

**GENERAL VILLAGE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES
Thursday March 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM
in person at 906 Dune Road, West Hampton Dunes
and via Zoom**

March 13, 2025

Present: Mayor Irwin Krasnow, Trustee Gina Mulhearn, Trustee Howard Freedman, Trustee John Eff, Village Attorney Brian Stolar, Village Clerk Robin Santora and Sgt. Brian Hennig.

Absent: Trustee Gary Trimarchi

Also Present: Mark Cappiello and Rick Nauheim

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to open the public meeting

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

Public Hearings:

1. Public Hearing regarding the granting of a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Village of West Hampton Dunes and CSC Acquisition- NY, Inc.
 - The contract is for a 10yr agreement with CSC Acquisition, Inc. The Village will receive a 5% franchise fee, bi-annually and free cable service to the Village offices.
 - Samantha Pardell Jerez, director of government affairs for Altice Cablevision, confirmed these details and added that they would provide a \$5000.00 Peg Grant for video production purchases.

Motion to close the public hearing

Motion by: Mayor Krasnow

Seconded by: Trustee Freedman

Absent: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None

2. Public Hearing on a Proposed local law adopting a new Chapter 486 of the Code of the Village of West Hampton Dunes entitled “Subdivision of Land” and providing therein regulations pertaining to subdivision of land in the Village and providing for the constitution, procedures and powers of the Planning Board with respect to subdivision applications.
 - The purpose is to establish a Planning Board for the Village. The board will handle subdivision applications, with the goal of expediting the process for a pending subdivision. The Planning Board will be independent, with residents volunteering to serve on it.
 - Resident Chad Gessin expressed concerns about the need for a planning board, suggesting that the Village is too small to require such bureaucracy.
 - Robin Laveman and Mary Jane O’Connell believe the Village can benefit from an independent planning board, emphasizing the need for members with real estate and zoning expertise. They stated that an independent planning board would provide unbiased decision-making.

Motion to close the public hearing

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

Mayor’s Report:

- Website Update:
The new Village website is 60-65% complete and is expected to launch in late April or early May.
- 2025 Rental Permits:
Reminder that the 2025 rental permits renewals and applications are due. You must have a current permit before you can advertise your home to rent and must include the permit number in all advertisements for the 2025 season.
- Alarm Permits:
The Mayor addressed the potential introduction of an alarm permit fee, which would be \$50 per year. The purpose of the fee is to ensure that up-to-date contact information is available for alarm companies, the Village office and the Constables when needed.

- Kayak/ Paddle Board Permits for Storage Racks:
The Village is working with SCWA to rebuild the boardwalk near the old life-saving station, with costs being shared between the two. We are currently awaiting an estimate for the project's cost. Additionally, kayak racks will be installed so residents can store their kayaks and paddleboards. A small registration fee will be collected to help identify ownership in the event of a storm or other issues.
- Water Safety CPR training this Spring:
Resident Nina McGinty is organizing a Water safety and CPR training class on Saturday, June 21, 2025. It will be held at 906 Dune Road, run by the Westhampton Volunteer Ambulance department.
- West End Road Flooding:
Since the last board meeting, the County has sent additional engineers to survey the road. The current plan is to begin work in the Spring. They have agreed to install drainage inlets that will channel water into swales, which should significantly reduce, or even eliminate the flooding problems.
- NYCOM/AOT Lobby Day update:
The Mayor was in Albany last week for Lobby Day. He met with state legislators to discuss potential new revenue sources, such as a transfer tax and hotel occupancy tax for short-term rentals.
- The Mayor also met with Mark Patterson from the Department of State, who has been the Village's contact person regarding the propane tank and 3- and 4-story issues. Mr. Patterson has been pleased with the Village's progress, which has allowed us to transition from bi-weekly meetings down to monthly meetings.
- Movie Night Saturday August 2, 2025:
The annual movie night will be on August 2, 2025. If anyone has a movie suggestion, please email or call Robin at the Village office – clerk@whdunes.org or 631-288-6571.
- Article 78 Decision:
The Mayor gave an update on the court decision upholding the Zoning Board's denial of a subdivision request at 772 Dune Road.
- Village Assessments/Taxes:
There's been a discovery of a mistake in property assessments that led to a loss of \$25,000 in revenue. The Mayor has proposed a correction of error petition to

rectify the situation and to possibly recover unpaid taxes from affected property owners.

