

REGULAR MEETING

February 19, 2015

The Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Upper Nyack was held at the village hall on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 8:00 PM.

Those present: Mayor Esmay, Trustees Diamond, Morgan & Tarapata
Village Clerk Carol G. Brotherhood, Village Attorney Robert P. Lewis

Absent: Trustee Hindin

Others identified: Lt. Morgan-CPD; Donna Nye; Ben Weiland (TPL), Peggy Kurtz, Sr. Veronica Mendes, RCD; Enid Weishaus; Bob Stien; Jerome Muhlenberg; Stefani Starin; Laurie Dodge; Edward Saner; Robert Maher; Petrina Pleczo; Darcy Casteleiro; Ron Wish; N. Jose Acevedo; Julian Palmer; Maria Palmer

POLICE REPORTS – Lt. Morgan attended. Lt. Morgan told those in attendance about the following:

New Community Policing policy for the village. The Officers in the Village are PO Valerio and PO Shannon. The CPD will now be handling enforcement issues for the village. Visits to all the schools in the district by Police Officers while school is in session so they have a presence and can be seen in the community.;

Lt Morgan noted that calls to their office are running similar to those in the town. ; 14 accidents (weather related); Wood chipper stolen is still an active investigation; Summit School- 2 incidents: One student was off their meds and had to be escorted to Nyack Hosp. ; Second student wandered off but returned later that night.

Residents should be aware of ongoing scams

Riverton Development-larceny of PVC pipe from the construction site.

Ready Watch (Reverse 911) Residents can sign up.

Lt. Morgan noted that he had spoken with a resident about an incident involving his daughter and her friend. Laurie Dodge, 349 N. Broadway, the mother of the young girl and the father of her friend, Edward Saner, 134 N. Broadway, were in attendance and asked to speak about the matter. Ms. Dodge was not at home at the time of the incident. Her daughter and friend had been sledding at the Elementary school, across the street from their house on N. Broadway. While walking back they were peering into the school window when a police officer parked nearby, got out of his patrol car and approached the girls. The girls stated to their parents that the Officer questioned them and that he placed his hand on or near his weapon. The parents also stated their daughters were very frightened by the incident. Ms. Dodge was concerned that this community is not like other communities. Ms.

Dodge stated that she wanted to go on record in a public forum and say that her daughter has been taught to respect the police and thought this officer went too far. Mr. Saner spoke and added that they are 12 yr. old girls and that his daughter felt threatened and he wondered why the officer had to question them?

Lt. Morgan explained that Officers are taught to stand in a specific way with their hands on their hips or near their belts. There have been several incidents reported at the school in the past and Officers routinely check the school.

He also noted that he had reached out to Ms. Dodge's husband, Mr. De Camp, as soon as he was aware of the incident and had spoken to him.

Ben Weiland (NYS Project Manager) – Trust for Public Land

Appeared before the Board and explained that the TPL is a National Organization that works coast to coast, to preserve land. Mr. Weiland went on to explain that the Sisters of the Institute for Christian Doctrine have owned the property for 90 years and have been the caretakers of a wonderful amenity in the Village of Upper Nyack. The Sisters have used the property for community and benefit functions and charitable activities such as camps and classes.

The Sisters have been in discussion for months with Mr. Weiland to find a way to preserve the land for Open Space and for the public benefit.

Mr. Weiland noted that several things had taken place to help accomplish this as well as discussions of what would be needed:

- 1) Met with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, owners of the neighboring property, and good stewards of the land. They discussed payments in lieu of taxes.
- 2) Funding
- 3) TPL would enter into a contract with the Sisters and would then sell to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (NY & NJ)
- 4) The property will be appraised (in progress)
- 5) Would exclude the Convent lot. The Sisters desire to live out their lives there and would continue to conceive of a use for the property in the future (Convent house & 2 acre lot)
- 6) Potential Change to the lots on site – 3 lots:
Convent Lot, Hudson overview lot and camp lot

The Durst Corporation has offered \$200,000 in matching grant funds.

Mr. Weiland noted that a more formal presentation would follow. Will need help in figuring out the tax assessments.

The Mayor and the Board noted their biggest concern was that the expansive open

property that creates the beautiful vista up to the Hook, not be turned into a parking lot. Discussion took place of how to structure into the transfer that it would not be allowed possibly through a deed restriction or conservation easement.

The Board thanked Mr. Weiland and the Sisters for their efforts in preserving this land.

Members of the public who commented: Robert Stein, Darcy Casteleiro, Ron Wish Those who spoke were in support of the transferring of property and that it be preserved as open space. They applauded the work of Ben Weiland and the TPL and the Sisters of Marydell.

MINUTES – Trustee Morgan motioned to approve the minutes of the **1/15/15 Regular meeting**, as amended seconded by Trustee Tarapata and so approved.

On a call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Esmay, Trustees Morgan & Tarapata

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Hindin

TREASURER'S REPORT – Submitted for review

VOUCHERS – Read and approved for payment.

NYS Retirement System-Standard Work Day Resolution

The Village clerk will work with Village Attorney Lewis to draft the resolution. If ready, the item will be on the agenda next month.

Trustee Tarapata made a motion to adjourn seconded by Trustee Morgan and it was so moved.

AYES: Mayor Esmay, Trustees Diamond, Morgan & Tarapata

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Hindin

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol G. Brotherhood
Village Clerk