

Board of Trustees
Village of Plandome Manor
October 17, 2017- 7:00 PM - Public Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order

Present: Trustees Patricia O'Neill, Tony DeSousa, and James Baydar, Village Clerk Randi Malman, Village Counsel Rachel Scelfo, Building Inspector Edward Butt, Code Enforcement Officer and Deputy Road Commissioner Robert Rockelein, and Village Treasurer Phyllis Nowakowski. Also present were Plandome Manor residents Elliot Sperber, Robert Weinstock, Dawn Ader, and Jim Calpin.

Trustee DeSousa opened the meeting at 7:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & verification of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee O'Neill made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 19, 2017 Special Board of Trustees meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Baydar.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Public Comment

Elliot Sperber of 139 Circle Drive addressed the Board with respect to his opposition to the new parking regulations on Circle Drive. He does not feel that these new regulations are representative of all of Circle Drive. A petition has been circulated to all Circle Drive residents, which will be presented to the Village. Mr. Sperber feels that these new regulations will have a negative impact on young families with children, and those who have steep driveways. Please see attached for a full transcript of Elliot Sperber's statement.

Jim Calpin of 248 Circle Drive addressed the Board with questions about the parking lot near the train station. Trustee DeSousa explained that the Village of Plandome has plans to increase enforcement in their lot, which will lead more vehicles to line up and wait for commuters on Circle Drive. This is something the Village has already seen happening more frequently.

Dawn Ader of 64 Circle Drive asked the Board why these regulations are being enforced for residents and if regulations are in place for any other area in the Village. Trustee DeSousa explained that the regulations will be enforced for all vehicles because the Village will not selectively enforce. There are other areas in the Village that have parking restrictions such as Gristmill Lane.

Robert Weinstock of 32 Colonial drive asked if parking regulations will apply to cars parked in "cut-outs" along Circle Drive, Colonial Drive, and Janssen Drive? Trustee DeSousa informed Mr. Weinstock that cars parked in "cut-outs" are not considered to be on the road and therefore will not be ticketed.

Reports

Village Clerk

Village Clerk Randi Malman updated the Board on the following items:

- The Clerk has reached out to the Center for Municipal Solutions to inquire about their schedule of fees. They will act as consultants as the Village crafts its legislation concerning wireless telecommunication. Once the local law has been adopted they will review applications submitted to the Village, which will be paid for by the applicant's deposit.
- The residents of Elm Sea Lane have inquired as to whether or not the sprinkler system in the island belongs to the Village. It has been determined that the residents installed the sprinkler system, possibly with beautification funds, and that it does not belong to the Village. The request for funds to repair the sprinkler system would exceed the yearly allotment for beautification. Therefore, the request will have to be submitted next fiscal year.
- The Village has received quotations for a new IT service contract, phone system, and website. The Board has requested that the contractor with the lowest bid for IT services come in and address the Board at the next meeting.

Village Treasurer

Village Treasurer Phyllis Nowakowski gave an overview of the Abstract Report of Audited Vouchers and the Profit and Loss Statement.

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Edward Butt updated the Board on the following items:

- The drainage work being done by Robert Keogh Inc. on Papermill Road will require more work than originally anticipated, due to the deterioration of the drainage pipes.
- The new catch basin on Aspen Gate cannot be installed until a new concrete base is installed. The current base is not strong enough to hold the new catch basin, so additional work will need to be performed to ensure the catch basin will hold up.

Code Enforcement Officer

Code Enforcement Officer Robert Rockelein updated the Board on the following items:

- The village parking lot at the LIRR station has been filled with cars waiting for family members to come off the train. Mr. Rockelein anticipates this to get worse as the weather gets colder. There have also been a number of cars lining up on Circle Drive to wait for people coming off the train. He has been monitoring both areas and informing drivers that they cannot wait in the lot or on Circle Drive. It appears that the 6:39pm train is the busiest.
- Mr. Rockelein is in the process of collecting estimates for an annual storm drain cleaning contract. By the next meeting he should have enough estimates to present to the Board.

