

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD BY THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF MASTIC BEACH
ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 AT
MASTIC BEACH VILLAGE HALL
369 NEIGHBORHOOD RD, MASTIC BEACH, NEW YORK AT 7:00PM**

The Monthly Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Mayor Biondi with 72 residents in attendance.

Mayor Biondi led the audience with the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call was taken by the Assistant to the Mayor.

In attendance: Mayor Biondi
Deputy Mayor Busa
Trustee Stiriz
Trustee Spery
Trustee Summa

Also Present: Attorney Brian Egan
Wendy Scharf, Assistant to the Mayor

Mayor Biondi welcomed everyone to the Monthly Meeting.

Guest Speaker: Inspector Neubauer of the SCPD 7th Pct.:

No shootings, stolen vehicles, or robberies to report. There were 7 burglaries (6 residential and 1 commercial), 2 of which were copper piping out of abandoned homes. There was an arrest made in 1 out of the 7 burglaries; 6 are still outstanding.

The precinct has seen 5 incidents in local shopping centers (Stop & Shop, Pathmark & Dollar Tree) where women have had their wallets stolen out of pocket books that were in the top of the shopping cart. The victims would be distracted shopping and the perpetrator reaches in and takes their wallet. Inspector Neubauer warned residents not to shop with their pocket book in the cart and to keep it on their shoulder instead.

Last month the Mayor asked Inspector Neubauer if he knew anything about the theft of RV or marine batteries. At the time, he did not; however, after the meeting one of his officers informed him of such a crime pattern in the area. They were able to identify the suspect after visiting Gershows and discovering that one individual had sold them 40 batteries since the end of June. The suspect is a 32 year old male who resided either on Baker or Silver off of Mastic Road. He was ultimately apprehended a short time later in South Shirley when a resident called 911 after seeing him walk out of a yard with a battery. He confessed to 7 of the 40 thefts.

KKK leaflets have been delivered to several neighborhoods in Suffolk County. In our area they were delivered on Happy Acres and Musket Drive in Shirley. It is not a crime to give out the leaflets. It falls under Freedom of Speech; however, the Hate Crimes Unit is aware of it and is documenting the incidents.

Last meeting a few residents were concerned about a registered sex offender who resides at 16 Grassmere which is located within 1,000 feet of a daycare. Inspector Neubauer brought it to the attention of the Special Victims Unit and they determined that he is legally living there. He established residency at 16 Grassmere in January of 2013. Kiddie Kingdom Daycare did not become a licensed daycare facility until May of 2013. Therefore, his residency was legally established there before the daycare facility was licensed.

Inspector Neubauer then took questions and comments from the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING – Amending Section 530-5-3 of the Village Code to streamline the site development plan approval process.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Summa and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to close the public hearing.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Spery and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED amend Section 530-5-3 of the Village Code to streamline the site development plan approval process.

Mayor Biondi addressed the Treasury Report. Trustee Summa had questions that were addressed by the Deputy Treasurer, Jennifer Brojer.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Stiriz and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED transferring amounts between budget lines.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Stiriz and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED authorizing payment of presented bills as per Abstract No. A4-2014 in the amount of \$5,976.03.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Stiriz and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED authorizing payment of presented bills as per Abstract No. A4-2014(a) in the amount of \$202,179.08.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Spery and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED authorizing a \$30,000 grant from the State of New York Unified Court System Office of Court Administration.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Spery and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED hiring Jamie Amelio for the position of Part Time Justice Court Clerk.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Building & Housing – Deputy Mayor Busa

No report at this time.

Dept of Public Works – Trustee Stiriz

Concentrating on the paving project. Also there was an incident on Cranberry Drive between a DPW worker who was filling-in the road and a resident who drove-up in a Jeep and made a mess out of what was just repaired. The resident proceeded to drive into the wetlands. The Wetlands Officer for the area was called and the resident was issued \$2,500 in fines.

Parks and Recreation – Trustee Sperry

No report. Still waiting for permits for Bayview Park.

Code Enforcement – Trustee Summa

On August 12, 2014, the Board unanimously agreed to end Code patrols after 10pm yet Code patrols were extended until September 15th without any notice to the Board citing any reasons why. This resolution was to have gone into effect the next day and the resulting action is an unnecessary expense to the tax payers at a minimum of \$2,000 for wages, gas, and vehicle mileage.

