

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Hubbard, Trustees Eriksen, Sennett, Stokes-Cawley and Zapata, CEO Crompt*, Village Historian Batlle, Project Coordinator Perkins, Special Counsel Galbato, Village Attorney Pavlus

Others:	Jason Gabak	Skaneateles PRESS
	Jim Williams	13 Jordan Street
	Peter Wiles	13 Jordan Street
	Sarah Wiles	Willowdale Road
	Ben Eberhardt	1955 Collard Road
	Bill Eberhardt*	26 W. Genesee Street

Minutes – Resolution #2019-262: On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (4-0 in favor with Trustee Stokes-Cawley abstaining as she was not present at the meeting) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2019, as presented.

Correspondence & Announcements – Mayor Hubbard noted the following:

- Receipt of NYCOM News Release on Legislative Priorities email.
- Receipt of letter from Dominion Energy regarding underground natural gas pipelines.
- Receipt of NYCOM email relative to Opioid Class Action.

*** Other Matters That Have Come Before the Board since Posting the Agenda***

- Receipt of ADMO Robinson’s resignation and Village’s Acceptance of Resignation Letter.
- Receipt of a nice email from Municipal Board Commissioner Rhoads thanking ADMO Robinson for “helping to get the paving, sidewalks and trees over this way (Griffin and Hannum Streets) all done before Thanksgiving.” Trustee Sennett commented that we are now a “cone-free zone”.
- Notice of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program 2019 Annual Meeting on Wed., Dec. 11, 10 AM to 2 PM at the Skaneateles United Methodist Church.

Village Historian – Village Historian Batlle said this evening he will talk about 98 West Genesee Street. Some people call it the ghost house – it’s not. With Trustee Zapata displaying pictures on the laptop, Village Historian Batlle read aloud his Historic Moment “98 West Genesee Street” as follows:

John Briggs, a Revolutionary War veteran, built a log cabin on this property and then constructed what is now the rear wing of the house in 1815. He sold it to Nicholas Thorne who had the front portion built in 1824, said to be designed by architects that did the work on George Washington's home at Mt. Vernon. According to local author E. N. Leslie, local carpenters Peter Thompson and Joseph Billings were the builders. They had built many of the prominent homes in the area.

One of the most prominent features is the front entrance, called a 'Salem Door.' This type of door was popular in the Federalist style of architecture having delicate features in the side lights and fan light. A portico with Tuscan style columns frames the doorway. An unusual balustrade sits over the doorway with delicate architectural features such as urn-like turnings topping the posts. (*Bill Eberhardt arrived.)

Nicholas Thorne died in 1832. His widow was forced to sell the home to pay off her husband's debts. A British born Quaker, James Cannings Fuller, bought the house and 156 acres for \$9,500. (That is about \$284,277 in today's money, and the current market value of \$615,385) Fuller described his holdings as having a large house, barn with stables, cider house, sheep house, corn house, field barn and worker's cottage. 30 acres are woodland, and there are small orchards of apple, cherry, peach and plum trees.

The two-story east side portico was added about 1848, as well as heating stoves, after the family trying to keep their English habits of living, shivered through many central New York seasons.

James Cannings and Lydia Charlton Fuller were traditional Quakers in both spiritual habits and dress. Even after moving to Skaneateles they continued to wear the traditional English Quaker style clothes.

Fuller was an abolitionist, as the Quakers believed that slavery went against their beliefs of the brotherhood of man, and that slavery was a moral issue, not a political issue. Slavery was despised in the

Skaneateles community. In 1837, the Skaneateles Anti-Slavery Society formed. The Fullers were deeply involved in this Anti-Slavery Society and the Underground Railroad.

About 1839, James Fuller opened his home as a station on the Underground Railroad. Slaves traveled at night on a route from Syracuse to Marcellus, to Skaneateles and on to Auburn. According to local authors Barbara Spain and Karen Anklin, the Fuller home was one of these stations where slaves could rest and get something to eat. There was a rumor that the house had a "blind cellar" for hiding the slaves. This cellar has never been located.

James Cannings Fuller died in his home November 25, 1847 at the age of 54. He is buried in Lake View Cemetery in the Quaker portion that he had donated to the Cemetery. Wife Lydia continued with anti-slavery work. 1851, Syracuse abolitionist Dr. James Fuller, son of Lydia and James, were part of the successful rescue of freedom seeker William "Jerry" Henry sending him to Kingston, Ontario. This is now known as the 'Jerry Rescue.' Sumner Fuller, another son of James and Lydia, assisted the Rev. Jermain Loguen, another Syracuse freedom seeker, who left his horse and carriage at the Fuller house and Sumner drove him west.

Lydia Fuller died December 12, 1857 and is buried beside her husband James in Lake View Cemetery.

James Allen Root purchased the house from Lydia Fuller's estate in 1861. He too was a strong abolitionist and the house continued to be a meeting place for persons of that opinion. He started a nursery and locals began calling it Evergreen Manor. Most of the large evergreen trees and those in Lake View Cemetery were most likely planted by Mr. Root. He also had apple orchards and was known as "Appleseed Root." He developed a process to remove apple seeds by evaporation, and supplied seeds to customers in the State of Washington. In 1900 the property was sold and two roads were laid out, one of them appropriately called Orchard Road.

In 1934, now the residence of Mrs. Thomas Merrian, the house was included in the U.S. Government survey of historic buildings, where a complete set of architectural drawings were preserved in the Library of Congress.

