

**Minutes of the annual meeting of the Village of Upper Nyack Board of Trustees held at  
7:30 pm on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 held as a hybrid meeting.**

PRESENT	Karen Tarapata Michael Esmay Jeffrey Epstein Kennon Rothchild III Alison Crowther	Mayor Deputy Mayor Trustee Trustee Trustee
ALSO PRESENT	Georgia Grandstaff Noelle Wolfson	Village Clerk Village Attorney
ABSENT -		

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

- **Mayor - Opening Remarks (attached).**
- **Introduction and oath taking of Elected Trustees.**

**Discussion:** The mayor introduced new Village Trustee, of Alison Crowther. Newly elected Trustees Crowther and Esmay and Mayor Karen Tarapata took the oath of office.

- **Appointments and Resolutions (attached)**

**Discussion:** The Village Clerk read the list of appointments and resolutions.

Motion to accept the appointments and resolutions made by Trustee Esmay, seconded by Trustee Epstein, and so accepted.

On Call for a Vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Crowther, Epstein, Esmay and Rothchild

NOES:

Abstain:

- **Review of policy statements**

**Discussion:** No change.

- **Review of Schedule of Fees**

**Discussion:** No change.

- **Resolution for Indian Point Tritium Release.**

Motion to approve resolution opposing Indian Point Tritium release by Trustee Epstein, seconded by Trustee Rothchild, and so accepted.

On Call for a Vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Crowther, Epstein, Esmay and Rothchild

NOES:

Abstain:

- **Resolution for Approval: Hocherman Tortorella Wekstein Engagement Letter**

Motion to engage Hocherman, Tortorella and Wekstein as Village Land Use Attorneys made by Trustee Rothchild, seconded by Trustee Crowther, and so accepted.

On Call for a Vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Crowther, Epstein, Esmay and Rothchild

NOES:

Abstain:

- **Executive Session**

Motion to enter into executive session at 7:46 pm to discuss pending legal matters made by Trustee Epstein, seconded by Trustee Esmay, and so accepted.

On Call for a Vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Crowther, Epstein, Esmay and Rothchild

NOES:

Abstain:

Motion to end executive session at 9:07 made by Trustee Rothchild, seconded by Trustee Crowther, and so accepted.

On Call for a Vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Crowther, Epstein, Esmay and Rothchild

NOES:

Abstain:

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees made by Trustee Epstein, seconded by Trustee Rothchild, and so accepted.

On Call for a Vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Crowther, Epstein, Esmay and Rothchild

NOES:

Abstain:

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 pm.**

2022 was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Upper Nyack and a good year for the Village.

While inflation continues to push up the cost of the projects we do, I can state confidently that overall the Village is in an excellent position financially. Last year, we consolidated several bonds into one at a lower interest rate and also achieved a good rate of interest on our reserve account.

Legislatively, we completed an updated zoning code, based on the 2021 Comprehensive Plan. This was a massive project that looked at every aspect of our land use laws and processes.

Opportunities were found to bring our community together as we move out of the pandemic. The Village held multiple events celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an incorporated Village, including an Upper Nyack Block Party that I hope will become a yearly tradition.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Committee also developed an extensive Upper Nyack History website with many interactive features.

In infrastructure, the Village completed a major renovation at Village Hall and have nearly completed the renovation of the Old Stone Meeting House.

For 2023, we have been awarded \$325,000 in grant money to create a welcoming plaza here at the Old Stone Meeting House and to upgrade the cracked asphalt driveway at River Hook with a multi-use path and small parking area.

It has been a pleasure to see the Preserve become a gathering place and a source of local pride. I am grateful for the strong support we have from our residents.

There will be challenges in 2023. There is a general distrust of government, even at the local level, that means that our actions may be met with skepticism, however good our intentions.

Some provisions of our local ordinances and zoning code are being challenged in court and over time, we will find out how well we did our work.

To conclude, I want to thank every member of every board for helping the Village maintain its character through their service. The level of commitment is remarkable. I cannot begin to express how lucky we are.

And I want to thank our residents for reelecting me as Mayor for another two years. I look forward to seeing how much we can accomplish together.

Now I would like to introduce the newest member of the Board of Trustees, Alison Crowther.

