

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

Trustees Workshop Meeting
6-2-2020

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held an online workshop meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Present were: Mayor David Merandy and Trustees Marie Early, Lynn Miller, Frances Murphy and Steve Voloto.

DISCUSSION ON PROBATION PERIOD FOR D. PAVELOCK

The Board decided that Donald Pavelock's probation period would be one year with a review after six months (per the Village manual.)

APPROVE RENEWAL OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MANAGED TECHNOLOGIES

Managed Technologies has submitted renewal agreements for CCTV and the CS Police Department, both with no increase.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to approve both renewal agreements. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BANNING OF PLASTIC BAGS FOR RECYCLING AND YARD DEBRIS

The company handling recyclables has informed Highway Superintendent Downey it will no longer accept recyclables in plastic bags, stating they must be loose or in paper bags. The Village has notified residents of this change.

During the Board's discussion it was noted that:

- Yard debris should also move away from plastic bags and that paper "leaf" bags will hold up
- Paper bags are not as large or strong as plastic and may suffer if they become wet
- Rather than any bags, garbage cans could be used
- Residents could rake leaves into the street where the Highway Department would vacuum them up
- Many residents have voiced opposition to the use of plastic
- Plastic of any kind should be avoided and sustainable solutions found

Mayor Merandy made a motion to prohibit the use of plastic bags for recyclables and yard debris, phased in between now and the beginning of September. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion passed 4-1, with Trustee Early casting a "no" vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ann Marie Diamond emailed her concern that people aren't wearing masks when inside stores and

asked what the law is. Mayor Merandy stated that there is no law, but that stores can deny access to persons not wearing a mask.

John Scherer submitted a detailed plan to support his application for Hops on the Hudson to be allowed to proceed.

Laura Drummond requested that the Wine and Food Festival be allowed to proceed.

Craig Muraszewski emailed asking when the restrooms at the foot of Main Street would reopen.

Tara Vamos emailed that she is looking into possibilities for alternate traffic patterns.

Dan and Maggie Valentine emailed their opposition to any change to existing traffic patterns and closing Main St.

Ryan Trow emailed his endorsement of the idea to close portions of Main Street on weekends.

Patrick Biesemans emailed concern about large trucks becoming stuck trying to exit Depot Square on Railroad Ave toward Stone Street. He noted that many trucks become stuck between parked cars or blocked by power lines. The Board agreed to install signage at the entrance to Depot Square alerting truck drivers. Signage will indicate length limits. Similar signage will also be installed on Stone Street.

Heidi Bender emailed her concern about a flag decal, an American flag with a blue line, on Village police vehicles, stating this may discomfort and discourage contact with police officers. During the discussion it was noted that:

- Decal image was created in response to the Black Lives Matter movement after the shooting in Ferguson, MO
- Decals should be removed
- Decals should remain to show support for police officers
- Why is there comment now, after several months? Don't change things only in response to current civil events
- The email raises legitimate concerns
- Village is a "very welcoming" place in spite of implication it may not be
- Many people of color do not feel comfortable (with this kind of symbol) and removing decals is not a big concession
- Village vehicles are not a valid place for this kind of decal
- Police Officer Larry Burke noted that:
 - Decal is a sign of respect for officers lost in the line of duty
 - Many military groups have similar custom flag details
 - The email sent is a knee-jerk reaction
 - The fact that white supremacist organizations may have high-jacked the image doesn't make its original intent less valid

- He is disinclined to remove the decals, but will defer to the Board's decision
- The Board agreed not to take immediate action, but to research the matter further

DISCUSSION ON RESUMING VILLAGE BUSINESS

During the discussion it was noted that:

- Phase 2 will allow the Village Hall to open at 50% staffing capacity, which is how things have been operating to date
- Many residents communicate via phone and email, with only a few requiring in-person visits
- Village should follow NYS guidelines and play it by ear
- In-person visits can be phased in beginning 7-1-2020
- Court dates will schedule defendants in 15-20 minute slots
- Other board meetings will resume via Zoom
- The municipal parking lot on Fair Street will reopen in Phase 2
- Tot's Park will remain closed
- Dockside and the waterfront will reopen in Phase 2, with appropriate signage
- Some benches on the south side of Main Street will be removed
- Large events, such as Hops on Hudson and the Wine and Food Festival, are cancelled through the end of August; in the late July/early August timeframe the Board will review if and when it is appropriate to consider applications for large events.

