoken to George White several times about a "STOP" sign in that area, however, they want to wait until they can get a better consensus of what the traffic conditions will be before making any kind of decision.

Larry Levine: Mr. Levine then inquired about the painting of the DPW building, stating that the weather was perfect this week to get the job done.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor responded that the Village was closed two of the five days this week and other priorities needed to be taken care of first.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson responded that they are hoping to get it done before it gets too cold, however, he has spoken with a couple of painters who have told him it is already too cold to paint the building.

Noel Rappaport, 31 New Main Street: Mr. Rappaport was happy to see that the utility companies replaced the pole on Gurnee Avenue that he previously spoke about. He then wanted the Board to know that he feels things are looking up for Haverstraw with the completion of the new road, new businesses opening in the downtown including the new restaurant "Bella Rose". He also applauded the DPW for the great job they did during the snow storm before Halloween.

Sherry Copeland, 58 Main Street: Ms. Copeland inquired about the progress of the project, which will extend from Emeline Park to Warren Court and wanted to know if the Village has any input on the design of the project.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Ms. Copeland that the Village has put out an "RFP" (Request for Proposal) to the contracting community to come up with a design for a promenade from Emeline Park north to Warren Avenue. They expect to have proposals submitted within a couple of weeks, at which time the Board will review the proposals and hopefully select a firm to design the promenade.

Sherry Copeland: Ms. Copeland wanted to know if anything was going to be done to the land between the pavement and the river or if it is just going to remain as nature intended. She wanted to be sure there would be some kind of plant life and not cemented over.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor informed Ms. Copeland that they will be redesigning the entire area, which will follow the themes of the existing promenade at the Harbors site. The idea has always been to create a promenade running from the south end of the Village to the north end of the Village at Bowline Park. They will be removing the native scrub material and replacing it with something more fitting to the area, stating it will be very similar to the Harbors Promenade and will be either a cement or blacktopped walkway with landscaping all along the way. He can't say anything for sure at this point because a design has not yet been submitted or approved.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson also mentioned that they do want to preserve the river's edge and will do whatever is required to make sure the shoreline does not wash away. He stated it will be a blacktopped walkway with some kind of material to secure the shoreline.

Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez stated that the Board is not sure at this time what the project will look like because the "RFP's" were just recently sent out and until the Board receives and approves a proposal they do not know what the promenade will or will not have.

Marianne Schneider, 1 Riverside Avenue: Mrs. Schneider informed the Board that there is an abandoned vehicle on Riverside Avenue, which has been there for over a year and she feels it is hindering the DPW's efforts to clean the area of snow and debris, as well as being an eyesore in the area and limiting the amount of parking. She wanted to know if the Board can do anything to remove this vehicle, which has been ticketed many times, stating that someone has been removing the tickets.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor advised Mrs. Schneider that even though the tickets have been removed from the car, the owner of the vehicle is still liable for them. The Board is taking into consideration what authority it has with regard to abandoned vehicles. They are in the process of making one final attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle. If they do not receive any kind of response from the owner, the vehicle will be removed and secured and if at some point the owner wishes to retrieve the vehicle they will have to pay all the fees involved to get it back. He assured her that it will be taken care of before the end of the month.

Barbara Curdy, 100 Dowd Street: Ms. Curdy stated that she and the other residents of Dowd Street would like to know if the Village map can be updated, explaining that the old streets used to be Hoyt Drive, Lawless Drive and Brems Place. She mentioned that when people try to look it up on a GPS they cannot find her condo unit because of the way it is listed on the map. She feels it needs to be revamped.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that it has always been called Dowd Street, but in reality once you make the turn it does become Brems Place, which is the way it was set up by the Post Office. It is written that way on all the official maps.

Jay Hood, Jr., Village Attorney: Counselor Hood stated that they could revise the maps by abandoning the streets and renaming them.

Barbara Curdy: Ms. Curdy then stated that the Police Chief is concerned because the streets were named after veterans and she does not want to change that. She also mentioned that the DPW put up a new sign for Brems Place and that O&R was there looking for gas lines before the sign was installed, which she felt was a waste of everyone's time and energy because no-one lives at Brems Place. She also wanted to know who called O&R to map out the gas lines. She did mention that they were very pleased with all the work the DPW did on Dowd Street.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson suggested that the Board discuss this with Counselor Hood and also see what other municipalities have done in cases such as this to see how all the maps can be changed.

