



VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

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Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Cold Spring held its Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at Village Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Foley. Present at the meeting were Mayor Kathleen E. Foley, Trustees Laura Bozzi, Eliza Starbuck, and Aaron Freimark. Trustee Tweeps Phillips Woods was absent.

Mayor Foley offered thanks for the new seal of the Village. This was designed by four village residents working together: Alex Wilcox Cheek, Charmaine Choi, Brett Lagerman, and Eleonora Zorzi.

Add/Modify Agenda Items

No changes.

Announcements

K. Foley made the following announcements:

- Property owners are responsible for removal of all snow and ice on their sidewalks. Snow should be deposited on the tree lawn or yard and not in the street.
- Locust Ridge and Railroad Ave. will be one-way streets effective on February 20th.
- Residential Parking Permits are on sale and 104 have been issued to date.

Monthly Reports – Village Departments (all submitted reports attached)

Financial Report: Michelle Ascolillo was in attendance on Zoom and presented the tentative budget schedule. Key highlights included:

- She is meeting with each department head along with a trustee to develop their department requests.
- There will be a full board budget discussion on March 6th to discuss big items including the tax levy, projects, fleet, and salaries.
- On March 13th there will be a draft of the preliminary general fund for review. The meeting is driven by the trustees and questions are encouraged.

- A balanced tentative budget has to be formulated by March 20th. Water and Sewer will also be reviewed. The meeting on March 27th is available for further budget discussion leading to the Public Hearing on April 10th. Budget adoption will take place on April 24th.
- Mayor Foley noted that she is meeting with Department Heads and distributing performance appraisals
- M. Ascolillo also noted that the Village is slightly over in expenses, but there will be some savings in health insurance.

Roadways & Facilities: Crew Chief Robert Downey not present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

Water/Wastewater Department: Water and Wastewater Superintendent M. Kroog was not present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

Code Enforcement: J. Vidakovich presented the monthly report.

Police Department: Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke presented the monthly report. L. Burke noted that they have an officer at the 9D school crossing in the mornings to support the crossing guard. He also noted there will be a trial period for the new one-way streets.

Fire Company: Chief Phillips presented the Monthly report. He asked villagers to shovel out the fire hydrants. K. Foley noted that Chief Phillips and the Chief of the Continental Village Fire Department rescued two human lives and seven canine lives in a recent fire, and they were honored at the County Legislature meeting.

Justice Court: No representative from the Justice Court was present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

Monthly Reports – Standing Boards (all submitted reports attached)

Historic District Review Board (HDRB): No member was present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

Planning Board: No member was present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): ZBA Chair Eric Wirth presented the monthly report. The Zoning Board would like to change their meeting night to Tuesday, and the Board had no issue with the change. The Clerk will update the calendar, and the change will be effective March 1st. He also noted that there is a vacancy on the ZBA.

Tree Advisory Board (TAB):

No member was present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

Recreation Commission:

Mayor Foley reported that the Commission is looking into applying for an AARP grant. More information will be shared when available. The Commission is also meeting with stakeholders for the planning of Community Day.

Town of Philipstown: No member present. K. Foley presented the monthly report.

County Legislator: No representative from the County was present.

Report of the Mayor and Trustees:

L. Bozzi reported on the following:

- They are working on grant opportunities with the Village of Nelsonville and the Town of Philipstown to mitigate the flooding that occurs on Cedar Street. They are working toward starting the applications this summer. Mayor Foley commented that we need to do a storm water study this summer.

A. Freimark commented:

- A. Freimark commented that the Village Board has made a lot of changes recently that directly affect the villagers, and he hopes the Board is communicating well. He encourages residents to email the Village Hall with any comments.

E. Starbuck provided an update on the Residential Parking Program:

- Permits are being sold for the program that begins on March 1st.
- Police will be placing warning letters on violator's vehicles for the first month.
- Parking meters will be in place in April.
- She hopes everyone cooperates because that is what it will take to make the program work.

K. Foley reported on the following:

- Performance appraisals are being conducted with village staff.
- Time has been mostly spent working on storm response and planning.
- She and L. Bozzi met with the County Commissioner of Planning.
- She and the Clerk will be working together on updating the Short-Term Rental Code and calendarize adopting Occupancy Tax legislation.

Board Business

Request to purchase property at Rear of 107-109 Main Street

The Board discussed the request with the property owner. Mayor Foley said they would review the proposal with the village engineer and report back.

Authorize Mayor to sign NYSERDA agreement for EV Charging Stations and Energy Study

L. Bozzi made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the NYSERDA agreement for EV Charging Stations and the Energy Study. E. Starbuck seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (T. Woods absent).

