

**GENERAL VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES
Friday August 16, 2024, at 6:30 PM
in person at 906 Dune Road, West Hampton Dunes
and via Zoom**

August 16, 2024

Present: Mayor Irwin Krasnow, Trustee Gary Trimarchi, Trustee Gina Mulhearn, Trustee Howard Freedman, Trustee John Eff, Village Attorney Ian Connett, Village Clerk Robin Santora and Sgt. Hennig.

Village Residents Present: Roger Fay, Yale & Sandy Nelson, Robin Laveman, Rick Nauheim, Maureen & Doug Milles, Harvey Gessin and Chad Gessin.

Motion to open the meeting at 6:32pm

Motion by: Mayor Krasnow

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor's Report:

- Plover Update – Most recent plover report shows 28 fledged chicks.
- Movie Night was a huge success. Beautiful evening, lots of candy and a good turnout.
- BBPA Lease Update/ Relocating the Village Office:
The Village office has officially moved to 914 Dune Road. We are approving the lease tonight with the BBPA. The Mayor ran on the idea of bringing the Village office back to the Village and is proud to have accomplished this in less than 45 days in office.

- Flood Insurance on 656A Dune Road:
The Mayor discovered that there was no flood insurance on the new Constabulary building at 656A Dune Road that was completed over two years ago. The policy has now been put in place, however there is a thirty-day waiting period, so coverage will start on August 24, 2024.
- On call Engineer/ Architect Contract:
The Village needs to hire an outside architect firm. Joseph Nehrebecki Architect PLLC will be hired to help with our zoning and building department. They will offer consultation services on an as-needed basis to review zoning board application plans. All fees with zoning are passed onto the applicant, so it will not cost the Village anything.
- Facebook Page – “West Hampton Dunes”
A new Community forum page – a place to post sunrise/ sunset pictures and to seek and share useful community information such as contractor information or other service providers.
- Constabulary Twitter: @whdunespc
Residents can go to this account for the Constabulary to find valuable information such as power outages or bridge closures or relevant information for our Village.
- Meeting with Governor Hochul:
Mayor Krasnow has had a lot of meetings with local representatives in the last few weeks. He met with Governor Hochul and spoke about moving the Village Hall to the Village and seeking financial support for the move.
The Mayor met with Congressman LaLota and Senator Anthony Palumbo, again asking for grant money and any assistance for the Village.
Mayor Krasnow also sat down with Fred Thiele our State Assemblyman who is retiring soon. He offered to try and find state money for the Village move.

- DOS Update: Meeting held and future meetings scheduled. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor Trimarchi and the lawyers had a meeting with the Department of State (DOS) to discuss some ongoing issues.
 - Propane – Last November, John McAlary, the building inspector, and Harvey Gessin checked all the propane tanks at each residence. The Village is now working on getting letters out to the homeowners and propane companies who are in violation.
 - ¾ Story Issues – Ongoing issues that we are working to settle with the state.
 - DOS Building Code - The DOS is looking for all municipalities to adopt a uniform building code. We anticipate enacting the State requested code at our next meeting.
 - Reporting by our Building Department – The DOS has said that we have not been reporting properly, timely and annually on all the building construction that has been going on in the Village, as required. We want to make sure, moving forward, we are providing all the necessary documentation.

The DOS wants to keep the Village on a tight leash and have bi-weekly meetings, which the Village has agreed to. The good news is that they are receptive to the new Village administration and are not looking to take over or do anything radical, since they know we are working with them and complying.

- NYCOM conference approval: The Mayor asked for board approval to attend NYCOM the New York Conference of Mayors in September. The conference is September 16 – 20th.
- Clean up is needed of construction sites: Mayor Krasnow has instituted the cleanup of construction sites. All sites need to blow back any sand debris into the yard and take magnetic wands to cleanup any nuts, bolts and screws that could potentially cause flat tires or other issues for drivers and pedestrians.
- Contractor Sign Removal: The Mayor wants to implement that when a house is complete and no longer under construction that

all contractor signs be removed within a week or two of obtaining the certificate of completion. This also includes house painters, washers and other temporary signs. This will help with the overall appearance of the community.