George Lopez, 226 North Main Street, New City: Mr. Lopez is an architect representing the owner, Hector Sotomayor, of 29 Broadway adjacent to the old Miller's Pharmacy location. He is applying for a Special Permit to convert a walkout basement into an apartment for the owner; access would be from the rear. It will be a 3 bedroom apartment with an open floor plan, consisting of 1400 square feet. The stores will remain in their current location. He was referred to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation to the Board. A Public Hearing would then follow.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to refer Mr. Lopez to the Planning Board to present this Special Permit application for 29 Broadway Board for their review.

RESOLUTION #214-2011

Motion by: Terence Watson

Seconded by: Rafael Bueno

Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the Board received a second application for a Special Permit, but with no-one in attendance to present the request, the Board decided to hold it for the next meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood requested the Board to schedule a Public Hearing for December 19th with regard to an amendment to the Village Fence Law #245-20B6, which was requested by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios. This law now requires residents to obtain a variance to install a 6 foot fence on their property lines, which is time consuming and demands unnecessary paperwork, keeping the staff from working on higher priority items.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to schedule Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION #215-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
Motion Carries: All

Jay Hood, Jr., Esq.: Counselor Hood then mentioned that he has received the title work for the ball field on all 22 original lots, which now allows him to move forward with the easement on the property required by DEC. He asked for Board approval to have Atzl, Scatassa & Zigler survey the property, at a cost of not to exceed \$1,175.00.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #216-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
Motion Carries: All

Counselor Hood had nothing further to report.

VILLAGE TREASURER, Judith Curcio: Ms. Curcio had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the Board is authorizing SCS, the engineers on the Warren Court Ball Field Project to review our submissions to DEC in order to obtain additional grant money for the work done at the ball field. Some bills were rejected the first time; however, SCS feels if they are resubmitted in different categories that the Village may be able to obtain some additional grant funding, therefore, they are being resubmitted for approval.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to approve the review of ball field submissions by SCS to be resubmitted to DEC for additional grant funding.

RESOLUTION #217-2011

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor then reported on the recent snow storm which did a tremendous amount of damage throughout the county, mentioning that the Village was extremely lucky to receive only minor damage in the form of falling branches, which did some damage to cars throughout the Village. The Village also experienced two power outages in the area of Gurnee and Hoover Avenues when a telephone pole snapped in half bringing down the power lines. Power lines were also down in the Spring Street and Rhoda Avenue area. They were without power for several days. DPW did an excellent job keeping the roads clear and removing the snow.

The Mayor stated that a motion for a bond, which had been done previously, had to be redone due to the inadvertent failing to post the Notice of Estoppel in the newspaper. He received a request from Randy Mayer, Bond Counsel, to redo the bond in the amount of \$250,000.00 for expenses relating to the litigation of the Graziosi Building.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to issue a \$250,000.00 bond for the cost associated with litigation of the Graziosi Building. A roll call vote is required.

RESOLUTION #218-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Trustee Batista	- No
Trustee Bueno	- Yes
Trustee Watson	- Yes
Trustee Dominguez	- Yes
Mayor Kohut	- Yes

With 4 Yes votes and 1 No vote the motion passes.

The Mayor received a letter from Brooker Engineering with regard to proposed changes to the FEMA flood maps throughout Rockland County. FEMA periodically updates flood plane mapping and have done this throughout Rockland County. Anyone listed in a flood plane must pay a higher rate of insurance than those not listed in a flood plane. When he reviewed the preliminary maps he found that more people came out of the flood plane area and as a result will have their rates decreased, which is a good thing for everyone in the Village. They are requesting authorization to review the maps to be sure they are accurate at their standard billing rates, not to exceed \$1,000.00

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #219-2011

Motion by: Francisco Batista
Seconded by: Emily Dominguez
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor announced that the North Rockland Rotary, in conjunction with the Village and the Veterans Association, are having a new World War II monument constructed, which will be installed in the Village Clock Square on Wednesday December 7th, the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Individual sponsors can purchase a brick paver (4" X 8") that will lead up to the monument at a cost of \$150.00. A corporate sponsor can purchase a brick for \$500.00 (8" X 8"). Each brick can be inscribed to honor a family member, friend, etc. He believes it would be a great gesture for the Village to purchase a brick in honor of all the military personnel from our village who fought and died during WWII.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion for the Village to purchase a brick in the amount of \$500.00 to line the pathway to the monument to honor our Veterans.

RESOLUTION #220-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Rafael Bueno
Motion Carries: All

The Mayor went on to announce upcoming events to take place in our Village as follows:

Saturday, November 12th 1:00 PM Cpl. Manny Lopez Ball Field

Dedication of the Memorial Monument to honor those who fought and died in "Operation Iraqi Freedom", including Village resident Cpl. Manny Lopez, and Rockland residents Cpl. Steve Vahaviosos, Cpl. Justin Garcia and Capt. Philip Esposito, whose images are etched into this monument.

