

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Dove, Eriksen, Sennett and Stokes-Cawley, DMO Harty, Village Historian Batlle, Village Attorney Pavlus

Others: Jason Gabak Skaneateles PRESS

Minutes – Resolution #2018-208: On the motion of Trustee Dove, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2018, as presented.

Correspondence & Announcements – Mayor Hubbard noted the following:

- Receipt of Glens Falls National Bank LOSAP Statement for October 2018.
- Receipt of Chief Coon’s email to Whitney Mills relative to his continued concern regarding the speed of vehicles on Kane Ave. Mayor Hubbard said Chief Coon’s response was well written – he did a good job.
- Receipt of Skaneateles Foundation Executive Director Hilary Fenner’s letter – Bell Ringers Needed During Dickens.
- Receipt of additional emails relative to New York State Volunteer Firefighters Cancer Benefit Program.
- * **Other Matters That Have Come Before the Board since Posting the Agenda***
- Receipt of email from Whitney Mills thanking Chief Coon for his response. Mr. Mills wrote, “We very much appreciate all you and your team do for our community.”
- Receipt of letter from Rochester, NY resident William Dillon thanking and commending members of the SVFD and Skaneateles Police Department for their kind, caring and professional response to his falling while visiting Skaneateles. Trustee Sennett commented that it is a sweet letter. Trustee Dove said the Board loves receiving letters like that.
- Receipt of Cuddy & Ward, LLP Audited Financial Statements for May 31, 2018. Mayor Hubbard said hard copies are in the Trustees’ boxes. Trustee Sennett asked about the status of the Annual Update Document (AUD). Mayor Hubbard said they may have submitted the AUD. He said he wondered about that earlier and whether or not we should wait for the AUD before scheduling the exit interview.
- Receipt of emails between DMO Harty and Town Supervisor Aaron regarding the Town Highway Dept. providing emergency support to the Village DPW during last week’s snow storm when both of our large plow vehicles suffered mechanical failures.

Director of Municipal Operations – DMO Harty said Clift Park is done – the schedule was made before Thanksgiving. Railings remain to be installed – Al Patrick is working on them; the landscaping will be done in the spring. The Christmas lights are going up. Winter is here. If leaves are exposed again, we’ll go back and pick them up. DMO Harty said we greatly appreciate the Town’s help when our plow vehicles were down. She said the old truck is up and running and the new truck hopefully will be back soon.

Codes Enforcement – Mayor Hubbard said we are not in receipt of a Codes Enforcement report.

Village Historian – Inasmuch as Village Historian Batlle is not present, Mayor Hubbard surmised that he is on a fire call.

Old Business

Status of NYSERDA Grant – DMO Harty said this item can be removed from the agenda – the check is coming! We are pretty excited. Trustee Sennett said she is impressed with the amount. DMO Harty’s

email from earlier today said Jennifer Manierre advised that the Village has satisfied all requirements relative to the Net Zero Grant. The final invoice has been submitted to NYSERDA Finance and the \$73,190.42 final payment should be coming in the next few weeks. DMO Harty commended Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Karlik for working with CUSI to set up a new, no-charge rate code and on-line, transparent access to usage data. It worked out really well. Mayor Hubbard commented that a lot of grants are not granted. It is commendable that we collected all the grant.

Status of New Seawall Grant / Clift Park Improvements – DMO Harty said she reviewed the draft application for payment today; bills from Ballard will be submitted for reimbursement.

Status of Water Main Project – DMO Harty said the next construction meeting will be December 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Status of Light Dept. Action Plan – DMO Harty said the next regular Municipal Board Meeting is November 27, 2018 and they will be following up on the action plan. Programming has begun on the USA CPR software; anticipate draft programming set up mid to early January; line worker action should be in January. Good progress is being made on filling vacancies.

New Business

Operations Meeting – Mayor Hubbard suggested scheduling an Operations Meeting to continue discussion of a sidewalk program and any other business that comes up. The Board scheduled an Operations Meeting for Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 5:30 PM at Village Hall. Mayor Hubbard said anyone who wants to bring something up should let Clerk/Treasurer Couch know for the agenda.

Exit Interview – The Board discussed possible dates for an Exit Interview with Cuddy & Ward. They tentatively scheduled Monday, December 10, 2018, 8:00 a.m. at Village Hall, depending on Rich Ward's availability.

