

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2007

Present: Mayor Edward Traynor, Deputy Mayor Fred Devan, Trustees Joan Gussow, Chris Sanders, Audie Moran, Walter Sevastian, Esq.-Village Attorney, Denise Ehrhart- Village Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Traynor called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at the Piermont Public Library.

Public Comment:

Richard Stark questioned trees that were cut down on the side of the Railroad Station.

Mayor Traynor replied that it was to clear an area on the north side of the building to make parking spaces and on the south side for entanglement in the power lines and for O & R to drop a new line to the building.

Bill Elson advised the Board that the Historical Society would like to push back the property about 25' behind the Station and build a stone block wall for drainage reasons.

Bill Plumb noticed while walking on the Pier that fairly mature trees near the condos were cut down. Al Bartley replied that they were listing north to south and were top heavy. An arborist was hired to remove them for pedestrian safety.

Ivan Szendro wrote to the Village Board regarding the possibility of the Village of Piermont sistering with a Village in Hungary named Nagygec.

Walter Sevastian advised that there is not much legislation on twining or sistering but it has been done. One would need a statement by the populace that they agree to the idea by way of signatures on a petition. 20% of the electorate (220 signatures) would be required. Walter Sevastian could email a form to Ivan Szendro.

Mayor Traynor asked for the Board's opinion on the percentage of voters they would like to ask Mr. Szendro to obtain.

Trustee Gussow asked if this is a cultural or political statement. Mr. Sevastian advised that no question would be raised if the populace agrees on a petition.

Trustee Devan said that 500 signatures would be a great response and is larger than the 220 or 20% of registered voters.

Trustee Moran stated that she does not feel strongly one way or another but if the populace agrees, she would go in favor of it.

Trustee Sanders is concerned that other locations will be coming in after this request. Signatures would assure that Piermont was interested and he would like to see 20% (220).

Bill Elson commented that the issue is a lack of awareness on the part of Piermont residents and maybe Ivan Szendro should speak with the Journal News.

Bill Plumb said that his wife has a friend who is from Hungary and maybe Mr. Szendro could find photographs or postcards of this small Village to include with his request.

Ivan Szendro will let the Village Clerk know when and if he obtains the required signatures.

An early draft of a lease agreement with the Historical Society for the use of the Railroad Station was discussed. Mayor Traynor stated that the Board of Trustees created the Historical Society to study and recommend how to restore the station. He is very happy with the progress made to date. His concern is with a possible Board change, there is the possibility of the station being sold or left to disrepair.

Bill Elson advised that the Historical Society fixed up the outside and if the Village doesn't want the Station utilized they would stop. Some of the Historical Society board would like to see it have some use but that would bring up the subject of insulation and bathrooms which would be very expensive and not necessary for what they would use it for. Other uses would require these expensive improvements.

Trustee Sanders said that a great job has been done. The entire exterior seems complete but the inside is still an empty shell. The challenge becomes, what do we do with the building to determine what renovations are necessary. The historic designation of the building allows the Village to minimize the need to conform to some of the NYS Building Codes. The last use was a single family residence. There are challenges if it is to be a public space such as ADA compliance, etc. A Museum of Piermont would be a great use. The real issue is that everyone has spent a lot of time and money on the renovations and if it is only going to be a monument and not used, it may fall to disrepair again. He would like everyone to work toward a use that the entire Village can enjoy. There needs to be a long term solution; the Historical Society has done what they were asked to do.

The Village Attorney advised that possible legal instruments are a lease to the property or a contract to run a program.

Bill Elson said that Sylvia Welch suggested being guardians of the building and this word captures the relationship the Historical Society would like to have. Mr. Elson feels that its use as a museum is an exercise in optimism. The Village pays \$3,000 a year to store the contents of the Railroad Station and a space could be prepared to store this material in the station.

The consensus of the Village Board is that people would visit it as a museum.

Margaret Grace said she doesn't feel a need to go into the building. It is a treasure just to look at. "Stewardship" of the building would insure maintenance of the outside.

Temperature control on the interior is an important element of concern to preserve the interior.

