

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

Founded in 1947 to determine community opinion on civic matters and coordinate community action thereon and to plan and promote the general welfare of the community embraced within Union Free School District #6.

Post Office Box 1161

Scarsdale, New York 10583

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EDMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

June 7, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School June 7, 2010, in the Faculty Lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Robert Bernstein, Michelle McNally, Karen Kelly, Robert Klerer, Schuyler Kraus, Andrea Weiss, John Sganga, John Coleman, and John Blakley, Sr

Officers and Directors not in attendance: Madelon O'Shea, Jonathan Faust, Marc Ackerman ,Larry Rusoff, Geoff Loftus, Todd Garvelink

Civic Associations represented: Longview (Jim Lasser), Fort Hill (Robin Schaffer), Cotswold (Elizabeth Graif), Greenridge (), Old Edgemont (Jon Guttenberg), Northern Greenville (), Southern Greenville (), Central Park Avenue ().

Guests: Anne Sterne, Isis-Maya Nissmian, Lindsey Reynolds (the latter two interns for Ms. Sterne's campaign), Philip Chonigman (representing Tom Abinanti)

Michelle McNally and Bob Bernstein presided over the meeting and Karen Kelly took minutes. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

The meeting was initially convened as a committee, until a quorum was present (shortly thereafter).

Anna Stern gave a brief presentation on why she is running for the 92nd Assembly District. She has been the president of the Dobbs Ferry School Board, and has been working as a nurse for 30 years. She is concerned with education and health care, and wants to eliminate, or at least sunset unfunded mandates.

Tom Abinanti had been invited to speak, but was delayed due to a County Board meeting. The Republican nominee was invited to speak at a future meeting.

Minutes – The minutes of May 3 were approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was accepted. The ECC has \$ 5,865.60 in the bank, petty cash and the postage permit accounts.

Fire District Update – The Fire District Consolidation Committee is expected to vote on June 21 whether to recommend fire district consolidation. If they so recommend, notwithstanding

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that it would either result in significant tax increases for Edgemont or significant service cuts, the next step would be for petitions to be gathered and put on the ballot. Robin Schaffer said the Ft. Hill Association is very concerned.

Zoning and Planning –

1. There is continued pressure for a cross walk at Crane Pond. The Greenburgh police chief has suggested a study which would cost approximately \$5,000. Feiner objects to the cost.
2. The Chair of the Zoning Board is appealing the Building Inspector’s determination that Section 285-39(C)(8) of the Zoning Code, which requires that any lot that is created from an existing improved lot not result in the improved lot becoming non-conforming in any respect, is a general prohibition and not a regulatory requirement, and that therefore no variance from this section of the code is required because a variance for the non-conformity created is sufficient. Michelle McNally explained that treating this provision as a general prohibition for which no variance is required rather than a regulatory requirement would facilitate the creation of non-conforming/substandard lots. The Board voted unanimously to authorize Michelle to send a letter communicating our disagreement with the Building Inspector’s interpretation.
3. A draft of the Comprehensive Plan is expected to be released in September. At that point, groups will be convened to discuss it. Discussions have indicated that the plan will call for increased density on Central Park Avenue, and Bus Rapid Transit, which makes limited stops and which proponents therefore claim will reduce traffic congestion on Central Park Avenue. However, at this time the County does not have money to fund Bus Rapid Transit.

The ECC Facebook page will likely have updates on this and other matters. The Facebook updates are limited to brief notes, and will refer readers to the ECC website.

Town Matters:

1. Valhalla Lawsuit – The town has been sued by the Valhalla School District (“VSD”) for the remainder of the money relating to the Westhab shelter rental (\$4.5 million), even though the State Comptroller said that such payments were illegal. Paul Feiner is supporting the VSD’s position and will be a principal witness on their behalf. In addition, the Town’s lack of defense of the suit raises conflict of interest issues.

Bob Bernstein and Herb Rosenberg, a Dobbs Ferry resident, have filed to intervene and defend the town in the suit. Their intervention was supported by the Town Council. The court approved the intervention, over the objection of the Valhalla School District.

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2. Finneran Law – Paul Feiner is proposing that the Finneran Law be amended to allow the town’s villages, at their option, to join the Veterans Pool (without paying their share of the entire Town Recreation).
3. HPPD – Paul Feiner is proposing that the state law authorizing the Hartsdale Public Parking District be changed to lift the restriction that board members be property owners in the district. The HPPD is supported by parking permit fees. To date, it has been self-supporting; however, if current sources of income were insufficient, HPPD’s obligations would become the responsibility of the property owners in the district. Feiner is not proposing to lift the restriction limiting financial responsibility to the district’s residents; he is only proposing to lift restrictions on governance.

The Board voted unanimously to oppose the change in HPPD governance, to request accounting for legal fees pursued by the town in this matter, and to request that the town council spend its time trying to identify and eliminate waste in its own budget.

4. TDYCC – The Town approved an expenditure of \$105,000 for busing to summer camp at TDYCC. Busing is not provided at the other town camp.
5. Taylor Law – Paul Feiner is also requesting changes in the state Taylor law, which can result in binding arbitration when contracts with essential civil service employees cannot be reached. While municipalities can negotiate contracts to ameliorate the impact of binding arbitration, the town has not done so to date. The chance of the Taylor Law being changed is minimal.

In addition, the following motions were passed unanimously:

1. Providing Bob with the power to call a special meeting, if needed, over the summer.
2. Recognizing our appreciation of the thorough reporting that Heather Murray has done, (Heather will be leaving The Scarsdale Inquirer to attend Cornell Law School).
3. Recognizing our appreciation of the work Michelle McNally has done, including attending numerous town meetings, and her tireless representation and fact-finding on behalf of the ECC and the Edgemont community.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

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