

## **Council Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2023**

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL AND IN-PERSON

The audio recording for this meeting is available on the [Village website](#).

**Council Members Present:** Andrew Kauders; Jeff Blander; Susan Fattig; Arthur Alexander; Katie Howard

**Other Attendees Include:** Village Manager: Michael Silliman; Village Attorney: Ron Bolt; Marty Langelan; Paul Weller; Natalie Welle; Paula Goldberg; Keith Allen; Susan Kahn; Jean Sperling; Larry Wasson; Hiromi Maruyama; Doug Grob; Susan Kahn; Naomi Naierman.

### **7:31 PM Call to Order: Alexander**

**7:32 PM Weather Report: Keith Allen.** Allen reported that he is whistling a different toon this year compared to last year as he expects more snow this year.

Arthur Alexander mentioned that the survey received a record-breaking number of responses and reassured everyone that we are enforcing our building code.

### **Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments**

Marty Langelan asked if there is a standard operating process for introducing legislation. Susan Fattig and Arthur Alexander explained that such a procedure was discussed in 2021 but that has fallen by the wayside.

Susan Kahn asked if a Council member changing their mind will result in the reintroduction of legislation. Susan also asked about the creation of the survey as several questions were unclear.

Jean Sperling said she was very disturbed by comments by Alexander that people don't believe the building code isn't being enforced. Sperling encouraged the Village to publish each building project's permit approval checklist. Sperling also stated that the survey had some weaknesses.

Larry Wasson referenced a historical situation where the building code was not followed.

Doug Grob stated that the building lot coverage at 3419 Cummings was not to Village code. The builder was made to amend their plans to comply with the Village code.

### **Fire Board Update: Paul Weller and Natalie Straus Welle**

Arthur Alexander noted we have an opening on the Fire Board. Paul Weller delivered his report noting that the Fire Department responded to 153 calls in October.

### **Manager's Report: Silliman**

Village Manager Michael Silliman delivered his report with 10 separate updates.

### **8:43 PM Approve October 19 Council Meeting Minutes**

Arthur moved and Susan seconded. Jeff Blander voted against. The minutes pass 4 to 1.

### **8:48 PM Committee Reports**

Marty Langelan delivered the **Election Committee** report. The committee has consolidated five election-related documents and will have an election plan ready for the Council to consider by the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. In the packet for this meeting there was a draft RFP to hire a consultant to assist the committee in verifying the voter roll this year.

Arthur moved to issue the RFP and Katie seconded. This passed unanimously.

Keith Allen delivered the **Community Engagement Committee** report. Allen said the Halloween event was a huge success and was well attended.

Naomi Naierman delivered the **Antisemitism Awareness Task Force** report. The scope of the work they developed is in the packet for this meeting. Naierman discussed the education training program they are planning.

Arthur Alexander reported that the **Storm and Ground Water Task Force** is looking into training opportunities for the Task Force members.

### **9:11 PM Annual Survey Results and Discussion**

Jeffery Blander presented his analysis of the survey results. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

### **Discussion of building code review and possible amendments**

Arthur Alexander noted that we have prepared a draft to amend the building code to restrict structures, like bio retention planter boxes, in the side yard setbacks. Arthur said it will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

Arthur provided additional comments about possible ways to amend the building code to restrict the size of houses in the Village. Arthur did some background research and looked at neighboring municipalities. Susan Fattig recommended we hire an outside consultant. Andrew

Kauders said we care about limiting the lot coverage. Katie Howard voiced her support for limiting the size of houses and maintaining the green space.

#### **10:05 PM Treasurer's Report: Blander**

Jeff Blander delivered his report. The audit is complete, and the final report is forthcoming.

#### **10:06 PM Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments:**

Naomi Naierman commented that surveys are a science and recommended we hire an expert to create future surveys. Naierman stated that Susan and Arthur are not respecting the results of the survey as only 20% of respondents wanted the expansion of the Ethics ordinance.

Larry Wasson asked Jeff to clarify what happened regarding Arthur saying there would be no vote until the Survey was complete. Jeff confirmed it was in writing, and Arthur explained the misunderstanding from his perspective. He was stating that there would be no vote on adoption, until a survey was conducted. Jeff understood him to be stating that there would not be a vote on introduction.

Susan Kahn thanked everyone, especially Jeff for the survey presentation and Michael for including the crosswalk at Bradley in the new sidewalk plan.

Marty Langelan asked how much notice residents will have of a possible ethics vote on the December meeting agenda. The Council agreed to delay the ethics vote to January at the earliest and discussed a possible listening session prior to that.

Doug Grob thanked the Council for agreeing to have a discussion and possible introduction of a policy restricting bio retention planter boxes in the side yard setbacks. Doug further discussed the County requirement of these bio retention planter boxes and commented on the maintenance and lifetime of these structures.

Larry Wasson requested improved microphones for Council meetings.

Katie Howard commented on the survey comments that mentioned a new text alert system. Michael Silliman commented that he is developing a plan to transfer to a new email and text alert system.

Jeff Blander asked the Village Manager if the Village is watching out for any more bio retention planter boxes. Michael Silliman responded by saying he is double checking each new project. He has heard of other municipalities now dealing with these bio retention planter boxes.

**10:39 PM Adjournment: Alexander**

Andrew moved and Katie Seconded. Adjournment was unanimous.