Kenyon Employment -Mayor Hubbard said there has been considerable discussion and expanding Police Clerk Kenyon's employment to full-time has been well thought out – it is the thing to do. Trustee Dove read aloud a statement as follows:

We are pleased to recommend Laurie Kenyon to serve as the Village's receptionist. Laurie is currently working ½ time as the clerk to the Police Department. This receptionist position will also be ½ time thereby making Laurie a full-time village employee.

With the Board's approval of this receptionist position, it will provide a focal point for all visitors to be greeted as they enter Village Hall, they can drop off payments, pick up permits issued by the zoning office, purchase monthly parking passes, pay parking tickets and much more. This will free up the village office staff and zoning and codes office to concentrate on their duties with less interruptions.

Laurie has been a great asset to the Police Department and now will be a great addition to all of Village Hall.

Resolution #2018-209: On the motion of Trustee Dove, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously approved (5-0 in favor) to expand part-time Police Clerk Kenyon's employment to full-time at an hourly rate of \$19.23, with full benefits. In discussing the motion, Trustee Dove said Laurie's hours will be 8 am to 5 pm. She will take lunch from noon-1. During that time the Village office staff will cover for Laurie as receptionist now enabling the Village to be staffed non-stop from 8 am – 4:30 pm, which makes her pleased.

A budget amendment will be needed to cover this position for the remainder of our fiscal year and is included on the agenda before approval of tonight's bill

Village Historian – Village Historian Batlle apologized for being late, explaining that there was a fire call at Mirbeau. He presented the following Historical Moment with photographs on the overhead screen.

Stella Maris - Historic Moment, November 2018

Skaneateles has had numerous Roosevelts owning and/or occupying residences in the Village. The Stella Maris Retreat Center as we know it today, located at 130 East Genesee Street, was the residence of Frederick Roosevelt, a cousin of Theodore Roosevelt. Fred was well-off being involved in a railroad company, oil company, a bank, Automobile Club of America, and the New York Yacht Club. He was a member of the Lotos Club, a still operational literary club based in New York City. He married Mary Loney of Skaneateles in 1873. Fred's father and mother died in 1875-6 leaving Fred with a large trust fund.

Before construction started on the home, a local carpenter, John Wheeler, built a large boathouse on the shore for Frederick's steam launch called the *Lotos*. In May 1880 William Cottle built a 72-foot-long 3-1/2 wide stone dock out into the lake.

Started in 1879, this so-called 'summer cottage' was designed by Architect William R. Mead of the New York City architect firm of McKim & Mead. Sanford White joined the firm in 1879 and was given the task of designing interiors of houses including the interior of Frederick Roosevelt's house. It was built in pieces in New York and shipped by train for assembly in Skaneateles around 1880. Frederick named the house Roseleigh, perhaps after a spa in Belfast, Ireland. The house contained 10 rooms, 4 baths, a den, billiard parlor, dining and living room. There was a garage and boathouse, 310 feet of lake frontage, 1,120 foot of lot depth, and a frontage on 231 feet on Genesee Street.

After 36 years of "summering" in Skaneateles, Fred died in New York City in 1916. Mary now spent her time with the Loney family in Rhode Island.

In 1917, Burns Lyman Smith rented the 'Roosevelt place' for the summer. He liked it so much that he bought the house and the ten acres of land for \$25,000. Burns Lyman Smith, said to be the wealthiest man to own a home in the Village, was the son of Lyman C. Smith owner of the L.C. Smith Shotgun Company, and the Smith-Premier Typewriter Company. This became the Smith-Corona Typewriter Company, manufacturer of the country's most popular typewriter.

Smith became involved in Seattle, Washington real estate after a visit there with his son in 1909. In 1910 he started construction of the 38 story Smith Tower. At that time, it was the tallest building west of Chicago. Smith died in October of 1910 and never got to see the completion of his building.

Back in Skaneateles, George Clarkson was the caretaker for the estate from 1903 to 1954. He lived in a house across the street sold to him by Mary Loney Roosevelt. One famous visitor to Roseleigh was Teddy Roosevelt around 1900.

Burns Lyman Smith died of heart problems and the house went to sister Flora Bernice Smith. Already having a home with a 1,000 foot of lake frontage she rented Roseleigh, mostly to members of the Lewis Smith family.

