



VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING
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Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees
Workshop Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Cold Spring held a Meeting on Wednesday June 15, 2022 at Village Hall and via Videoconference as per Chapter 1 of the NY State Local Laws of 2022. Present were Mayor Kathleen E. Foley, Trustees Tweeps Phillips Woods (videoconference), Cathryn Fadde, Eliza Starbuck, and Laura Bozzi. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements

K. Foley announced the following:

- Village Hall will be closed and staff off in observance of Juneteenth on Monday 6/20/22
- The Board of Trustees will tentatively meet twice per month in July and August
 - July 13th and 20th
 - August 10th and 17th

Topic: Discussion on SeaStreak 2022 Docking Season

K. Foley commented that she and E. Starbuck met with representatives from Seastreak on 6/3/22.

Based on that initial meeting, SeaStreak indicated the following:

- Wants to run the standard Saturday and Sunday schedule for the Fall
- Considering additional mid-week dates during the summer

E. Starbuck added that previous experience indicated that two boats dropping passengers in Cold Spring on the same day was too much for Village businesses and infrastructure. SeaStreak has been told that there needs to be a limit on the daily number of passengers allowed, especially if mid-week trips are planned. She also added that the benefits include the revenue impact to the Village budget and that the added tourism does not put any additional strain on parking.

Board Comment

L. Bozzi asked if SeaStreak will pay for portable toilets to accommodate the additional visitors? Anything else that SeaStreak pays for to help manage the crowds? How is additional revenue accounted for in the budget?

- K. Foley commented that SeaStreak does pay for portable toilets. The cost for additional police officers needed on these days is a component of the docking fee SeaStreak pays. The revenue is a line item in the budget.

C. Fadde asked if consideration had been given to placing the portable toilets across from the Visitor Center?

- K. Foley commented that she had the same thought, but the logistics of where to place them and their impact on the scenic view needed to be taken into consideration.

Public Comment

Barry Gaugen, Fair Street, asked why limit the boats to only weekends in the Fall? Why not weekends in the summer also?

- Eliza Starbuck replied that Seatreak is demand driven and fall weekends is when people want to come up.

Chris Gaugen, Fair Street, asked if there is a limit on the number of visitors/boats allowed, will that negatively impact local businesses?

- Specific to the number of boats and visitors, he commented that the crowds in 2021 were manageable for the businesses and Visitor Center staffers.
- Nat Prentice, President of the Chamber of Commerce and volunteer staffer at the Visitor Center, commented, specific to the issue of portable toilets, that his experience has been that the visitors don't want to use the portable toilets.

Derek Graham, 32 West Street, commented that SeaStreak creates quality of life issues for those living at the Riverfront. These include increased noise levels and congestion. He suggested more analysis be conducted on the cost incurred by the Village to manage the increased crowds compared to the revenue generated.

Lara Shahib-Eldin, 34 Parrott Street and business owner at 44 Main Street, commented that she supports putting a limit on the number of passengers allowed. As a business owner she is appreciative of the efforts by the Village and as a resident is empathetic to the issues tourism creates, especially at the Riverfront. She supports a balanced, cautious approach.

Gaston Alonso, 34 West Street, thanked the Board for bringing residents into the conversation and asked the Board to consider that this summer and fall are different due to the construction at Dockside Park, which has caused an increase in usage of the Riverfront area. Management of trash is essential to any discussion that impacts visitors to the Riverfront.

Robert LeBlanc, business owner at Shoppes at 103 Main Street, is in favor of any consideration that increases traffic and visitors to the Village.

Nat Prentice, president of the Chamber of Commerce, summarized comments from Chamber members:

- Rincon Argentino, 21 Main Street, is in favor of SeaStreak visits
- Erin Murphy, business owner of Resrvoir & Wood 101 Main Street, is in favor of anything that helps businesses
- Fran Merando, The Gift Hut, commented that this year has been tough for business owners and SeaStreak provides a boost for local businesses.

Gaston Alonso, 34 West Street, commented that the Village has to prioritize the needs of the residents over that of the businesses.

Derek Graham, 32 West Street, added that any increase in sales realized by businesses does not benefit the Village instead just further lines the coiffeurs of Putnam County, which doesn't share sales tax revenue with local municipalities.

Lloyd DesBrisay, 34 West Street, commented that quality of life for residents of the lower village suffers with SeaStreak. He inquired as to how the fee is calculated as it seems low.

- E. Starbuck replied that the fee is based on the size of the boat (linear feet) and whether or not the boat remains docked during its stay.

Mike Turton, reporter for the Current, asked what are the next steps?

- K. Foley answered that a follow up meeting is scheduled on 6/17 with representatives of SeaStreak

Board Business

K. Foley made a motion to approve the hiring of Veronika Bilinski as Parking Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$17/hour. C. Fadde seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0-0-0.

K. Foley made a motion to appoint Jennifer Zwarich as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Short Term Rentals. C. Fadde seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0-0-0.

Request to purchase Village-owned property at 14-16 Stone Street. K. Foley commented that a retaining wall and the infrastructure beneath the wall are in need of repairs. The homeowners at 14-16 Stone Street are willing to make the necessary repairs providing the Village sells the property to them. E. Starbuck made a motion to move forward with the sale pending the supplying of a survey, metes and bounds description of the area and establishing a \$2,000 escrow account. C. Fadde seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

C. Fadde made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/6/22 meeting as submitted. E. Starbuck seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 3-0-2-0 (L. Bozzi and K. Foley abstained)

Approval of Bills

C. Fadde made a motion to approve Batch #6504 in the amount of \$38,480.87 (FY 2022-23). T. Woods seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0.

L. Bozzi made a motion to approve Batch #6503 in the amount of \$104,315.36 (FY 2021-22). E. Starbuck seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0-0-0.

Public Comment

Mike Turton, Current reporter, asked when does the Village expect a policy to review regarding flag displays. Per K. Foley, it is pending drafting by the Village Attorney.

Adjournment

K. Foley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. E. Starbuck seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by: J. Vidakovich