Adoption of the Village of Cold Spring Greenhouse Gas Inventory

L. Bozzi made a motion to adopt the Village of Cold Spring Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, with two clerical corrections. E. Starbuck seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (T. Woods absent).

Approve Forwarding Revised List of Unpaid Taxes to Putnam County

K. Foley made a motion to approve forwarding a revised list of unpaid taxes to Putnam County. A. Freimark seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (T. Woods absent).

Discussion on Conducting a Survey re: Fjord Trail Alternative Routes

K. Foley commented that she and E. Starbuck have been communicating with the Fjord Trail representatives, attending steering committee meetings, and making sure they are representing the body of views around the Village. The next Public Presentation on the Fjord Trail is March 11th, with a second on April 3rd. The Board has discussed creating a survey and/or having a feedback session. A. Freimark expressed concern about too many surveys taking place. He offered the idea of partnering on the survey with the Fjord Trail. Trustee Bozzi commented that she believes the Villagers would like to see the survey come from the Board. After further discussion, Mayor Foley commented that the consensus is to hold a feedback session following the next two HHFT public presentations and use that information to create the survey. Trustee Starbuck encouraged all visitors to attend the March 11th presentation by the Fjord Trail to become better informed.

Public Comment

K. Foley made a motion to open the meeting for Public Comment. E. Starbuck seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (T. Woods absent).

Rebecca Ramirez, 13 Church Street, and HHFT Communications and Visitor Relations Director

Commented that she has been employed with HHFT for six months.

- Data is very important to her and the trail staff.
- She has been listening to Villagers and meeting with them in their homes.
- HHFT supports the Village in conducting a survey.
- She encourages villagers to attend the March 11th meeting at Dutchess Manor which will review route analysis and shoreline design. There will be a second meeting on April 3rd which will review Managing Park and Trail-bound Visitors.
 - K. Foley responded that there is a tab on the Board of Trustees page of the website with links to information on the Fjord Trail.

Susan Peehl, 23 Fair Street

- Appreciates the discussion and believes that the village should conduct its own survey. Was unhappy with the HHFT survey as there were only two required questions which left little room to express her opinion. She presented a letter to the mayor and trustees sharing her thoughts.
 - E. Starbuck commented that the survey allows for people to add comments.
 - K. Foley commented that this feedback should be directed to HHFT.

Paul Thompson, 8 New Street

- Thinks the HHFT survey is fair, and responded to it online. He believes there was an opportunity to express his views. He also believes it is important for the village to have its own survey. The village residents stand to be most impacted by the Fjord Trail.
 - K. Foley commented that the survey will follow the two Fjord Trail public sessions.
 - L. Bozzi commented that the survey can be done either before or after the Village's public session and that the decision has not been made.
 - E. Starbuck agreed that the Board could do it either way.
 - K. Foley added that some folks aren't comfortable speaking before a crowd.

Michael Guillorn, 15 Orchard Street

- Supports the Fjord Trail, supports the village doing their own survey independently.
- Sees it as a mechanism to fund infrastructure with problems we already have.
- If the Fjord Trail is taken out of the equation, what would be the village's plan?
 - K. Foley responded with the items the Village already has in planning stages, such as discussions with NYMTC (New York Metropolitan Transportation Council). In terms of funding, we are looking at grants. The Village must keep looking for our own solutions.

- M. Guillorn would like to see this articulated on the Village website; knowing that a vision is in process would be helpful ahead of the survey.
 - K. Foley invited him to come back next week for the NYMTC discussion.
 - E. Starbuck commented that we have infrastructure problems: having the State's focus will help but we have to solve them.
 - She offered items such as parking meters where the Village is looking to increase revenue.
 - K. Foley commented that the Fjord trail is not rebuilding our infrastructure. She outlined many of the infrastructure projects the Village is working on.

Walter Ulmer (via Zoom)

- Great conversation. The Village should absolutely do its own survey, and keep it independent.

Rebecca Ramirez

- The purpose of the survey is not whether the villagers support or do not support the trail. The HHFT wants to know about challenges. Data tells us; it is going to help inform us differently so that it can be acknowledged and addressed.
 - Freimark asked for the point of the survey
- R. Ramirez responded that they are looking for the challenges the villagers are facing; based on where they live. She noted the signs for Dockside and people not knowing where to go. The HHFT wants people to go to the website and be informed.

Sue Peehl

- The public meeting should come first; having the information before the survey will be best.
 - K. Foley noted that the Village is not planning to host another event similar to the one held in May 2023.

Adjournment

K. Foley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A Freimark seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (T. Woods absent). Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Submitted by: Kelly Pologe