252 – Complaints Received

35 – Appearance Tickets Issued

22 – Unfounded Complaints

46 – Closed by Compliance

49 – Work Orders Issued

190 – Notice of Comply's

30 – Warnings

Trustee Summa also wanted to extend kudos to Code Enforcement Sergeant Mancuso for getting 6 tenant affidavits of illegal rentals.

Mayor Biondi mentioned to the audience that he spoke with a representative from Congressman Tim Bishop's office regarding the sand replenishment project. It is on-track. The lowest bidder is out of California and the dredger is in Virginia and should be sent up here within the next week. They are waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers to sign-off and give the final ok. Hopefully within the next few weeks you will start to see the work at Smith Point Beach. The Mayor was told that they were going to work from Moriches Inlet west to the old inlet just west of the bridge replacing 15 feet high of sand and 90 feet wide.

Mayor Biondi informed the audience that he is working with New York State and has a project worksheet going in on the repair work that was done on the storm drains.

Mayor Biondi informed the audience that we did have permission from the DEC for the work that was being done on Cranberry Drive. We were allowed to repair the road with fill.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Mutt – Wanted to address Building, Housing & Code Enforcement regarding the vacant houses in the area. His main concern is the pools that are left with stagnant water. Mayor Biondi requested specific addresses of problem homes and stated that he would address them.

Valerie Canty – Indicated that she is a former employee of the Village who recently resigned. She has seen all the good that the Village is doing behind the scenes, but has an issue with Trustee Summa and Trustee Spery's attitude toward the employees. She felt like she had to leave her employment with the Village due to the hostile work environment that was created. She was offended that Trustee Summa publicly stated in Village Hall, in front of a resident, that the employees were unqualified. She also stated that she had a conversation with Trustee Spery prior to her leaving where Trustee Spery indicated that Trustee Summa is angry about a situation involving his home after Hurricane Sandy. Ms. Canty believes the things being put on Facebook are retribution for Trustee Summa's anger. She asked that everyone work together to make Mastic Beach a better place for all.

Maureen DiMeo – Thanked everyone who has helped with donations for the Outreach Program so they can help the people who are not as fortunate as others. They are in need of macaroni, tuna, peanut butter, and any other non-perishable items. She also informed the audience that thanks to the donation of school supplies, they were able to supply 300 children with backpacks and supplies.

Jane Powers – Expressed her concern regarding the Comptroller's Audit. She also requested that the streets be swept more frequently. In addition, Ms. Powers asked that the Board not pass resolutions at the 5pm Work Sessions where the public cannot speak. Trustee Spery wanted to recognize Ms. Powers for her involvement with the Beautification Committee. They go out every Sunday morning at 8:30am picking up garbage. Anyone who would like to volunteer should meet on Sunday mornings at the deli on Whittier.

Mayor Biondi took a moment to introduce the new Supervisor of Code Enforcement, Anthony Prudenti. Mr. Prudenti gave a brief synopsis of his background and introduced himself.

Art Kruse – Wanted to address negative comments that he claims Trustee Spery made about the Nautical Sea Fest at the MBPOA Crab Fest. Trustee Spery rebutted Mr. Kruse's claim. Mr. Kruse then proceeded to present Trustee Spery and Trustee Summa with customized t-shirts.

Michael Gross – Wanted an update on the house located on the corner of Washington and Corn. Mayor Biondi said that the ZBA has not yet made a determination; however, he would find out and get back to him.

Frank Cappiello – Discussed the Board members who wanted to hire a marketing firm to help promote Mastic Beach. Mr. Cappiello indicated that the problem is when you Google "Mastic Beach" it is all negative that comes up on Topix, Issues, etc., some from our own Trustees. If we want to improve Mastic Beach we do not need a PR firm; we need to stop trashing ourselves. It

is all about perception. Tearing it down publicly only reinforces the negativity that is already out there. He would like to see a moratorium on all negativity. If you have a problem, work it out within the Village. Do not turn to a public forum.

Steve Vitale – Has a problem with the garbage that is being left on Commack Road by the individuals waiting at the bus stop. The bus stop had been eliminated at the corner of Commack and Lynbrook several years ago and the problem improved; however, since the return of the bus stop the litter has increased 3-fold. He would like the bus stop to once again be removed. Mayor Biondi indicated that he would address the issue with Gill Anderson tomorrow and request the removal of that bus stop. Mr. Vitale also wanted to thank the Village for cleaning out his storm drain so promptly. He called the DPW Dispatcher and reported that the drain was clogged and it was cleaned the same day.

