

**PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

March 12, 2024, at 5:30 pm

PRESENT:

Mayor: Alysa Plummer
Trustees: Justin Leitgeb
David Marshall
Lisa Cove
Absent: Lili Lanphear
Village Attorney: Jeffery Turner
Village Clerk: Dorothea M. Ciccarelli

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Mayor Plummer and seconded by Trustee Cove *to call the meeting to order.*

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

The members stated they did not have any conflict of interest.

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited at the start of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Corby, 7 Washington Ave—Mary Bodum, is currently in hospice, and he wanted to share his sentiments with the Board of Trustees.

BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT/ DPW REPORT

The Building Inspector and DPW reports will be presented at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S/VILLAGE CLERK REPORT

The Board will delay the bill pay until the next meeting.

ROBERT C. CORBY ARBORETUM 2024 PROJECTS

Friends of the Arboretum (FOA) members Robert Corby and Jim Weick discussed various topics, including a review of previous meetings, herbicide use for trail maintenance, fund allocation for invasive removal, ailanthus mitigation, and potential new projects in the arboretum. Mr. Weick emphasized the need for a Request for Proposal (RFP) and the importance of addressing specific issues in a timely manner. The board previously voted to send out the RFP and set dates for further discussions. The FOA

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discussed possibly creating an overlook with a bench in a cleared area and a gravel pile for a new trail. Mayor Plummer proposed organizing a community workshop to gather input on these projects. They discussed the design and funding of signs for the village, proposing a budget of \$4,000 to \$5,000. Ideas for community engagement included allowing residents to make donations to different projects and a bluebird installation by the Scouts. The FOA is considering various sign design options and researching tree tags to identify native tree species. Mr. Corby is developing a schematic plan for the arboretum, pinpointing its natural features, and formulating a site plan for community dissemination. A deeper dive into the top path trail and a proposal to reduce grading and improve safety were discussed. The team will work with the village to develop a design that meets community needs. Member Leitgeb emphasized the importance of considering the risks and benefits of a safer path through the Erie Canal Preserve and Arboretum. Mayor Plummer mentioned that the village insurance company requires proof of insurance and individual releases for anyone working there to prevent liability issues.

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb and seconded by Trustee Cove to grant the use of the Meadow gravel pile number two to remediate wet parts of existing trails.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Cove and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to authorize the Village DPW to mow the meadow around existing trees.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb and seconded by Trustee Marshall to allocate an amount to exceed \$500 for the hay straw bales, plastic tarps, and bags for the knotweed mitigation project to be used for the Friends of the Arboretum as part of the current budget.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb and seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve the bluebird improvements as identified.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb and seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve access to the Towpath Connection Trail with an insurance waiver.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

SPECIAL PERMIT—57 MONROE AVE

Jeff Ladue, an architect in Greece, NY, is sitting before the board on behalf of the applicant/owner of 57 Monroe to present a proposal for luxury apartments. The apartments are one-bedroom units, with seven totaling five on the existing first floor and two on the second floor. The first floor's gross area is over 5,800 square feet, while the second floor is 2450 square feet. They will keep the building current, albeit with minor exterior modifications like adding more glass. Access to the units will be through the parking lot, not the Main Street side. The discussion also touches on the application's compliance with 2102 249a, which requires at least 400 square feet of open space per resident family.

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Much of the open space is on the front lawn, with some green space on the sides. The question is whether there is a consideration for reclaiming some of the backyards to make them more usable. The tenant engagement with the green space is ideal, but the proximity of parking, dumpsters, and the railroad may affect the usability of the front lawn. The idea is to make the front-long area an active part of the property, as many people enjoy grilling in the summer. The front lawn would have eight different grills, different from the surrounding area. However, the discussion also touches on the concept of a controlled-use patio area, which would be a common area for grilling. The structure would regulate the grill's visibility, and the permit would incorporate this control. This would guarantee the incorporation of the permit's conditions into the building.

The process of obtaining a permit for a project entails finalizing details such as the number of units, lease requirements, and permit conditions.