- Bush Trimming is needed for overgrowth in public walkways: In the shoulder areas of people's properties there is overgrowth affecting the walking area. The building inspector has spoken to neighbors and asked for help by trimming back bushes and branches on their properties. Everyone has been cooperative, and it is appreciated.
- Garbage Pails: Per the Village code, trash bins must be hidden and secure. The Constables are not writing tickets but are asking for everyone to be cooperative and comply. Garbage pails cannot be put out at the curb. Residents must make arrangements with carting companies to pick up garbage where pails are stored.
- Optimum Franchise Agreement: This contract is past due, and Optimum has reached out about getting this agreement signed. Our Village Attorney, Brian Stolar, will be managing the contract negotiations. Brian has experience of negotiating with Optimum and will be working to complete and expedite this contract on behalf of the Village.
- Furniture Donations: The Village is looking for any donations of outdoor furniture for the new office. Looking for chairs, tables, umbrellas, etc. so we can take advantage of some outdoor space and beautiful views.
- Vehicle Disposition Update: At the previous board meeting, the Village gave permission to dispose of two vehicles. One was a 2007 Jeep and the other was the previous mayor's 2023 Jeep. Mayor Krasnow committed to getting rid of these vehicles and putting the money back into the village, saving on insurance and gas. The 2007 Jeep has been sold and there is an offer pending on the 2023 Jeep.

- FIMP Update – seeking volunteers to join WHD community FIMP committee: Trustee Mulhearn has an overview of the Fire Island to Montauk Point beach replenishment. She has been reaching out to all the Land Managers who consist of the US Army Corp, NYSDEC, US Fish & Wildlife, Trustees of Town of Southampton, Cupsogue County Parks and the Town of Southampton Parks (Pikes). The Army Corps has indicated that we are in a transitional period now and that sand replacements will be turned over to FIMP and managed by the NYSDEC.
- Trustee Mulhearn is recommending the following steps for our Village & Residents:
 1. Under FIMP we will be responsible for a percentage of the cost of replenishment. Therefore, building the proper reserves to fund this is imperative.
 2. Building our dune gives us more protection. She recommends that the Village implement a snow fencing/sand fencing program, starting this fall.
 3. Everyone walk on wood walkovers to protect our primary dune.

Trustee Mulhearn emphasized how the dunes are the village's frontline of protection, and we need to be respectful of the dunes and grass. She also spoke of the history of horseshoe crabs and the importance of them to our environment. Mayor Krasnow recently saw on CBS the morning show, a documentary about the horseshoe crabs that he highly recommends viewing.

Trustee Freedman wants to establish a plan on how residents should be installing their snow fencing. It is important to have proper installation of the fence, to gain the maximum benefits. Mayor Krasnow further stated the importance of any residents on the Ocean side to install fencing this fall. The snow fencing has been proven to help protect the dunes. If anyone needs technical assistance or information on who they should call, contact the office for help.

Robin Laveman mentioned she attended the annual BBPA meeting where it was discussed hiring a company to come and educate on how to install proper snow fencing. Robin's recommendation would be for the Village to work with the BBPA since they have already researched the information. If the BBPA were to organize a

fundraiser, residents through a charitable donation could receive the resources and knowledge of how to properly install a snow fence.

Public Comment:

Mayor's cell phone number: 631-560-5437

Email: Irwin@whdunes.org

Residents can feel free to call or email when needed. If there is an immediate problem or emergency, you should reach out to the Constables.

Mayor Krasnow stated he's been working with Sal Mattioli to get better technology for these board meetings. He wants a large screen where residents in the audience can view and see what is being presented. Hopefully by the September meeting we will have this in place.

Resident Lon Dobler who is a musician, is performing at WHBPAC on August 31, 2024. The show is a Motown review and revival. Lon has generously donated tickets to the Village to be auctioned off to support the Constabulary and the BBPA. Face value of the tickets is \$80, if anyone would like to go to the concert, please donate and the money will be shared between the two organizations. You can call the village office for more information.

Resident Yale Nelson voiced concerns that signs in the Village, such as power washing company signs and political signs are inconsistent with the current village code. The Mayor stated that political signs are not regulated, they are a matter of free speech. As far as contractor signs are concerned the Mayor said the matter will be forwarded to the building inspector for further review.

Yale Nelson also had concerns about the width of the Eastbound lane of traffic, stating that homeowners have placed permanent landscaping and related structures too close to the roadway inhibiting the shoulder area. Mayor Krasnow stated that they would research this issue, but to the recollection of the board and residents who have been around, properties are bigger on the Bayside vs the Ocean side, allowing a wider shoulder on the Westbound shoulder.

