

**Village of Cold Spring
Village Board of Trustees
85 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516**

**Trustees Monthly Meeting
10-13-2020**

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting via video conference pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 on Tuesday October 13, 2020 at 6:30pm. Present were: Mayor David Merandy and Trustees Marie Early, Lynn Miller and Frances Murphy and Steve Voloto.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

In a written report, Village Accountant Ascolillo noted that:

- Revenue for the municipal lot is appropriate for tourist season, as compared to last year
- Fines and fees are beginning to increase again, but have not returned to pre-pandemic levels yet
- There were no additional potential losses of revenue or large increases in expenses for the past month
- NYS grants are also beginning to be released, but are still very limited. The NYS Consolidated Grants Application, which should have been released in the Spring/early Summer hasn't been opened. This grant covers funding from various NYS departments
- The NYS mini-bid has been submitted and revised for the garbage truck chassis, but results haven't been received yet
- The Fire Department has submitted their 2021 proposed budget, with a request for a 2% increase for municipal contributions (\$2,435 more than last year)

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Officer in Charge Larry Burke reported for the month of September 2020 that:

- There were 57 calls for service (for a YTD total of 515)
- There were 272 tickets issued (for a YTD total of 763)
- There were no arrests

Burke also noted that:

- He is attending meetings every two weeks about the NYS requirement for police reform policy and expects to hold a public meeting in the future
- Traffic and noise has increased on Academy Street on Saturday mornings in anticipation of the food pantry opening. Cars have begun to arrive as early as 4 am.
- The increase in tickets is due to an increase in parking violations as many visitors continue to visit the Village and nearby hiking trails
- There was an incident on Marion Ave last weekend between two motorists neither of whom was willing to give way (as parking on both sides of the streets only allowed a single lane of traffic.) Police diffused the situation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recreation Commission

In a written report, it was noted that:

- The Commission will be reviewing the 2020-2021 budget and work to be completed when it meets later this month. Work includes lighting for flag at bandstand, Mayor's Park bathroom doors and painting the bandstand.
- Review of recreation properties and seasonal position (with Robert Downey)
- Holiday decorations scheduled for November 26
- Options for tree lighting and Santa visit. Trustee Early commented that these events may need to be canceled due to the pandemic.
- Update on reopening of Tot's Park and Mayor's Park
- Discuss potential new member to the commission

Planning Board

None

Zoning Board of Appeals

In a written report Chair Aaron Wolfe noted the following activities for the month of September.

Current Business

- **21 Parsonage Street.** The ZBA denied an application for variances to construct a new home
- **11 Benedict Road.** ZBA approved application for a variance to construct a garage in the front yard setback

New Business

- **4 Morris Ave.** A workshop was held for a variance required to build a 6'-0" fence on the south side of the property, where it borders the B-1 district

Old Business

- **21 Parsonage.** ZBA closed the public hearing and directed the Village Attorney to prepare a summary of the Board's discussion
- **11 Benedict Road.** ZBA held a workshop

Cold Spring Fire Company

In an email Chief Tom Merrigan noted that for the month of September:

- There were 17 alarms
- Annual hose testing was completed

Town of Philipstown

Bob Flaherty noted that during the month of September:

- The Town is not pleased with the progress on the Town Hall renovations, but is pleased with the work completed so far. Completion is anticipated late this year or early next year.
- Planning to build a new highway garage continues. Badey & Watson to do surveys and QuES&T to perform asbestos testing.

- Residents of Indian Brook Road have complained about parking issues. The parking area for Constitution Marsh has been closed, but that hasn't stopped illegal parking. Town is considering "booting" or towing illegally parked cars.
- A \$11.4 million budget is anticipated for 2021
- Planning and zoning boards continue to meet via Zoom
- Roberto Muller presented a Climate Smart update. He informed the Town he would be stepping down from his position at the end of this year or early next year.
- The Town has implemented a refrigerant recycling center on Saturdays between 9am – 3pm
- The last 1,100 feet of dirt road on East Mountain Road South has been paved
- The Town encourages everyone to respond to the online survey (philipstown2020.com) conducted by the Comprehensive Plan

Historic District Review Board

Vice Chair Kathleen Foley noted the following activities for the month of September.

Current Applications

- 22 Butterfield Road
- 11 The Boulevard, unit A24 (Forge Gate Condominiums)
- 7 Fair Street

Board work/projects/notes

- Final text for revised Design Standards being prepared for submission to graphic designer
- Regarding the workshop for 11 The Boulevard, the HDRB acknowledges the unique nature of Forge Gate within the Historic District and will create a new sub-section in the Design Standards to cover Forge Gate.

Tree Advisory Board (TAB)

In an email TAB chair Jennifer Zwarich noted that:

- Tree removal and maintenance RFPs were released on 10-9-2020. They have been posted to the TAB and Village websites. The RFPs have been emailed to all local tree services that have worked with the TAB previously as well as those firms listed by the ISA (having a certified arborist) within a 10-mile radius.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Water & Wastewater Superintendent Matt Kroog noted that for the month of September 2020:

- Reservoir status is at 78.06% capacity
- Flow to System is 8.81 MG/294 k/day (a 4.1% decrease from 2019)
- 2019 Flow to System was 9.18 MG/306 k/day
- Rainfall: 3.32"
- Bacteria Lab Test sampling: all routine testing samples were found in good standing