Motion by Trustee Marshall and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to set the public hearing for 57 Monroe Ave special permit for March 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

Rob Richardson, Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Coordinator—Genesee/ Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, addresses the board to discuss the revitalization of the Community Conservation Program. The NYSERDA program has been redesigned to emphasize the importance of working with municipalities to bring in match-free money. The program is not taxpayer-funded; it comes from the system's benefit charge when residents pay their monthly utility bills. They aggregate this money and incorporate it into the upcoming year's budget. Due to a time and materials contract, the municipality receives all services and support from Mr. Richardson and his colleague with Climate Smart Communities (CSC) at no cost.

New items and tiers structure the program, aiming to help communities quickly stack points and access large sums of grant money. As the village unlocks each level, grant funding follows. Benchmarking municipal facilities over 1,000 square feet is a significant capital planning tool, as it allows for a free energy audit. This information aids in pinpointing problem areas and strategizing future enhancements. For example, Mr. Richardson discusses the eligibility for grants for green projects, specifically the HVAC or the potential for solar and DPW upgrades, which can accumulate points for municipalities. The program also encourages residents to consider installing heat pumps, which can earn them additional points in the community.

To advance the discussion, Mr. Richardson highlights the importance of considering charging stations for both public and private spaces and the potential challenges and benefits of each type of charging station. He mentions the importance of addressing the community's needs and ensuring that they are doing well in their efforts to promote sustainable practices. Thus, these programs should focus on interactions with residents, businesses, and events like Arbor Day. The Village is a tree city, incorporating pollinator corridors, gardens, Native Street trees, and invasive removal.

Next, Mr. Richardson explains that community solar and clean heating and cooling are achievable solutions sooner rather than later. This would require the village to identify partners who may have a large community solar installation opening and are looking for people to sign up. The provider would become

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the record provider. By identifying partners and implementing a community solar campaign, the village can ensure that residents take advantage of this sustainable energy option. He establishes that reaching a five-star designation is achievable, primarily through community campaigns and community support, maximizing eligible projects, and retroactively paying for pending projects.

ESTABLISHING ENERGY BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Mayor Plummer iterates components of Rob Richardson's presentation, which include topics such as the town's sustainability programs, the need for funding, and the proposed local law for energy benchmarking requirements for municipal buildings. Member Cove reminds the Board to consider the potential impact on historic preservation regulations when considering green initiatives.

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb and seconded by Trustee Cove to direct Attorney Turner to review the proposed resolution and bring it to the Board for the next meeting.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

PUBLIC HEARING—CONTINUATION OF PROPOSED LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT

Motion by Trustee Marshall and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to close the public hearing for the proposed law to override the tax levy limit.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Marshall and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to authorize the Mayor to sign part one of the proposed law to override the tax levy limit.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Marshall and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to adopt the findings in part two of the resolution, authorize the Mayor to sign part 3 and adopt a negative declaration for SEQR.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Cove and seconded by Trustee Marshall to override the tax levy limit.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

PUBLIC HEARING—RENTAL REGISTRY LAW

Motion by Trustee Marshall and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to pass the local law for rental registry.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

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**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW FOR THE EXEMPTION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND
AMBULANCE WORKERS**

Mayor Plummer provides an overview of the proposed local law for exempting volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, which was amended last year to include spouses. This amendment is state-wide and is based on new state legislation.

Motion by Trustee Marshall and seconded by Trustee Leitgeb to set a public hearing for March 26, 2024.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

ECLIPSE PLANNING

Mayor Plummer overviews how the Village plans to host community members for the eclipse. Mayor Plummer has been discussing the possibility of closing Shane Place, a popular eclipse spot, to ensure residents' safety. The village hall will be open for residents, and the Village will provide extra porta potties and trash receptacles. The Village is considering collaborating with the DPW and the town staff to develop a solid plan for the event.

Jason Cernis, DPW Foreman, speaks as a representative of the DPW crew. They want to be with their families for the event and would like to get the afternoon off using PTO or working two or nine hours on other days, not eclipse day.

MEMBER ITEMS

Trustee Leitgeb asks that the office notify fellow Village Boards regarding items affecting their own Board review. The Village Clerk adheres to the fact that all members of the boards will be added to the email lists when sending out agendas and packets.

Motion by Mayor Plummer and seconded by Trustee Cove to adjourn the meeting on March 12, 2024, at 8:40 pm.

Vote: Plummer—yes, Leitgeb—yes, Cove—yes, Marshall—yes. *Motion passed.*

Alexandria Torres Vaughn, Recording Secretary