

Village of Cold Spring
Village Board of Trustees
85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Trustees Workshop Meeting
5-21-2020

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held an online workshop meeting via Zoom on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Present were: Mayor David Merandy and Trustees Marie Early, Lynn Miller, Frances Murphy and Steve Voloto.

APPROVE HIRING OF LABORER FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mayor Merandy noted that he and Highway Superintendent Downey reviewed 60 applications and interviewed 10 applicants to fill the position left vacant by Joe Narok. Downey has recommended the Village hire Donald Pavelock, who has a Class 'A' CDL license and a good general knowledge of construction.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to hire Donald Pavelock at the rate of \$18/hour subject to confirmation of references and completion of a background check. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pavelock will start work on 6-1-2020, with a one year probationary period.

RESOLUTION 11-2020

Resolution Of The Village Board Of The Village Of Cold Spring Authorizing The Mayor To Close Village Parks Owned and/or Operated By The Village During Certain Times And Days

The following resolution was offered by Mayor Merandy for adoption and seconded by Trustee Murphy, to wit:

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the entire United States in order to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency within New York State, on March 7, 2020, and effective through September 7, 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order declaring a State Disaster Emergency throughout all of New York; and

WHEREAS, there is growing evidence of the increasing threat that COVID-19 poses to the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors to the Village of Cold Spring; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 the United States Center For Disease Control (CDC) states that the best method to slow the spread is to limit face to face contact and maintain a social distance, that is: (1) staying at least six (6) feet from other people, (2) avoid large gatherings, and (3) stay out of crowded places; and

WHEREAS, in addition the CDC also recommends that everybody wear a cloth face covering over their mouth and nose when they go out in public places; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 202.17 which requires an individual over the age of 2 and who can medically tolerate a face covering, to cover their nose and mouth with a masks or cloth face covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or not maintaining, social distance; and

WHEREAS, the Village Officials have recently observed that the Village owned and/or operated parks have been extremely crowded during the weekends with residents and non-residents, especially when the weather is nice; and

WHEREAS, given the crowds, people utilizing the park were unable to maintain proper social distancing and many were not wearing masks over their mouth and nose;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Village Board of Trustees noticed this during the weekend of May 9th and 10th, and after consultation with the Village Board of Trustees, the Mayor posted limited hours for Village owned and/or operated parks for the weekend of May 16th and 17th;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Village Board of Trustees would like to memorialize their prior action and continue it throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic in order to protect the health safety and welfare of the Village's residents and its visitors, pending changes in guidance from the CDC, or modifications of the applicable Executive Orders from the Governor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

- (1) The Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor and Village Staff to close any Village owned and/or operated parks from the hours of 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. That is, no Village resident, or non-resident, is permitted to enter these parks during the days and times noted above, even if just for passive recreation purposes like walking.
- (2) The Village Board hereby authorizes the Mayor and Village Staff as well as the Police Department to take whatever actions are necessary to enforce this restriction, including but not limited to, erecting temporary barricades and posting the necessary signage; and
- (3) For purposes of clarification the following parks owned and/or operated by the Village are covered by this resolution: (1) Dockside Park (2) Riverfront Park and (3) Mayor's Park; and
- (4) These new restrictions take effect as of May 15th and will continue until revoked by the Village Board via resolution.

On roll call vote:

Trustee Marie Early voted: AYE
Trustee Lynn Miller voted: AYE
Trustee Frances Murphy voted: AYE
Trustee Steve Voloto voted: AYE
Mayor Dave Merandy voted: AYE

Resolution officially adopted on May 21, 2020 by a vote of 5-0.

DISCUSSION ON PLANNING FOR REOPENING OF BUSINESSES

Mayor Merandy made opening remarks to thank all Village employees, residents, business owners and essential workers for their efforts. He then read emails from Ryan Trow and Peter Farrell who each offered suggestions about how the Village might reopen.

Trow suggested that parts of Main St. be closed on weekends to allow businesses and restaurants to use the sidewalk and street. This would allow appropriate social distancing.

Farrell suggested that the sidewalks on Main Street be one way, with a loop running through the subway tunnel, up Market Street and over the bridge to Lunn Terrace.

During the Board's discussion it was noted that:

- The Reopen Putnam Council suggested reference to NYS guidelines at: *forward.ny.gov* in anticipation of the time when the Village meets state requirements for Phase 1 reopening
- At present Putnam County meets 5 of 7 requirements
- The board discussed the status of previously approved events and proposed events in the Village. Mayor Merandy made a motion to postpone all proposed events and to cancel all previously approved events through the end of August. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion was unanimously approved on a roll call vote
- Businesses should be responsible to enforce social distancing and to make sure lines don't block adjacent stores. Bottle-necking may become an issue making enforcement problematic
- Masks should be required to enter into any store and there should be signage to that effect
- The Chamber of Commerce is working on signage for business owners
- One way sidewalks may be a good solution
- When restaurants are permitted to offer indoor dining, it is expected that the number of seats will be limited causing more people to wait on sidewalks. This can become a problem to maintain social distancing and avoid congregating on sidewalks.
- Sandwich boards and other sidewalk displays could be banned to create more sidewalk space
- Partial closing of Main St. may be problematic for residents and emergency access
- Allowing dining tables on a closed street, while potentially beneficial for businesses, may be problematic for emergency vehicle access

- Village will install signage notifying visitors to maintain social distancing, wear masks and other appropriate information

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Vamos, 6 Rock Street – suggested eliminating parking on Main St. on weekends from Rte. 9D to Fair St.; to make Fair St. one-way for cars to Rte 9D; allow businesses to put wares on sidewalks; to add festive colored arrows and dots o sidewalks.

Jena Herschkowitz, 62 Main Street – noted that many people are eating on the sidewalk and steps outside their home and suggested this practice be modified.

Ruthann Cullinan Barr, 16 Stone Street – voiced support for one-way sidewalks, agreed with the Board’s decision to cancel/postpone all events and noted that any street closings would need to be coordinated with emergency services.

Ryan Trow – 4 Stone Street – noted that it’s not a question, but a necessity that streets be closed. Other cities have taken this approach. Board must consider how best to benefit all parties.

Tim Haskell, 13 Church Street – noted that many parents allow their children to run about without masks. He suggests removing benches to discourage eating on the sidewalks. As co-owner of the Cold Spring Cheese, he expressed concern about dealing with anti-maskers who are sometimes belligerent.

Rebeca Ramirez-Haskell, 13 Church Street – suggested that:

- Closing streets may have unintended consequences
- Parking should be eliminated on only one side of Main St
- Street Grips can be used for sidewalks (she will research this)
- Caution tape be placed on benches rather than removing them
- Businesses can unite to better serve residents
- Underutilized areas be used (to facilitate social distancing)
- Keep Breakneck Ridge and other state parks closed

Mike Turton, Highlands Current – asked whether Village signage content will be coordinated with the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Merandy said this was in progress.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:11 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor Merandy

Date