Resident Doug Milles asked for clarification on the next beach replenishment. Trustee Mulhearn explained that the village will receive replenishment around the most eastern side of the groin this fall. Please call the office for any further information.

Doug Milles also asked about internet connections with Optimum. The understanding is that those areas with overhead wires versus those with buried cables have easier access to fiber optics.

Doug Milles also commented on how he has had success with installing snow fencing. That it is relatively inexpensive with great results.

Resident Jim Cashin said he recently was able to get high speed cable even though he does not have an overhead line. He was surprised that Optimum came and ran a line from the pole - to under the road - to under the driveway- to under the house. He found out that there is a conduit in the roadway, where they can run the lines through.

Mary Jane O'Connell commented on the reason the shoulder on the eastbound traffic side is not very wide is that when the north side walking area was created, she believes the residents of the Bayside gave back some property to the Village. The reason was to create a wide enough shoulder for people to walk in both directions and it was never intended for people to walk on the ocean side of the road.

Similarly, Catherine Woolfson spoke on the same roadside issue. She stated that the bayside was used as they had a deeper easement in place, with less impact on the homeowner's roadside property. The impact on the homes on the ocean would have been much more substantial as their building envelope is so close to the actual road.

Treasurer's Report:

- Trustee Freedman has been working with Liz Lindtvit the Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer and has completed the May 31, 2023 audit from last year. They received a clean opinion for both the general and government funds but there was an adverse opinion on government activities. This was because there was no actuarial valuation to determine pension liabilities which resulted in an adjustment. Also, capital assets were not depreciated properly. The

new administration is looking to see how this will impact the budget.

In the year ended May 31, 2023 there was a bond issued in the amount of \$450,000 to pay for the new Constabulary building. Also, in the year ending May 31, 2023 the Beach Replenishment Fund had about \$681,000 and as of today it has \$905,000.

The accountants had stated that there were not any proper controls in place. The new administration has taken proactive steps to address the issues that were identified by the accountants.

Constables:

- Sgt Hennig spoke of the hurricane and the potential threat of high surf for the weekend. Westhampton Ambulance Rescue, who are volunteer lifeguards, have asked us to mention staying out of the water with the potential of 10-12 ft. surf.
- With the start of Hurricane season everyone should be prepared. Have provisions on hand – batteries, fill propane tanks and generators. Be sure to secure and tie down outdoor furniture.
- Two incidents have occurred where residents have destroyed dunes and beach grass. They are both on-going cases and are being addressed in court, so cannot really be discussed. We need to protect our dunes and grasses, they are the lifeline to our beaches, they help keep the sand in place and establish the root system.
- Dogs need to be leashed Friday – Sunday from 10am – 4pm on the beaches.

There has been an issue with dogs being left unattended on decks all day. For the safety of the dog and the kindness to your neighbor, please don't leave them outside where they can bark and be disruptive, or you could be issued a citation.

- Resident Carl Landeck reported that the area from Cove Lane past Dune Lane has driveway materials and landscape overgrowth spilling out onto the roadway. He believes more improvements can be made to keep the roads clean and unobstructed.

Mayor Krasnow said he recently contacted Matt Smith from DPW asking if they could sweep the Village streets again, before the Labor Day weekend.

Resolutions:

Resolution approving the claim vouchers submitted for audit and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi
Seconded by: Trustee Freedman
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None

Resolution waiving the reading of and approving the minutes of the July 19, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion by: Trustee Eff
Seconded by: Trustee Freedman
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Agreement of Lease with the Barrier Beach Preservation Association, Inc. for 914 Dune Road.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman
Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the following Village Officials: Irwin Krasnow to attend the New York Conference of Mayors from September 16-20, 2024 and that the costs for such attendance be a Village charge.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi
Seconded by: Trustee Freedman
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to procure flood insurance in relation to the property located at 656 A Dune Road in accordance with the Village's procurement policy.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman
Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn
All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Building Department Consulting Agreement dated July 8, 2024 with Joseph Nehrebecki Architect PLLC for professional building department consultation services on an as needed basis at an hourly rate of \$200 per hour.

Motion by: Trustee Trimarchi

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

At the next Board of Trustees meeting on September 12, 2024 there will be a public hearing regarding the adoption of the local law updating the building code as requested by the Department of State.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None