Trustee Baydar made a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the estimate from Robert Keogh in the amount of \$4,350 for additional work in connection with the replacement of the collapsed catch basin and pipe on Papermill Road. The motion was seconded by Trustee O'Neill.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Trustee Baydar made a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the estimate from Robert Keogh in the amount of \$3,270 for additional work in connection with the replacement of catch basin slab and curb inlet on Aspen Gate. The motion was seconded by Trustee O'Neill.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Trustee Baydar made a motion that the Board of Trustees that the Board of Trustees approve the estimate from We Care Tree Services for the removal of five Village Trees in the amount of \$2,475. The motion was seconded by Trustee O'Neill.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Trustee O'Neill made a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers dated October 17, 2017 and the Profit & Loss Statement ending September 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Trustee Baydar.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Trustee O'Neill made a motion that the Board of Trustees that the Board of Trustees approve the 2017-2018 beautification invoice from the residents of Elm Sea Lane in the amount of \$850 for fall plantings. The motion was seconded by Trustee Baydar.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Trustee Baydar made a motion that the Board of Trustees that the Board of Trustees that the Board of Trustees approve the 2017-2018 beautification funds request from the residents of Plandome Park in the amount of \$640 for power washing of pillars and lamps at entrances. The motion was seconded by Trustee O'Neill.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye
Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Correspondence

Village Clerk Randi Malman presented the Board with the following pieces of correspondence:

1. NCPD monthly report for September
2. Letter from Ted Goldsmith dated September 21, 2017 re: Landmark preservation of Gristmill
3. Email from Elizabeth Owen dated 9/27/17 re: striping on Plandome Road
4. Email from Michael Gilbert dated 9/29/17 re: parking on Circle Drive
5. Email from Elizabeth McCulloch dated 10/2/17 re: safety concerns, speeding on N. Plandome
6. Email from Robert Keogh dated 10/13/17 re: drainage project on Papermill
7. Email from Jean Kuskowski dated 10/16/17 and 10/17/17 re: support of parking rules on Circle
8. Email from Vincent Bilms dated 10/17/17 re: support of parking rules on Circle
9. Email from Michael Gilbert dated 10/17/12 re: code enforcement in Village budget
10. Email from Audrey Weil dated 10/17/17 re: opposition to parking restrictions on Circle Drive

Trustee Baydar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee O'Neill.

Trustee Clinton: Absent Trustee DeSousa: Aye Trustee O'Neill: Aye

Trustee Baydar: Aye Mayor Donno: Absent

Approved. VOTE: 3/0 - Motion passes

Respectfully submitted by:

Randi I. Malman

Village Clerk

Approved


Sperber, Elliot

From: Sperber, Elliot
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Sperber, Elliot
Subject: plandome parking



Thank you for allowing me to address the board. I wanted to bring up my strong opposition to the new law restricting parking throughout all of Circle, Janssen and Colonial Drive (which I'll just call Circle for ease going forward), as well as the increased level of ticketing on residents of this area.

I am frustrated about this because of 3 main reasons:

1. I don't feel that this represents the residents of Circle. I know from calling the village office that people have complained, but its not clear how many homes on circle that represents. I have spoken to several residents who are all strongly opposed. We have started a petition for those who oppose the new law; that want a more collaborative discussion to find solutions which don't target actual residents. We just circulated the petition 2 days ago and we already have ~~45~~⁴ signatures, but more importantly that represents 17 different homes. In addition, ~~3~~⁴ other separate homeowners have verbally said they agree with the petition and plan on signing. This is just after 2 days. 