- Service leak at 19 Parsonage has been repaired by Infinity Plumbing. Service shut-off valve was relocated to inside the curb/sidewalk and meter was upgraded to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Meter encoder to be recalibrated to reflect this change
- Hydrant flushing took place on 9/22 – 9/25.
- Annual Drinking Water Quality Report was submitted to PCDOH. Distribution to residents is expected shortly
- Water has been released from the upper reservoir from 9/9 to 9/11 to maintain 60% capacity in the Lower Reservoir, as water continues to be released (from the Lower Reservoir) to satisfy water production needs.
- Catskill DEP Project. Badey and Watson surveying conducted and report received on March 2, 2020. Bart Clark reached out to DEP on May 10, 2020, but there has been no response

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

Water & Wastewater Superintendent Matt Kroog noted that for the month of September 2020:

- Plant inflow 5.56 million gallons
- Average daily flow was 185K gallons
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand: 96.97% removal
- Total Suspended Solids: 94.89% removal
- Sludge Hauled Offsite: 0 gallons
- A break in the residential sewer lateral at 19 Parsonage was discovered during repairs to water line and was repaired

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

In a written report the department noted that for the month of September 2020:

- 14 new building permit applications were received
- 10 building permits were issued
- 0 operating permits were issued
- 2 dumpster permits were issued
- 8 Certificates of Occupancy were issued
- 12 record searches were completed
- 2 complaints were received
- 4 referrals to the HDRB were made
- 0 referrals to the ZBA were made
- 0 referrals to the CSPB were made
- \$1,972.25 in application and permit fees were collected
- \$900 in record search fees were collected
- \$60 in other fees were collected

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In a written report, Crew Chief Robert Downey noted that during the month of September 2020:

- 62.1 tons of garbage were picked up
- 20.3 tons of recyclables were picked up
- 5 yards of Item #4 were used on E. Belvedere and Hamilton Streets

- There were two brush collections
- Tree limbs around Village were trimmed
- Roofs cleaned at VO/subway entrances and at visitor center bathrooms
- Removed and re-poured 60'-0" of sidewalk on Parsonage Street
- Broken plumbing on Fire Company urinal repaired
- Two new faucets installed at Village Hall
- Five dead deer removed and buried
- Two sump pumps and two trash pumps received from Fire Company
- Two new soap dispensers installed at Mayor's Park Pavilion
- New clutch installed on Zero turn mower
- Work for October anticipated to include: removal and re-pouring of one or two sidewalks, continued tree limb trimming and general preparations for Autumn

JUSTICE COURT

In a written report Village Justice Costello noted that for the month of September 2020:

- \$3,300 in fines, forfeited bails and civil penalties were collected
- \$4,420 in parking fines were collected
- \$212.5 in civil fees were collected
- \$1,441 mandatory state surcharges were collected
- There were 0 Penal Law charges
- There were 59 Vehicle & Traffic Law charges
- There were no Civil charges

REPORT OF MAYOR AND TRUSTEES

Trustee Miller has spoken with representatives from Showtime who wish to film in the Village early next year.

Mayor Merandy noted that Philipstown has the lowest number of COVID cases in the County.

Mayor Merandy commented on social media posts accusing Heidi Bender of proposing to defund the Cold Spring Police Department. The Mayor emphasized that the Board has not had any discussion on this matter and has no intention to defund the police department. He further cited the need for the department especially in light of the increased number of visitors to the Village on weekends.

Trustee Miller added that rather than complaining on social media, attendance at Village Board meetings would be more productive.

OIC Burke noted that he and members of the police department remain responsive to the public: in person, via phone and email.

Mayor Merandy commented upon the impact of increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the Village and noted that:

- Rte. 9D is outside Village jurisdiction, though traffic and parking issues from this area have a direct impact upon the Village

- He and Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea continue to meet with the DOT and NYS Parks Department in order to find resolutions, but that both the DOT and Parks Department remain unresponsive to Village and Town concerns.
- Parking problems have now extended as far as Academy and High Streets
- The parking committee should be reconstituted with a membership of at least two residents, two merchants and two board members
- Residential parking permits and/or dedicated residential parking areas should be considered
- Increasing parking fines may deter illegal parking
- Other metered parking areas in the Village might be created. Trustee Early suggested the spaces along Mayor's Park could be metered or spaces adjacent to the Marathon property
- Reducing available parking spaces often exacerbates the problem and even if there were more parking spaces, that would only encourage more visitors and more traffic.

Trustee Murphy requested that yellow lines be painted on High Street to better identify driveways (that are often blocked by illegally parked cars.) OIC Burke noted that blocking a driveway is a towing offence.

The Board discussed Halloween festivities. During the discussion it was noted that:

- The Board wishes to reduce crowds on Parrott Street due to COVID
- Trick or Treating could occur locally rather than on Parrott Street
- Police department will have extra officers at either end of Parrott Street but will not block off the street in order to prevent persons from congregating in the street
- The Center for Disease Control identifies Halloween as a high risk event
- Requests to limit attendance can be posted on social media sites and press releases could be sent to area newspapers and periodicals

PARKING WAIVER RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING BOARD FOR 124 MAIN ST.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to grant four parking waivers for 124 Main Street as approved by the Planning Board. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously

MINUTES

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 10-6-2020 minutes. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously with Trustee Voloto abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Turton (Highlands Current) asked how the reopened bathrooms at the foot of Main Street are working out. Mayor Merandy said that, according to the Chamber of Commerce, things are going well

Kathleen Foley, 2 Locust Ridge noted that the County Tourism Office has no funding for programming in the upcoming budget and suggested that the Village ask for funding to help with traffic, garbage pickup and other issues related to the weekend popularity of the Village. A budget hearing is scheduled for 10-20-2020.

Foley also raised the possibility of pay parking on the Mayor's Park grass. Board members pointed out that in normal times, there are many events held at the park and that parking on a rain-soaked field would create much damage.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Early seconded and the motion was passed unanimously at 8:07pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor David Merandy

Date