Sunday, November 13th Brick Museum

Veterans Day Celebration from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Guest speaker will be Col. Robert Joseph Role who has over 29 years of service, as well as being chosen Rockland County Veteran of the Year.

Thanksgiving

The Haverstraw Committee for Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners, spearheaded by Trustee Dominguez and her mom, will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Quisqueya Sports Club. Dinners will also be delivered to those who cannot get to the club. Anyone wanting to volunteer time, donate food, etc. can contact Emily.

Saturday, December 3rd - Holiday Celebrations in the Village

- 1) The celebration begins with a concert by the Rockland County Orchestra starting at 2:00 PM.
- 2) Several merchants in the Village will have special promotions throughout the day; including Lucas's who will have their make a chocolate Santa for the children.
- 3) Many restaurants in the Village will offer lunch and dinner specials.
- 4) The Village Tree Lighting will take place at 4:30 PM, which will include singing of carols by St. Peter's School Children's Choir and the choir of the Harvest Assembly of God Church. Santa will then arrive with his motorcycle brigade to light our Christmas Tree.
- 5) Following the tree lighting, Santa will lead everyone to the Community Center for our Holiday Festival, for young and old alike, sponsored by the Ladies 42 Club and the Village. Refreshments will be served, the children will be making their own Christmas Tree Ornament, and then have a special visit with Santa. Everyone is welcome.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – **Trustee Rafael Bueno:** Trustee Bueno submitted the following application for acceptance to the Haverstraw Fire Department as follows:

Janice A. Acosta - General Warren Emergency Co. #2
John L. Lima, Sr. - Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1

Both applications are complete, duly notarized and are in proper order.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to accept both applicants into their chosen fire companies.

RESOLUTION #221-2011

Motion by: Rafael Bueno
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Trustee Bueno then read the following report submitted by Fire Chief Patrick McNamee for the month of October:

Total Alarms	-	24
Structure Fires	-	1
Special Calls	-	2
Boat Calls	-	0
Mutual Aid Calls	-	1
Extrication Calls	-	1
False Alarms	-	9
Good Intent/Miscellaneous	-	12
Total Manpower Responding	-	643 members

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut also mentioned that the fire department was on call during the day of the snowstorm assisting wherever needed.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – **Trustee Terence Watson:**

Trustee Watson read the following report submitted by George White, Superintendent of Public Works as of November 7th, 2011:

- 1) The DPW crew prepared snow plows and equipment for the upcoming snow storm.
- 2) The DPW was called out on October 29th at 1:00 PM for snow removal purposes.
- 3) On October 30th, the DPW crew plowed and salted the Village streets and parking lots, also cutting down and removing fallen trees.
- 4) Assisted in the setting up for the new Short Clove Road dedication.
- 5) The crew patched potholes on Dowd Street, Brems Place, alleyways and Overlook Terrace.

- 6) The crew put down millings and restored the road surfaces of various alleyways in the Village (85 New Main Street).
- 7) Picked up yard waste, construction debris and white goods.
- 8) Cut down over growth and removed debris at an abandoned property on Middle Street.
- 9) The crews were sent out to clean the catch basins, remove debris and deal with flooding issues during recent rain storms.
- 10) The crew re-installed a fence and seeded Broadway and Lincoln Street parking lots.
- 11) The crew reset and poured new concrete in areas where Village trees raised sidewalks.

Trustee Watson had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut requested Trustee Watson to notify George White with regard to a pothole issue in the alleyway between Sharp Street and Hudson Avenue.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - Trustee Emily Dominguez: Trustee Dominguez submitted the following report from October 18th through November 4th:

Reachout Programs

Counseling Service: The counselors saw 22 individuals and their families in individual, group or family counseling sessions for a total of 49 counseling sessions. In addition, 3 people or families were seen on a crisis basis for a total of 5 counseling sessions.

“Butts Out” : This support group continues to meet on a weekly basis to help kids with nicotine addiction. There are currently a total of 7 people per session.

Homework Help : There are currently 75 kids attending on a daily basis from 2nd Grade through high school.

Girls Circle Club: A total of 26 middle school aged to Fieldstone aged girls meet weekly to discuss age appropriate topics including self-esteem, decision making, as well as participating in community service projects.