**Proposed List of Appointments and Miscellaneous Resolutions  
For Village of Upper Nyack Annual Organizational Meeting April 3, 2023**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Third Thursday of each month is hereby designated the regular meeting night of the Board of Trustees, and the hour set is 7:00 PM,

That the Second Thursday of each month is hereby designated the workshop meeting night of the Board of Trustees, and the hour set is 7:00 PM,

That the Journal News is the official newspaper for publication of legal notices,

That News 12, WRCN 9.10 AM, and Village of Upper Nyack Website page are the official media outlets for notification of a snow emergency when declared by the Mayor,

That the Village Display Board will be used for posting of all official village notices for the Village, Village Board of Trustees, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Architectural Review Board,

That Georgia Grandstaff hereby be appointed Village Clerk for a term of one (1) year,

That Donna Albert hereby be appointed Deputy Village Clerk for a term on one (1) year,

That Thomas Englert is hereby appointed as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of one (1) year,

That Stephen Lubeck is hereby appointed as the Vice-chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of one (1) year,

That William Pfaff is hereby appointed as the Chair of the Planning Board for a term of one (1) year,

That Karen Olson is hereby appointed as Vice-chair of the Planning Board for a term of one (1) year,

That Michael Williams is hereby appointed Chair of the Architectural Review Board for a term of one (1) year,

That Gretchen Reinheimer is hereby appointed to the Architectural Review Board for a term of (5) five years and as Vice-chair of the Architectural Review Board for a term of one (1) year,

That Dennis M. Letson, P.E. is hereby appointed as Zoning Inspector for a term of one (1) year on a consultant basis to be paid by submitted voucher,

That Richard D. Fortunato is hereby reappointed Treasurer for a term of one (1) year on a consultant basis to be paid by submitted voucher,

That Michael Hays is hereby appointed as Village Historian,

That additional workers working under the Village Clerk shall be paid up to **\$20.00** maximum per hour,

That additional workers working in the Department of Public Works may from time to time be employed and shall be paid up to **\$20.00** maximum per hour,

That the Rockland County Health Department is hereby designated the Village Health Department,

That Webster Bank is hereby designated as the official depository for the Village of Upper Nyack funds for a period of one (1) year,

That Mayor Karen A. Tarapata, Deputy Mayor Michael Esmay, Village Clerk Georgia Grandstaff, Treasurer Richard D. Fortunato, are hereby designated and appointed Bank account signatories, and until otherwise ordered by this Board, the above designated bank is authorized to make payment out of the funds of the Village of Upper Nyack against the checks of the Village when signed by:

Richard D. Fortunato  
OR  
Georgia Grandstaff

With a limit of \$50,000, and anything beyond that limit would require both the Treasurer and Village Clerk to sign jointly,

In the absence of the Treasurer or Village Clerk, two (2) of the others, Mayor and Deputy Mayor to sign (countersigners/Bank Resolutions on file),

RESOLVED, that the following Village Officers and employees are to be covered under Village insurance by the following bonds:

Treasurer	\$100,000
Village Clerk	\$ 2,000

That the Village Board of Trustees of this Village shall act as the Village Board of Assessors with Trustee Rothchild as Chairperson.

That with all appointments, those appointed to serve will serve all or a portion of their terms at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.

## Appointments

### PLANNING BOARD

### Appointment ends

William Pfaff, <u>Chair</u> , 208 Foss Drive, 353-9124	2025
Karen Olson, Vice Chair, 405 Roseland Road, 358-7914	2026
Joseph Heider, 316 North Broadway, 358-5613	2024
Cynthia Turner, 206 Radcliff Dr., 914 714-2439	2027
Zara Crowley, 18 Castle Heights Ave, 845-274-1159	2027

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Thomas Englert, <u>Chair</u> , 531 North Broadway, 358-4827	2027
Stephen Lubeck, <u>Vice Chair</u> , 122 Highmount Ave., 629-2678	2024
Beth Wittig, 108 Lexow Ave, 212-650-8396	2028
Paul Curley, 211 Kuyper Drive, 917-583-8767	2025
Margaret Fowler, 500 North Broadway, 845-323-3850	2027
ALTERNATE VACANT	2024 (A)

### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Michael Williams, <u>Chair</u> , 312 Fairview Avenue, 494-0118	2024
Gretchen Reinheimer, <u>Vice Chair</u> , 214 Foss Drive, 201 723-1735	2028
Thomas Gaffney, 121 Castle Heights Ave, 404-644-8843	2027
Silvia Luzi, 412 Centre Avenue, 358-4254	2027
Eileen M. Sares, 510 North Broadway, 646-704-2124	2026

**(A) Indicates alternate member  
(845) area code unless indicated otherwise (3/23/2021)**