After 12 years of ownership, Flora Smith, growing elderly and being treated at St. Joseph's Hospital, heard that the Sisters of St. Francis were looking for home to host retreats. She sold the estate in May 1952 to the Sisters of Third Franciscan Order at what was said to be a "reasonable price," according to Sister Pat Larkin a 2014 spokesperson for the Order. It took 2 years for the renovations and opened in 1954. Bishop Walter A. Forey blessed it as Stella Maris - "Star of the Sea."

Much of the interior beauty was preserved. No changes were made to the entrance hall, and all the fireplaces were preserved. A two-level porch was added to the lakeside. East and west wings of brick were added. Upon completion, there were 40 private and 2 semi-private rooms, 2 dormitories, and staff residence for 5 Sisters. A 40-person chapel was in the new west wing.

In 1972 a convent of 3 levels was added to the west wing, consisting of 5 single bedrooms 2 suites, a community room and a small chapel, a meeting room and a garage. In 1980, this chapel was converted into 7 additional bedrooms and a bathroom.

In 1981 a solarium was built over the 2-car garage. It was called The Wicker Room, as it was furnished with wicker furniture acquired from the Smith Estate. In 1982 an additional dining room was added to the back of the house to accommodate more guests.

In 1985 a plan to construct a \$300,000 50 foot by 50-foot conference room attached to the original building was proposed. At a public hearing, numerous residents expressed concern over the proposed expansion. The expansion never took place.

In 2014 the Sisters realized that the complex could no longer be self-sustaining. They put the property up for sale. In 2015 Peter & Elsa Soderberg purchased the 8.7-acre site. Their original proposal was to demolish the complex and divide the property into two lakeside residential properties and a third where the actual building stood, was offered to the Library as a possible location. The subdivision was called "Project Bookends." This also sparked many community discussions. So, with the Library Association Board deciding not to pursue project of relocation to the Stella Maris site, the Soderbergs amended their plan December 2017 to having just two residential lots.

The Soderbergs, keeping with their original intentions, the Stella Maris was demolished in May of 2018. Gone, but hopefully not forgotten.

Mayor Hubbard thanked Village Historian Batlle for an excellent report.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Budget Amendment – Relative to expanding Police Clerk Kenyon's employment to full-time, twenty hours of weekly pay will continue from Police account A3120.16 Police Clerk. The other 20 hours be paid from A1410.11 Administrative Services that has a current budget of \$2,500.00. The additional 20 hours per week will cost \$9,615 (\$19.23/hr. x 20 hrs. = \$384.60/week x 25 weeks remaining in the current fiscal year = \$9,615). That means that account A1410.11 is \$7,115 shy of the amount needed to cover the additional 20 hours per week for Laurie. It was noted that benefits come from the General Fund and are not allocated by department.

In reviewing another appropriation where the funds could possibly be transferred from, A3120.1 Police Salaries looks like it will have an estimated \$45,000 remaining at the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, Clerk/Treasurer Couch recommended, with Chief Coon's concurrence, that the Board consider authorizing a budget amendment at this evening's meeting. **Resolution #2018-210:** On the motion of Trustee Stokes-Cawley, seconded by Trustee Dove, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to authorize a budget amendment as follows:
Increase A1410.11 Administrative Services \$7,200.00 and Reduce A3120.1 Police Salaries \$7,200.00

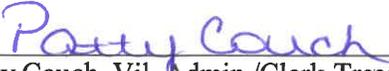
Approval of Bills – **Resolution #2018-211:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #12 be audited and paid as follows:

Abstract #12

General Fund	Vouchers #869-905	Checks #21451-21487	\$33,380.48
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #1250-1258	Checks #5940-5948	\$ 3,093.55
Electric Fund	Vouchers #1375-1387	Checks #6754-6757	\$90,100.80
Water Fund	Vouchers #754-759	Checks #4487-4492	\$ 2,241.84

During discussion of the bills, Trustee Stokes-Cawley asked if we received all the ornamental LED lights. DMO Harty said we have all the retrofits for the conversion of downtown. They will be the similar to color (yellow) and clarity to the LED lights we already have. Everything is getting converted and will be a huge improvement.

Adjournment – **Resolution #2018-212:** On the motion of Trustee Eriksen, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Patty Couch, Vil. Admin./Clerk-Treasurer