Boys Council/Impact: These groups are scheduled to begin this week at both the Haverstraw Center and Railroad Avenue School. 6 young people were screened this week at the Railroad Avenue School where programs are being offered to prevent behavioral problems including truancy, drug use and violence.

Jump Mentoring Program: There are currently 15 young people between the ages of 9 and 16 being seen weekly in mentoring groups with five adult mentors from the community. This program is run in conjunction with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Rockland.

Teen Advisory Board: 8 young people, from Fieldstone and up, are meeting weekly to address community issues including sales of alcoholic energy drinks in the Village. They also discuss volunteerism, including working with senior citizens and positive involvement within the community including college days, fieldtrips, etc.

Caught Being Good: 80 to 100 young people participated in the monthly youth celebration, where anyone CAUGHT with improved behavior or outstanding service are recognized. The theme for September was learning about and becoming acclimated to the services offered at the center. The theme for October was drug prevention where the message on drug prevention was well received. 4 girls from Self Expression read anti-drug poetry.

Straight to the Top: The program has 25 elementary through high school aged children participating weekly to improve school performance not only in academics but also behaviorally. The program also provides support for parental involvement in the children's schoolwork.

Haverstraw Collaborative: The Collaborative meeting was attended by 29 members in October focusing on the quality of life for all people of our diverse community. At the November 3rd meeting, Bob Thomann spoke about the transition plan for the North Rockland School District. Also discussed was the impact of the 2012 County Budget on residents of the Village.

Strengthening Families: This program, presented by Reachout, has been taking place for the past 10 years, with two 6 week sessions held each year. It is designed to assist families with children ages 10-14 to foster family closeness, teach parents how to show love and set limits, and teach appreciation for parents and drug refusal skills to the children. Currently there are 10 families involved and free babysitting is provided. Sessions are given in both English and Spanish.

Recreation Programs

The following recreation program are provided at the Haverstraw Center:

- 1) The Over 35 Men's Group – basketball
- 2) Youth Basketball – the boys are taught skill building and good sportsmanship by the older boys.
- 3) 18-35 Basketball – men and women participate.
- 4) Sharpshooters Academy- basketball clinic given by Tim Sanders for elementary to middle school aged children.
- 5) Game, Art and Computer Rooms – Ongoing activities provided to the children following completion of home work assignments.

Teen Nights: The program takes place on the third Friday of each month for middle school aged children and on the fourth Saturday of the month for Fieldstone to high school aged children. The center is kept open late for various positive activities.

Halloween Party: This party took place at the center on October 31st and included games, music, dancing, costume judging, food and beverages. A good time was had by all 194 attendees.

Trustee Dominguez had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor announced that the Haverstraw Center has been awarded a grant from the Rockland County District Attorney's office to host the DMI (Drug Market Intervention) program. This program helps the community as a whole by confronting low-level drug dealers and offering them an opportunity to change their ways or be arrested. A meeting is scheduled for November 10th, at 6:30 PM at the Haverstraw Center. The Mayor announced that 6 repeat offenders have been found who had purchased drugs, which would allow the DA to prosecute them and send them away. To this point, however, 5 of the 6 people have lived up to their end of the bargain and have maintained the contract from the program. This program gives them a second chance at life.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT - Trustee Francisco Batista:

Trustee Batista read the following report submitted by Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios for the period of October 17th through November 4th:

Rental property inspections	-	56
Municipal searches	-	53
Miscellaneous inspections	-	103
Construction inspections	-	23
Complaints	-	8
Violations & tickets	-	24
Permits	-	10

Village Parking Enforcers issued 248 parking violation tickets in the month of October. Overnight parking regulations begin on November 15th. Parking Permits are available at the Village Hall.

Trustee Batista had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noel Rappaport: Mr. Rappaport inquired about the burned out house on Maple Avenue.

Terence Watson, Jr.: Trustee Watson stated that the house should be taken down within the upcoming weeks.

Barbara Curdy: Ms. Curdy inquired if there was any Village property for sale on Dowd Street or Brems Place.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor stated that he did not know of any property in that area belonging to the Village, also mentioning that if there were, it would not be for sale.

Barbara Curdy: Ms. Curdy then spoke about a landlocked property belonging to Mr. Kerr and the problems he is having.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor explained that nobody can be forced to obtain an easement on their property and since Mr. Kerr sold off his front piece of property and neglected to get an easement that there is nothing the Village can do to help him.

Mayor Kohut: With no further business to be conducted by the Board, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to that effect.

RESOLUTION #222-2011

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Terence Watson
Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,

Beverly A. Swift
Senior Steno Clerk
November 22, 2011