Carol Ann Svoboda – Concerned about the safety of her neighborhood because her neighbor's house was set on fire recently. This event has traumatized her daughter. She feels as if Lynbrook Drive has not improved. Unruly kids on bikes and drug dealing is still taking place. She wants to know what happened to her neighbor's home and wants the community to come together to improve Mastic Beach so that it can be a safe place for our children. Mayor Biondi assured her that the Arson Squad is investigating the incident but no determination has been made. A gentleman with Ms. Svoboda also indicated that parking continues to be an issue with their neighbor who parks in front of their property. Mayor Biondi said it is a neighbor dispute and he will try to help him settle it.

Frank Cappiello – Wanted to address Tony Prudenti, the new Supervisor for Code Enforcement. Mr. Cappiello wanted to know if Code Enforcement will be assigned areas to patrol and write down violations in that specific area. He indicated that there are many violations that are obvious, yet are not being documented. Mr. Prudenti stated that he is in the process of evaluating the current Code Enforcement procedures and working on a plan to improve the system. Mr. Cappiello also wanted to address the issue of Code Enforcement not being able to access back yards because they cannot see it from the street. The Mayor encouraged residents to invite him onto their property to allow a Village Official to see the violations in the back yard. Brian Egan commented that what the Village ultimately wants is for residents to self-correct so the first step in the process is to give them "Order to Remedy."

Jane Powers – Commented on the issue of garbage surrounding bus stops. Would like to see garbage cans at bus stops. Also requesting garbage cans on the residential streets surround 7-Eleven. In addition, she suggested speaking with the William Floyd School District about a program to encourage students to pick-up after themselves. Mayor Biondi stated that he will see about installing decorative garbage cans to help the problem.

John Mutt – Once again wanted to address Building, Housing and Code regarding rental permits. He would like to know the square foot calculation used to determine the number of people approved for rental properties. Mayor Biondi explained the rental permit application process.

Madeline Marullo – Would like to know the length of time it takes for NY Rising to take down a home. Mayor Biondi indicated that he has a meeting next week on this issue and that it will take approximately 6 months. Ms. Marullo is concerned about the condition of the home next to her.

Bill Fahey – Expressed his concern regarding the Comptroller's Report and would like the District Attorney to review it.

Anne Snyder – Requested that the new Code Enforcement Supervisor, Tony Prudenti, attend the next Quality of Life meeting.

Lawrence Voelger – Commented on the New York State Buyout Program. Also voiced his concerns about the houses being sold to investors and turned into rentals. Mayor Biondi requested the name and number of the individual he spoke with at the buyout program so that he could contact her himself for more information.

Frank DeLustro – Complained about a neighbor and her dogs. Wanted update and would like to change the law on dogs. The Mayor indicated that he had been to the home several times and nobody was home. He will go again tomorrow. Brian Egan recited Code 160-3 regarding animals.

Ann Petrusso – Questioned if Trustees had to go to Trustee Training once elected. The Mayor indicated that NYCOM has classes for Trustees and Mayors throughout the year.

Marsha Faison – Wanted clarification on the dog law.

Maureen DiMeo – Stated that her neighbor has 18 cats and that it is a quality of life issue. Brian Egan quoted the code regarding cats and suggested that the situation should be addressed by Code Enforcement.

Darrin Harsch – Commented on the issues of garbage and dog barking.

Jon Siebert – Wanted to know where the cameras are going up and if there is a code regarding oil tanks being strapped down. Mayor Biondi stated that there is a law for new homes to have strapped oil tanks, but not existing ones.

Karen (declined to provide last name) – Commented that the things going on Facebook need to stop. She was against the Village for exactly what she sees happening. Everyone needs to work together and stop the internet. Mayor Biondi stated that anyone who has an issue to please call him to discuss.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Spery and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to close the Public Hearing.

Upon motion made by Trustee Spery, seconded by Trustee Summa and opposed by Deputy Mayor Busa, it was RESOLVED to enter Executive Session at 9:02pm for personnel matters.

Upon motion made by Trustee Spery, seconded by Trustee Summa and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to close Executive Session at 9:35pm.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Stiriz and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to re-open the Monthly Meeting at 9:36pm.

Upon motion made by Mayor Biondi, seconded by Trustee Stiriz and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED to end the Monthly Meeting at 9:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Scharf
Assistant to the Mayor

September 10, 2014