Mayor Traynor said he feels that a contract for guardianship would encourage further positive forward motion.

Trustee Devan added that this meeting has generated a lot of ideas and wondered if there should be a public meeting to allow residents to express their ideas.

Trustee Sanders commented that the Board can ask all they want for ideas but the Board still needs to consider the requirements of the New York State Building Code and does not feel that eliciting ideas in the forum of a public meeting would be of benefit.

Trustee Gussow stated that the Railroad Station is a responsibility and asked if the Historical Society wants to take on that responsibility. Bill Elson replied that they do. He further advised that the Historical Society is currently paying the electric and if they put in heat they would pay that bill as well.

Trustee Moran wanted to correct circulating misinformation, stating that Belle Kelly did not receive the train station at no charge but in fact paid \$500 for it in the early 70'S, paying a 15 cent transfer fee to the county. It would have been illegal for the train company to give it to her for free. Additionally for the record, the Village almost didn't buy the station. Since Tom Kelly died without a will and someone was continuing to pay the taxes this person would have automatically been granted title for the property after about 7 years. It took Trustee Moran several years of work to bring the station to the table so the Village could purchase it.

Bill Plumb suggested that any kind of contract or agreement needs a time limit.

The Village Attorney will work with the Board to develop an agreement with a review to be done on an annual basis.

Two additional proposals were presented to the Board for the replacement of the computers for Village Clerk's office. Proposals were received from Techno-logics and Perception Electronics. The Clerk researched and presented numbers from New York State contract as well. Perception Electronics made a proposal for Dell computers and the other two were for Gateway computers. The two proposals also included HP Printers and the State Contract pricing from the Clerk included a Ricoh printer.

Richard Stark, Perception Electronics, stated that he made a proposal on the same printer that Techno-logics previously proposed. He questioned the consideration of the Ricoh printer proposed by the Clerk. He felt there should be another request for proposals. The Village Attorney explained that with State Contract pricing, other proposals were not necessary.

Mr. Stark stated that he wanted his objections on record.

A motion was made by Trustee Devan to approve the purchase of 3 Gateway desktop computers, 1 Gateway laptop computer and 1 Ricoh printer, all from New York State Contract, at a cost of \$5,963.01. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

A Memorandum of Understanding from the Town of Orangetown for the Lower Erie Trail was sent to the Village Attorney. This would allow the Village of Piermont control, operate, maintain and develop the path but not own the property.

The Village Attorney advised that this is a way of giving up control of property but not ownership.

Mayor Traynor asked Al Bartley to give the Clerk a dollar figure for maintenance done on the path over the past years to be given to the Orangetown Attorney.

Recommendations of the Planning Board with reference to the north parking lot were discussed.

Trustee Sanders asked if the Village was going to do anything to the lot and if yes, we can move on. It is a multi-use space, in the middle of the Village next to new Library.

The Planning Board recommends 124 parking spaces. The Village needs an engineer to determine drainage and surfacing and needs to determine the best use of the space. It is also used to store snow in winter.

He asked for recommendations from the Village Engineer for drainage and surfacing and also a final drawing. The Board should seek a proposal for site plan and drainage plan, (based on drawing Plan A) to finalize the north parking lot. He will engage Dan Sherman in the landscaping to tie into Phase I and II drainage plans. The Village Clerk was asked to prepare an RFP to Brooker Engineering for the Site Plan and Drainage Plan. Trustee Sanders also questioned if the Village can proceed with hooking up the drain left from the Library construction in Phase I.

The Riverfront Communities Council requested their logo be displayed at any site they have given funding to. Parelli Park has a sign but the Railroad Station needs one. Maureen O'Connell will ask the Council if they can prepare the sign for the Village to install.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to incorporate the Riverfront Communities Council logo on the signage to be installed at the Railroad station. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$110,954.02. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the warrant was approved.

Trustee Moran advised the Board that if the Village ordered playground equipment for Kane Park before December 5, 2007, they could receive a 40% discount bringing the cost to \$6,800.00.

Trustee Sanders made a motion to approve the purchase of playground equipment at a ceiling of \$7,000 and to take the funds from Contingency. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the meeting adjourned.