

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

February 7, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School, February 7, 2011, in the teachers' lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Robert Bernstein, Marc Ackerman, Jonathan Faust, John Sganga, Karen Kelly, John Blakely, Schuyler Kraus, Andrea Weiss, Todd Garvelink, Robert Klerer, and Greg Adams.

Officers and Directors not in attendance: Larry Rusoff, Geoff Loftus, Jonathan Kelly, and John Coleman.

Civic Associations represented: Longview (), Fort Hill (Robin Schaffer), Cotswold (Charlie McNally), Greenridge (), Old Edgemont (), Northern Greenville (), Southern Greenville (), Central Park Avenue ().

Guests: Maryjane Shimsky, Nick DeCicco (and each of their representatives), Debra Anders (Scarsdale Inquirer), and Arnold Laubich.

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

Minutes – The minutes of January were approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was accepted. The ECC has \$5,520.33 in the bank, petty cash and the postage permit accounts.

Nominations Committee - Jon Faust agreed to head the committee with Geoff Loftus to assist. [Following the meeting, Geoff agreed to replace Jon as committee head because ECC bylaws do not permit existing ECC officers to chair the committee]. The Committee will work on nominations for officers and directors, as needed.

The Silver Box Committee, which annually presents selects an Edgemont resident for recognition of service to the community will be started next meeting.

School Board Nominating Committee Update. Marc Ackerman, the chair of the committee indicated that the committee has received three letters of nomination for two vacancies, Anish Nanavaty and the two incumbents, Michaeline Curtis and Wasim Salimi. Interviews are

Member Associations

*The Central Park Avenue Association
Greenridge Association*

*The Cotswold Association
Longview Civic Association*

*Edgemont Association
Northern Greenville Association*

*Fort Hill Association
Southern Greenville Association*

scheduled for March at the Greenville Church. Comments from the public are invited till March 1 (which has been published in local paper and news). No anonymous comments accepted will be accepted. Bob will try to publicize on our facebook site.

Candidates for the Special Election for County Legislator, Republican Nicholas DeCicco and Democrat MaryJane Shimsky addressed the board, discussed the issues and answered questions.

Town Affairs

- a. The Scarsdale Inquirer has run an update on Edgemont v. total town burglaries.
- b. Town-wide revaluation – the Town wants state legislation to protect certain groups of under assessed homeowners from the impact of reassessment before proceeding with any decision to reassess. Bob thinks that town will not go forward anytime soon. It appears that the Town is conditioning town wide revaluation on the state approving legislation allowing certain groups of underassessed homeowners to continue to be subsidized, following revaluation, by other homeowners. Bob does not support the ECC sponsoring a meeting on revaluation unless and until town indicates whether it intends to go forward. Bob reported that Tom Rothman, a retired lawyer from Irvington, and Peter Derby, an investment banker, also from Irvington, were asked by Feiner to develop a list of questions in anticipation of a new town study on whether revaluation should be undertaken. A two-year town study with participation by the Town’s school districts, including Edgemont, was completed last year. The report, chaired by Peter Sterne, a Dobbs Ferry resident, recommended revaluation. The Rothman/Derby list of questions is on the Town’s website.
- c. Fortress Bible update – the Town has filed appeal; no damage assessment filed yet.
- d. WestHELP update . County has not renewed the lease for Westhelp. The Town can now lease premises for 20 years, either for low-income or senior housing. The Town wants to use for dorms. A hearing is set for March 9.
- e. New “consolidation” commission for fire district consolidation appointed. Kevin Morgan would be the liaison from the Town Council, the others members would be the same people as last time, including Alan Hochberg. The committee will also study other ways to save money. The Cotswold Association has complained that state action is not appropriate for this.
- f. The Town wants to fund a new playground at Nature Center which may be in violation of Land & Water Conservation Grant, which says the site can only be used for passive recreation. Robin asked what the impetus was for this. Bob explained that the board of the Nature Center is trying to make the GNC more attractive to young families. Bob believes that these waivers are routinely granted, but proceeding with construction without first asking for a waiver may create problems.
- g. Town refuses to permit competitive bidding on fire protection districts. The town approves retroactively contracts for the fire protection districts. Bob has complained that there should be a RFP. The first year that this would be realistic would be 2012. The GFD is interested in bidding, per Jon Faust. Some areas which are covered are contiguous with GFD and Fairview Fire Districts. Currently the contracts are with the villages.

Member Associations

*The Central Park Avenue Association
Greenridge Association*

*The Cotswold Association
Longview Civic Association*

*Edgemont Association
Northern Greenville Association*

*Fort Hill Association
Southern Greenville Association*

Jon Faust said a few words on behalf of fire district. First, please dig out snow from fire hydrants on or near your property. Second, both Jon and Bob indicated that the new fire district commission is silly and unnecessary – commissioners don't need this. Jon also mentioned that the Glenville responds to calls on Sprain Brook Pkwy, and that some are suggesting we charge non-residents fee for response. Greenburgh charges for EMT. It was noted that insurance may reimburse people for this. The GFD is also looking for expanded hours for commissioner elections, maybe starting earlier (the closing hour is mandated by state law). The GFD is also looking to obtain a federal grant for equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10

Member Associations

*The Central Park Avenue Association
Greenridge Association*

*The Cotswold Association
Longview Civic Association*

*Edgemont Association
Northern Greenville Association*

*Fort Hill Association
Southern Greenville Association*