RESOLUTION 12-2020

Resolution Of The Village Board Of The Village Of Cold Spring Temporarily Restricting The Placement Of Signage Or Items and/or Merchandise On Village Sidewalks.

The following resolution was offered by Mayor Merandy for adoption and seconded by Trustee Early, 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 sidewalks on Main Street within the Village of Cold Spring become extremely crowded with residents and non-residents, especially when the weather is nice; and

WHEREAS, the Village usually allows store owners to place small free-standing signs and other items like umbrellas, planters and benches, etc. on the Village owned sidewalks along Main Street so long as such signage does not interfere with pedestrian traffic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §108-24B of the Village's Code, store owners are permitted to display merchandise in an area not to exceed three feet (3') from the building so long as such merchandise does not interfere with pedestrian traffic; and

WHEREAS, given the limitations due to the narrow width of the Village sidewalks on Main Street, and large size of the crowds; it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain proper social distancing (as per CDC guidelines and New York State requirements) when the Village sidewalks are further cluttered with signage and merchandise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

- (1) For the benefit of the general public's health, safety and welfare the Village Board hereby declares that store owners are no longer permitted to place any signage or items (of any kind) and/or merchandise (of any kind) on the Village owned sidewalks along Main Street.
- (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 these restrictions; and
- (3) These new restrictions take effect as of June 3rd 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 6-2-2020 by a vote of 5-0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve Batch #5585 in the amount of \$26,508.84. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve Batch #5593 in the amount of \$41,139.82. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 5-12-2020 minutes. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 5-21-2020 minutes. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING REOPENING OF VILLAGE BUSINESSES

During the Board discussion it was noted that:

- Hops on Hudson has submitted a detailed plan to comply with NYS guidelines suggesting that the proposed event date falls two weeks after the beginning of Phase 4 and requesting that cancellation be reconsidered
- Board members remain concerned about permitting an event that will draw large numbers of people to the village, when NYS guidelines counsel against this and no guidelines have been issued for phases 3 & 4 yet. As well, there is no guarantee that the rate of infections will continue to abate.
- Board consensus it not to approve any large events until September
- Village will try one-way sidewalks as a way to encourage social distancing. Signage is in process as well as stencils to be painted on the sidewalks
- Phase 2 will allow retail stores to reopen at 50% capacity, with masks and social distancing required
- Hair salons and barber shops will be allowed to reopen in Phase 2
- There is no current plan to enforce social distancing and the use of masks on Main Street

Public Comment

John Scherer, 4 Kemble Ave., reiterated details of his revised plan and again requested Hops on Hudson be allowed to proceed.

Heidi Shira Bender, 95 Main St., noted:

- What support will businesses get from the police? Could the police department issue a statement?
- She is concerned about persons eating on benches outside her store. Would the Village remove the bench? (*Mayor Merandy agreed to do so.*)
- She is not confident about reopening without more guidance
- She believes divisive decals are not appropriate for police vehicles

Ryan Trow, 4 Stone St., noted:

- Closing off portions of Main St. on weekends should be considered
- Many businesses he has spoken with are in favor
- Many other municipalities have taken this approach

- The 50% capacity limit may last for a long time and may force many businesses to close with long-lasting economic impact
- The approach would aid in controlling traffic flow and limiting the number of persons in the village
- He will send his proposal to the Board for review

In response Trustee Miller noted that many of the municipalities that close certain streets are laid out on a grid pattern, which are arranged with street arteries parallel to Main St. making emergency access and residential circulation easier than would be in Cold Spring. Mayor Merandy voiced concern about increased traffic on side streets caused by diverted traffic.

Tara Vamos, 6 Rock St., voiced her support for weekend closing of portions of Main St. She also noted her concern when she first noticed the blue line flag decals and understands how it might adversely affect others.

Dan Valentine, 6 Garden St., expressed concern about the impact of street closings on side streets. He noted it is difficult to close off streets, both in terms of materials and man-power. He also noted that NYS guidelines are “not really enforceable” and that removal of benches on Main St. may have unintended consequences.

John Scherer, 4 Kemble Ave., apologized for his tone during the earlier discussion of large events and said he would seek another location for his event.

Stephanie Hawkins, 15 Academy St., thanked the Board and OIC Burke for their efforts and concern about public health and safety.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 9:34 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor Merandy

Date