

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village of Haverstraw Board of Trustees on Monday, November 16,2020, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL	Trustee Bueno	- Present
	Trustee Carlevaro	- Present
	Trustee Dominguez	- Present
	Trustee Santana	- Present
	Mayor Kohut	- Present

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor opened the meeting with the first Public Hearing of the night.

Ray Lopez, 26 Ferracane; representing Vilma's Bakery: Mr. Lopez addressed the Board and the public explaining that he became aware of the Village's Harvest Fair by driving by although he had received a notice from the Parking Enforcer to hang in the shop advertising the event. He was upset that he was not personally invited to the event and there were vendors, including a bakery, from out-of-town.

Mayor Kohut asked if he had received his email response to Mr. Lopez's original email complaining of being left out of the process.

Mr. Lopez stated that he had received the response but still felt that the local businesses were not properly represented and that is the fault of the Village Board as they are supposed to be representing them. He expressed that he doesn't know what goes on in the Village and someone from the Board should be communicating better with the local merchants.

Mayor Kohut, Deputy Mayor Dominguez & Clerk/Treasurer Curcio informed Mr. Lopez of several items regarding how to get information and that Vilma's had been asked to participate in the past but had refused. In addition, Mr. Lopez was invited to join the Farmer's Market on a regular basis and informed that he could contact Village Hall to obtain the information on it.

Trustee Santana asked Mr. Lopez if he would be interested in joining a group of merchants to help communicate and coordinate events, like the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Lopez responded that he would be interested.

At this point in the meeting Mayor Kohut explained that we would be moving on to the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan and turned the floor over to Max Stach, Village Planner.

Max Stach, Nelson Pope & Voorhis, Village Planner: Mr. Stach explained that the program first started in October 2018 and the process is funded in part by Department of Environmental Conservation, the Climate Smart Communities. The joint Comp Plan/LWRP Committee included Mayor Kohut, Gil Carlevaro, Andrea Caccura, Miquelina Molina, Joel Santana, Jared Rodriguez (Chair of committee) and Richard Senna.

Mr. Stach continued explaining that there was an additional task force started called the Climate Smart Committee which included Ray Mosque, Nina Aquilara, Gail Hovey, Mayor Kohut & Luis Torres.

The plan was prepared with the assistance of Nelson Pope and Voorhis, Nautilus International with international experience in this type of planning and Edward Weinstein, Architectural firm based in Westchester, NY who was involved in a lot of the Streetscape & façade improvements in the downtown.

Mayor Kohut: Asked that the public recognize that this group has been working very hard for two years, with many meetings and input from the public and it's taken a lot of time and effort to bring this forward. There are things that the plan does not address but the committee feels this is a good plan for leading the Village forward over the next several years. And because of the plan there will be zoning changes going forward.

Max Stach: The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, at its base level, is a plan advised by the public for the Village to be guided in how it plans to develop into the future. The LWRP is a similar document and addresses the fact that the entire Village is a coastal area. It made sense to develop the 2 documents concurrently and they are meant to enhance and preserve Haverstraw and to build on its existing strengths.

The Comp plan is broken down into 12 chapters and is structured around a vision plan, which is the guiding principle for future development, and then broken down into goals, then objectives and then strategies.

The Comp Plan and LWRP was not developed to “change” Haverstraw but to balance preservation with revitalization and growth over 25 years and to overcome any weaknesses that exist. It realizes the Village, as an urban community, has potential as a regional economic driver, a place where businesses can be successful and it acknowledges that the Village needs to move forward with a more resilient and sustainable future and to act locally to overcome some of the challenges we face.

Max Stach continued to describe in detail the public input meetings and the lengthy and detailed process undertaken to put the project together, the collaboration with the Climate Smart Committee and the presentation of the Draft Master Plan to the Board in January 2020, the effects of COVID on delaying the process and how the zoning amendments are part of the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan. Explaining further that the Comp. Plan divides the Village into 40 neighborhoods and makes recommendations on improvements and changes to each. It makes recommendations for land use and implements map and text amendments to zoning to provide consistency in the neighborhoods. He continued to describe in depth some of the land use and zoning codes that were reviewed and their impacts on neighborhoods.

Where the project stands at this point is this Public Hearing and listening to what the public has to say tonight. Also, public comment period will remain open until November 30th and any comments submitted in writing will be included. The comments will have to be addressed in an FEIS, Final Environmental Impact Statement, which is the second part of the DEIS document that has been posted on the Village website and is available at Village Hall for review and you can request a copy as well. Once these are done the Village Board has to present its findings on whether there is a significant environmental impact and whether there are any mitigations that are required. Then the process moves on to adopting the zoning and the Comprehensive Plan, which will likely happen in February of 2021. The LWRP is a little more prolonged because that is a “back and forth” process

with the state and although it mirrors what's in the Comp Plan it will take a while for the state to agree that these are appropriate plans for the way the coastal area should be developed. That process usually takes an extra 6 to 10 months with a lot of negotiating over wording.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the Comprehensive Plan and LWRP.

RESOLUTION # 227 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Maria Morales, no address: Raised a question about the Municipal ID cards and when they were being processed. Also asked when the Board meetings were held.