In 1935, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, on her way to speak at Wells College, in Aurora, stopped at Evergreen Manor to have lunch. She was given a tour of the house, then stayed a short while to work on her knitting before her 3pm departure.

There were subsequent private owners. Mary VanVranken, Walter and Norman Wilson, Marian Labourdette, the Wittkuhns, the Walters, the Whitmans, the Awes, the Honsakers, the Oskouis. In 1989 Evergreen Manor once again opened for guests as a bed and breakfast by John and Jean Marino. In 1998, Regina Hannan owned the manor.

In 2002, the Hannan's applied to status on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2003, Hannan's daughter Amanda, experienced what was a long-rumored ghost sighting, of an apparition walking through a wall. She contacted the Atlantic Paranormal Society's cable tv The Syfy Channel's program "Ghost Hunters." They sent a crew out spending a week at the house, and provided Hannan a room at the Holiday Inn in Auburn while they searched the house. The investigators didn't have much in the way of hard data. They said that did corroborate feeling some of the sensations, unusual noises, opening doors and the presence of people behind them. (*CEO Cromp arrived.)

In 2016 the Federal National Mortgage Association was the owner of record, followed by Colin Carroll. As of 4/30/2019, the current owners of record, the Broges from Temple City California, have applied to the Village to again open the home as a bed and breakfast.

Old Business

Status of New Seawall Grant / Clift Park Improvements – Mayor Hubbard said there is nothing new to report.

Water Main Project – Trustee Stokes-Cawley said GHD and Villager walked project areas to develop a punch list that Villager is still here working on.

Status of Employee Handbook – Nothing new was reported.

Status of Public Restroom Project – Mayor Hubbard said we will meet on this topic.

Status of Search for Electric Dept. Superintendent – Mayor Hubbard said there is nothing new to report; the position is still being advertised in the MEUA NEWS AND VIEWS.

New Business

Transfer of Mid-Lakes License Agreement to Clearwater Navigation – Mayor Hubbard referenced Atty. Pavlus' very succinct email of this afternoon. Trustee Zapata asked if there were any changes. Atty. Pavlus said added to the agreement are some background "whereas" clauses and the name of the "Licensee" to Clearwater; the fees are the same. Trustee Sennett commented that this is a Skaneateles tradition and she is glad there is a plan to continue so that the next generation will be able to experience the tradition. Trustee Zapata agreed; Mayor Hubbard said it is a great asset to the Village. **Resolution #2019-263:** On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Hubbard's execution of the license agreement with Clearwater Navigation LLC.

Consider Proposal for Storage Room – Mayor Hubbard said the work was outlined by CEO Crompt for the much-needed storage room cleanup and organization. CEO Crompt reported that he asked Mayor Hubbard's question about the shelving units and Nick Huss confirmed that he'd make the shelving in sections so that it could be taken out and re-used elsewhere. **Resolution #2019-264:** On the motion of Trustee Stokes-Cawley, seconded by Trustee Zapata, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve the work proposed by Nick Huss in the amount of \$4,800.00.

Water System Improvements Project Change Order No. 2 – Mayor Hubbard said change order #2 is a time issue for additional sanitary sewer work. **Resolution #2019-265:** On the motion of Trustee Stokes-Cawley, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to authorize Mayor Hubbard's execution of Water System Improvements Project Change Order No. 2. In discussing the resolution, Mayor Hubbard noted that the engineer recommended the change order and it was signed by the contractor.

Water Line Project GPS Work – Trustee Stokes-Cawley said Joe Brillo was an intern this summer and did a great job. ADMO Robinson talked to Joe about finishing the GPS and getting it to GHD. Trustee Sennett said it is great that Joe is willing to give us time during his college holiday vacations. **Resolution #2019-266:** On the motion of Trustee Stokes-Cawley, seconded by Trustee Sennett, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to authorize Joe Brillo for GPS work relative to the Water Line Project at a maximum of 40 hours, at \$24 per hour, not-to-exceed \$1,000.00.

Consider 2nd Village Board Meeting Date in December – **Resolution #2019-267:** On the motion of Trustee Eriksen, seconded by Trustee Stokes-Cawley, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to change the time of the Thursday, December 26, 2019 Village Board Meeting from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Consider Scheduling an Operations Meeting – The Board scheduled an Operations Meeting for Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 7:30 AM at Village Hall.

Relative to continuing review of the draft Employee Handbook, Trustee Sennett said she hopes to talk to our Health Insurance Broker, Amber Gifford, after she meets with employees about the 2020 Health Insurance Plans on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 9:00 AM. As requested by Trustee Eriksen, Clerk/Treasurer Couch will ask for the Employee Handbook Word document.

Approval of Bills – Resolution #2019-268: On the motion of Trustee Sennett, seconded by Trustee Eriksen, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) that bills from Abstract #13 be audited and paid as follows:

General Fund	Vouchers #530-570	Checks #22651-22691	\$191,271.67
Sewer Fund	Vouchers #110-113	Checks #6201-6204	\$ 2,987.23
Electric Fund	Vouchers #130-136	Checks #7056-7062	\$ 69,626.65
Water Fund	Vouchers #77-78	Checks #4673-4674	\$ 638.00
Water System Improv.	Vouchers #60-61	Checks #1062-1063	\$ 12,025.00

Adjournment - Resolution #2019-269: On the motion of Mayor Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Zapata, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.



Patty Couch, Vil. Admin./Clerk-Treasurer