

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 EDGEMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

April 4, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School, April 4, 2011, in the teachers' lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Robert Bernstein, Marc Ackerman, Karen Kelly, Jonathan Faust, John Sganga, John Blakley, Sr., Geoff Loftus, Robert Klerer, Jonathan Kelly, and Greg Adams.

Officers and Directors not in attendance Todd Garvelink, Schuyler Kraus, Andrea Weiss, Larry Rusoff, and John Coleman.

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

Guests: Arnold Laubich, Madelon O'Shea, Debra Anders (Scarsdale Inquirer) and Nick DeCicco.

Marc Ackerman called the meeting to order and Karen Kelly took minutes. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM.

Minutes – The minutes of March were approved, as amended.

Treasurer's Report – John Sganga submitted the report, indicating that there is \$4,275.13. John Faust indicated that Frankie and Fanuccis will be willing to let us have another fundraiser on May 3, 2011.

Nominations Committee - Geoff Loftus submitted the slate, with biographies, to be submitted at the annual meeting. The Board unanimously approved them.

Prospective Officers:

President:	Geoff Loftus
First President	Marc Ackerman
Second Vice President	Jonathan Faust

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The Cotswold Association
Edgemont Association
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Greenridge Association
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Southern Greenville Association*

Treasurer	Gregory Adams
Recording Secretary	Karen Kelly
Corresponding Secretary	Aubrey Graf-Daniels

Directors at large:

Term expiring in 2014

Andrea Weiss
Matthew Jaffe
Alex Clarke
Monica Sganaga

SBNC Representatives:

2 year term – Carey McGee
1 year term – Sara Blotner
Alternate – Helen Orce

SBNC – Marc Ackerman stated that the committee recommended Michaeline Curtis and Anish Nanavaty to run for the School Board, and did not recommend Wassim Salim for a second term. The SBNC felt that all candidates were very strong. Marc said the committee was hardworking and participated fully. On April 13, 8 P.M, there will be a candidates forum at Greenville School. Marc asks questions, please submit any to him.

School Tax – The proposed tax increase would be approximately 3.5%, A number of teachers will be taking an early retirement package.

The Silver Bowl Committee – Paul Solomon has been selected unanimously by the committee for the award. In addition to his years of teaching, he has worked tirelessly heading up the Edgemont Recreation Corporation, and other activities.

The Speaker at the Annual Meeting will be Carolyn Stephens, the former mayor of Scarsdale.

Greenville Fire District Update – The GFD continues to deal with time-consuming issues brought up by the town. Instead of looking for efficiencies within the Town, the Town continues to examine the fire districts. Consolidation would increase taxes for Edgemont. While Feiner has said he will not push for consolidation given this, he is seeking a \$50,000 state grant to hire a paid consultant to assist in this effort.

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Jon Faust believes that the claim contains false and misleading information. Feiner had signed the application, and refuses to withdraw it. Elizabeth Graif indicated that filing a false application could have negative consequences for the town in the future.

Robin Schaffer asked if we could get grant money to hire/obtain a special prosecutor to handle the contempt that the Supervisor and Council have for us. Bob said if there was sufficient evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution of anyone in elected office in Greenburgh, he was sure there were people in the community who would bring such matters to the attention of law enforcement. Debbie Anders asked whether ECC members thought having term limits for town officials was the answer. Bob responded that while term limits work well in some communities, the best form of term limits, in his opinion, was when voters themselves decided when it was time for elected officials to be replaced.

Town Affairs

1. **Comprehensive Plan Update** – Francis Sheehan has indicated the plan will be available likely in the fall. Parts of it will not be available piecemeal. No draft has been made available.
2. **Outreach Meeting** - The Town Board met at the high school. No one who attended thought the meeting went well because those attended generally did not get their questions answered, town board members spent too much time discussing a proposed cross walk at Crane Pond, while important questions that should have been asked earlier in the meeting were not asked until the meeting was nearly over. Ways to make the meeting more productive were discussed. Geoff suggested that if the ECC agrees to sponsor the event in the future, it might want to gather questions from residents ahead of time. Bob suggested that future such “sessions” with the Town Board should be videotaped so that other residents who can’t make the meeting can see for themselves how the Town Board addresses residents’ questions.
3. **FOIL** – Town is now charging some residents a surcharge for FOIL requests, in addition to the 25 cents a page, even though the Town Code prohibits the charging of any extra fees. Dom Caratozzola said he was being asked to pay \$700 in surcharges.
4. **Ethics Proceedings** - Town seeks stay of all Ethics Board complaints against *all* elected or appointed town officials, including ZBA members DeCicco and Glass, to get opinion from Attorney General on whether taxpayer funds can pay for private counsel to represent those accused; Ethics Board refuses to release copies of request for stay, but asks residents to comment anyway. Town Attorney had been representing Thomas Madden for soliciting businesses to help with costs of Comprehensive Planning meetings, but recently obtained private counsel for Madden. Town Attorney told Ethics Board they had to terminate the matter.

Nick DeCicco stated he did not ask for stay because he had already received an adjournment of his case until June based on his having hired a private attorney that he thought would be paid for

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by taxpayers. DeCicco said that he was told the Town Code provided for attorney for employees and volunteers like himself. Bob said the Town Code expressly limits private counsel for defense of town official in “civil judicial proceedings” only, and that the Ethics Board proceeding is not a civil judicial proceeding. DeCicco said he thought town taxpayers should still pay for his counsel anyway.

5. **15-year Cablevision franchise agreement** - Town approved a 15 year contract, which may result in less money for public access if
6. **Valhalla School District** sued for summary judgement on a number of points, Bob does not think valid. Bob will be filing, together with Herb Rosenberg, a motion for summary judgement, asserting that the arrangement was illegal and therefore unenforceable.
7. **Fortress Bible** update – briefs filed
8. **Competitive Bidding on Fire Protection Districts** – Town refuses to allow competitive bidding. There are seven fire protection districts in those parts of unincorporated Greenburgh not covered by either Greenville (Edgemont), Hartsdale or Fairview. The Town routinely awards only the town’s villages contracts to provide fire protection to these districts, and refuses to allow competitive bidding. Competitive bidding would lead to villages competing with villages, and competing with Greenville, Hartsdale and Fairview to provide service to these areas of unincorporated Greenburgh.

Adjourned at 10:10

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