- Beach Replenishment:

Mayor Krasnow met with legislators Ann Welker and Jim Mazarella, who visited the beach and were amazed by the significant amount of sand that has accumulated on the bayside of Cuposogue park, since the replenishment.

The sand replenishment on the Ocean side of the Village was completed, but unfortunately, the process stopped near 699 Dune Road. It was explained that the replenishment was based on surveys conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), and the template indicated that the sand had reached the maximum allowable level. The Mayor arranged a call with ACE and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) to discuss the issue. They have stated that they will return in the fall to conduct another survey of the area.

Financial Report:

- The 2023-2024 audit is in the final stages of being completed. Right now, the Village is working on the upcoming budget for the fiscal year of 2025- 2026. The 2025-2026 tentative budget will be completed by the end of the month and will be on the website at the beginning of April. The budget will then be discussed at the April 10th budget hearing.

Constable's Report:

- Sgt. Hennig discussed resident's concerns about wildfires and the Village's safety measures. He explained that the Village is not within a designated wildfire risk area, and the environment is less conducive to wildfires due to high humidity and limited vegetation.
- Sgt. Hennig addressed the issue of birds washing up on the beach, which may have bird flu and advised the community to avoid them to prevent health risks. This includes watching out for your pets and possibly keeping them leashed to avoid contact with the dead birds.

Trustee Mulhearn added that residents should avoid using bird feeders and/ or baths this season to prevent the spread of bird flu.

Mayor Krasnow shared a press release from County Executive Ed Romaine on how to handle the washed-up birds. The information will be posted on the Village website.

Sgt. Hennig reminded residents about the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade and suggested whether you are attending or not, to plan for traffic and road closures.

The Mayor announced that he will be walking in the Parade.

Trustee Report:

- Trustee Mulhearn shared plans to renovate and improve the appearance of Village Hall before Memorial Day. The improvements include painting the trim, adding an awning and a planter, and replacing the cones out front with a small fence. Additionally, the garage doors will be painted to address the rust issue.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution approving the claim vouchers submitted for audit and approval by the Board of Trustees.
Motion by: Trustee Freedman
Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn
Absent: Trustee Trimarchi
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None
2. Resolution waiving the reading of and approving the minutes of the February 13, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.
Motion by: Trustee Mulhearn
Seconded by: Trustee Freedman
Absent: Trustee Trimarchi
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None
3. Resolution authorizing the Village of West Hampton Dunes to renew a Cable Franchise Agreement with CSC Acquisition-NY, Inc. to operate a cable system in the Village of West Hampton Dunes, NY.
Motion by: Trustee Eff
Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn
Absent: Trustee Trimarchi
All In favor: Yes
Opposed: None
4. A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Village of West Hampton Dunes adopting a new Chapter 486 of the Code of the Village of West Hampton Dunes entitled

“Subdivision of Land” and providing therein regulations pertaining to subdivision of land and establishing the constitution, procedures, and powers of the Planning Board with respect to subdivision applications.

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

5. Resolution to allow the Mayor to attend the NYCOM 2025 Annual Meeting and Training School at The Sagamore May 28-30th.

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

6. Resolution to schedule a public hearing for the 2025-2026 budget hearing.

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

7. Resolution authorizing the Village Mayor to procure goods and services in accordance with the Village’s procurement policy for costs associated with improving and maintaining the condition of the Village office/ building such as an awning, lighting repairs, painting, landscaping/ plantings in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$15,000.

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

Public Comment:

- Resident Chad Gessin emphasized the importance of enforcing the Rapf agreement, which he believes can be a powerful tool for the Village. He suggested that the Village should focus on renewing the general permit that

allows building, rebuilding or repair of structures in compliance with the Title Wetlands Act and other applicable laws.

- Mayor Krasnow agreed to study the Rapf agreement and suggested forming a committee to understand the agreement and use it effectively.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Trustee Freedman

Seconded by: Trustee Mulhearn

Absent: Trustee Trimarchi

All In favor: Yes

Opposed: None