Mayor Kohut and Clerk/Treasurer Curcio provided the information on both.

Ray Lopez, 52 Ferracane: Mr. Lopez expressed the need to have parking problems addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Max Stach, Village Planner: Mr. Stach spoke about the parking issue in reference to the Comp Plan and the goals and recommendations in the Plan to expand parking when possible. He also explained that the committee was aware, and in agreement, that parking needed to be addressed. The Comp Plan contains an entire chapter on increasing and encouraging more communication between the Village and the local businesses, and some of the parking issue may be addressed in communicating parking needs and possible solutions in the downtown.

Ray Lopez:, 52 Ferracane: Mr. Lopez expressed his thoughts that part of the Comp Plan should include getting rid of the overhead wires in the downtown.

Mayor Kohut: The mayor explained that the Board had looked into moving the wires to the backs of the buildings several years ago and the cost was too prohibitive. Unfortunately, the utility companies won't do it for free.

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor asked the public for any further comments about the Comprehensive Plan.

With no further input from the public Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing but to keep the comment period open until November 30th.

RESOLUTION # 228 - 2020

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

Mayor Kohut: The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for the second Public Participation portion of the meeting inviting people to ask questions or make comments.

With no further input from the public, the Mayor continued with the agenda for that night's meeting.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

VILLAGE ATTORNEY, Jay Hood, Jr.: Counselor Hood asked for a motion to allow the Mayor to sign an Agreement between Harbors HOA and the Village, contributing \$15,000 per year to the plowing/snow removal on the streets in Harbor, noting that the price had not changed since the contract began many years ago.

RESOLUTION # 229 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut requested a motion to authorize Counselor Hood to send out an RFP for Cell Tower siting in the Village.

RESOLUTION # 230 - 2020

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

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

MAYOR'S REPORT, Mayor Kohut: The Mayor reported that the Village had a 1997 Ford F-350 to surplus due to body rot.

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to surplus the vehicle

RESOLUTION # 231 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut entertained a motion to sell the surplused 1997 Ford F-350 to an interested party from DPW for \$500.

RESOLUTION # 232 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez
Seconded by: Joel Santana
Motion Carries: All

Mayor Kohut gave a reminder about the upcoming Holidays in Haverstraw and the tree lighting which was scheduled for Saturday December 5th with the tree lighting at 4:30 pm.

The Mayor had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FIRE & ORDINANCES – **Trustee Rafael Bueno**: Trustee Bueno stated that he had an application for membership from Emmanuel Ortiz, a Village resident, to join Lady Warren #5. The application was in order and he recommended its acceptance.

RESOLUTION # 233 - 2020

Motion by: Rafael Bueno Sr.

Seconded by: Emily Dominguez

Motion Carries: All

Trustee Bueno had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – **Deputy Mayor Emily Dominguez**: Deputy Mayor Dominguez read the following report submitted by Robert Drexler, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works, as of November

- Trimmed all alleys in the Village for the Winter Season.
- Repaired Catch Basin on Feeney Place & 28 Halgren Crescent.
- T.A.M. – came in and cleared all the trouble sewer spots in the Village for the Winter Season.
- Began putting up Christmas Lights in Village Hall.
- Fixed Air Leak on Fire Truck 4-1750.
- Men- worked the Fall Festival Boutique at The Farmers Market.
- Painted Speed humps at The Community Center & Maple Ave
- Put up winter banners for the season.
- Put up wooden guardrail in Lot #19 on Clove Ave.
- Took Down Flags and Spring Banners
- Put in pavers bricks at African American Park.

Painted 5 sheets of plywood for The Community Center- for Christmas Decorations

Deputy Mayor Dominguez had nothing further to report.

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES - **Trustee Gil Carlevaro**: Trustee Carlevaro read the following report of activities at the Community Center for the period of Nov. 2nd through Nov. 16th .:

Staff will now distribute bags of food to our community members, including dry goods and fresh produce on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Food must be picked up at Haverstraw Center and cannot be delivered to homes due to volunteer and staff shortages.

Our fall-winter program began on September 14th; serving Village youth ages 8-15. A total of 1,037 youth ages 8-15 have attended the program and this will be continued to accommodate those students who are in need of oversight while their parents go to work or are in need of adult supervision and help with their schoolwork.

Nov. 19th will be the next monthly youth celebration.

Trustee Carlevaro had nothing further to report.

BUILDINGS & CODE ENFORCEMENT – **Trustee Joel Santana**: Trustee Santana read the following report submitted by the Building Inspector, Ruben Berrios, for the period of November 2nd through November 15th 2020:

Rental registrations	-	0
Miscellaneous inspections	-	70
Complaints	-	14
Municipal searches	-	8
Construction inspections	-	22
Violations/Tickets	-	8
Building Permits & C.O.'s	-	5

Fines collected at court - \$ 0

Trustee Santana had nothing further to report.

Mayor Kohut:

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Mayor Kohut:

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Dominguez reminded all that overnight parking regulations were in effect.

Mayor Kohut:

2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

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

RESOLUTION # 234 - 2020

Motion by: Emily Dominguez

Seconded by: Gil Carlevaro

Motion Carries: All

Respectfully submitted by,
Judith Curcio, Clerk/Treasurer