

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

March 1, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School March 1, 2010, in the Faculty Lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Bob Bernstein, Michelle McNally, John Sganga Karen Kelly, Jonathan Faust, Robert Klerer, John Blakely Sr., Marc Ackerman, Andrea Weiss, and Geoff Loftus.

Officers and Directors not in attendance: Madelon O'Shea, Schuyler Kraus, Larry Rusoff, Todd Garvelink and John Coleman

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

Guests: Arnold Laubich

Robert Bernstein presided over the meeting. Karen Kelly took minutes. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM.

Minutes – The minutes of February 1, 2010 were approved

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was accepted. The ECC has \$ 5,627.92 in the bank, petty cash and the postage permit accounts. The ECC received a donation in the amount of \$350.00 from the Rosenberg's, who received a refund of property taxes after the ECC published information regarding the Town holding overpaid property taxes.

The ECC voted unanimously to take out a well wisher ad in the next High School production program.

Census - The decennial census will be taking place, with forms being mailed out shortly.

Women in History Month – The ECC voted unanimously to confirm Mr. Bernstein's nomination to the Town to include as Edgemont's representative Louise Clark, a noted historian of Edgemont.

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*

Fire District Consolidation – The Fire District Consolidation Committee continues to request information. The Hartsdale Fire District believes it has answered all relevant requests, but the committee is continuing its requests. Apparently the Committee is requesting information regarding related party transactions of relatively small size. There are no outstanding information requests for the Greenville Fire District. The Chair of the Committee has indicated he will not include comments from the Fire Unions in the committee’s report. The Committee has not requested an opinion from the Attorney General as to any legal issues surrounding the possible vote (especially what would happen if 2 of 3 districts vote in favor of consolidation), but has asked volunteer lawyers to discuss. The Committee appears to be moving forward toward an April 30 date for issuing its recommendations, in order to facilitate being on the November ballot. Some of the people on the Committee appear to want a consolidation referendum to be on the ballot, even though no report has been issued yet.

Fire district consolidation was studied by a town committee 10 to 12 years ago. No conclusions were reached. Francis Sheehan was chair of that committee and cannot locate/does not recall if any papers are significant.

SBNC Update – As a result of the resignation of School Board member Allan Pepper, there will now be 4 open seats on the School Board in the coming election. Two incumbents, Tom McCormack and Gerry Stoughton, will run for a second term. David Stern, David Chao, and Caroline Tzelios have also been nominated to run. The three candidates elected with the most votes will serve a 3 year term, and will join the School Board in July. The candidate elected with the fourth highest number of votes will serve the remaining two years of Mr. Pepper’s term and will immediately join the School Board. The SBNC will be interviewing the candidates this month.

This Saturday morning will be the first meeting on the School Budget.

Amendments to ECC By-Laws – Two proposed amendments to ECC’s By-Laws were circulated. One amendment would allow ECC to accept SBNC nominations from areas where a civic association has not designated representatives to participate on the SBNC. The Board voted to approve this amendment. Bob Bernstein abstained.

The second amendment would eliminate the provision in Section I of Article VI of the By-Laws which limits an individual from serving as President for more than three consecutive elective terms. The Board voted to approve this amendment with two abstentions and no nays.

Both amendments will be included in the Annual Newsletter to be voted on at the April 28 Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee proposed the following nominations for next year:

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OFFICERS

President.....	Robert Bernstein
First Vice President.....	Marc Ackerman
Second Vice President.....	Jonathan Faust
Treasurer.....	John Sganga
Recording Secretary.....	Karen Kelly
Corresponding Secretary.....	Larry Rusoff

DIRECTORS

Term Expiring in 2013

1. Bob Bernstein
2. Geoff Loftus
3. Robert Klerer
4. Jonathan Kelly
5. Gregory Adams

Term Expiring in 2012

1. Jonathan Faust

Term Expiring in 2011

1. Schuyler Kraus

SBNC

Chair: Marc Ackerman
2 Yr. Nancy Shifren
Alternate: Jonathan Bender

Silver Box Committee – The Committee nominated John Gerspach for the Silver Box (which is now a bowl). Mr. Gerspach has contributed much to Edgemont, including servings six years on the ECC Board, head of the E Club, coach for many years in Edgemont Recreation, co-head of the Halloween parade (with his wife), started the Christmas Tree decoration at Crane Pond (at first decorating it himself, with his son helping), former Edgemont Association president, chair of the SBNC, and emcee of the Edgemont football games.

Annual Meeting – Wednesday April 28th - Suggestions for a speaker for the annual meeting should be forwarded to Mr. Bernstein.

Town Affairs

- 1 **Valhalla School District Suit** –. As previously discussed, Mr. Bernstein reported that the Valhalla School District (“VSD”) had filed a complaint against the Town on July 29 seeking \$4.5 million for alleged breach of the Town’s promise to give the school district 55% of the Town revenue received from Westchester County as rent for the WestHELP homeless shelter

Member Associations

on the campus of Westchester Community College. The town's defense of the suit raises conflict of interest issues. The Town has filed to allow Messers Bernstein and Rosenberg to intervene in the suit. Valhalla has objected. The court has not ruled on this yet.

2. **Kolesar Suit** - The lawsuit by former Town Comptroller Michael Kolesar (alleging unfair termination after his disclosure of purported town improprieties) continues in Federal Court, with Judge Stephen Robinson, the same Judge on the Fortress Bible suit against the Town.
3. **HPPD Suit** - Paul Feiner has sued the Hartsdale Public Parking District, because the district will not seat a person who is legally ineligible to serve (as he did not own property in the district as of the requisite date the district). The suit continues.
4. **Town Board of Assessment Review** – This board has a review role with respect to some claims of incorrect assessment (before they go to the Certiorari phase). While state law generally provides that members must be resident of the municipality, Greenburgh has an exemption that would allow non-resident members, although it historically has not done so. The reason for having resident members is that residents have a vested interest in assessable property not being reduced. However, one member of the board had moved out of Greenburgh, and the Town would like her to stay on the board. The ECC moved unanimously to voice our belief that the board be restricted to residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10.

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