What's important to note on this, there's only about 56 occupied homes on Circle, Janssen and Colonial. There are 6 homes with cutouts in front of them that have not signed the petition – they clearly aren't opposed to people parking in front of their own homes as they do it regularly. But, maybe they haven't signed because they feel this doesn't impact them. Either way, I just don't see who all the people are that are in favor of this? I can frequently call and complain about something, have my wife call, maybe a friend of mine who doesn't live on circle – that still only represents 1 house, it doesn't represent a widespread epidemic. I passed around this petition to every house on circle, except 2 which I still need to hand it out too. I included an email address to ask questions and voice their opinions. No one has emailed me on it.

2. Of the people that want the new regulations, I'm curious about their demographic. The people I've spoken to that are most opposed to this new law are relatively young families with young children (or people that are in the process of selling their homes). Why you ask? We are the ones that have play dates, tutors, care givers, elderly grandparents all stopping by regularly and often during the 4-7pm time frame after school, but before kids go to sleep. If I didn't have young children, I'm not sure I would even think of the impact about not parking in front of one's home, but for those with young kids it can be a significant burden. And for the record – young families are the ones moving in, the ones buying houses. While we can debate the impact on home values and its hard to really know – if everyone who bought a house on Circle in the past 5 years is strongly opposed to this law, and everyone who's in favor of this law hasn't bought a home in decades, its hard to say this would have no impact on home values.

I have a steep driveway. While we park our car in the garage when using it, there's a host of reasons why one may need to park in front of our house: my mother in law has vertigo – its dangerous for her to park on a steep decline and she is not comfortable driving backwards out of our driveway if she parks at the bottom. The entire winter makes regularly parking on the driveway precarious for guests – you can easily see a young child hurting himself on a steep driveway in the winter. I'm about to have a new baby – it can be hard for my wife to carry a sleeping baby in an infant carrier out of a car and up stairs (which is how you enter our house if you park in the garage). Not everyone wants to leave their baby in their house by itself while they then go and move their car. My next door neighbor who also has a steep driveway – his wife has bilateral knee replacements and has trouble with stairs. To say that she can't occasionally park on the street and use the front door seems extreme. I'm not planning on having daytime parties, but with 3 kids under the age of 6, we will have people over at our house during the day. A steep one-lane driveway isn't always going to suffice.

In addition to all the logistical reasons people may occasionally need to park in front of their homes, a lot of the comments on the petition, especially from people that have been living here for many years, is that its feeling less and less like a neighborhood and more like a few people are trying to make this a fortress. That a few people are bullying around an entire community.

3. My last point is I don't even understand what the problem is. My house is just past the no parking sign. If commuters were parking on circle drive to walk to the train, my house would be the first house they park at. Or my neighbor across the street or next to me. But, the 3 of us are strongly opposed to this new law. We haven't seen people park in front of our houses since I moved here over a year ago. Ever. and that includes this past summer of hell, as they called it. There is no epidemic of commuters invading the streets of circle drive such that the no parking needs to be extended.

I'm not saying that circle drive should be a parking lot for people to pick up and drop off. But restricting people from parking in front of their own homes and aggressively attacking residents of circle seems an extreme solution. We understand there are reasonable concerns about non-residents invading our streets, but making life miserable for our existing residents doesn't seem like the best solution. There has to be a better way that considers all sides. I realize this has been an issue for years, and I'm new, but this doesn't seem like the answer. Despite the claims that circle drive will look like Queens with cars everywhere, myself and most of the people that signed this petition still managed to move here. We clearly don't see it that way and really don't want to see new laws enacted that make life considerably harder for the residents of Circle Drive. I really hope you reconsider the law that was passed. I make myself available for any task force, committee to address this situation further. I can't speak to why no one opposed the law when it was presented – I just moved here and didn't even know about the town meetings until after the law was passed. I know others were in a similar situation. Not to mention, I have to pay a babysitter to be at this meeting. That said, I truly believe in the democratic process – If I passed around the petition and no one signed it and everyone was in favor of this new law, you wouldn't hear from me. But, that wasn't the case.

Thank you!