

# *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**

**January 3, 2010**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont High School, January 3, 2011, in the teachers' lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Robert Bernstein, Marc Ackerman, Jonathan Faust, John Sganga, Karen Kelly, Larry Rusoff, John Blakely, Geoff Loftus, Jonathan Kelly and Greg Adams.

Officers and Directors not in attendance: Schuyler Kraus, Andrea Weiss, John Coleman, Todd Garvelink, and Robert Klerer.

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

Guests: Michelle McNally, Marty Payson 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 December were approved, as amended.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's report was accepted. The ECC has \$5,475.33 in the bank, petty cash and the postage permit accounts.

**School Board Nominating Committee** – Marc Ackerman reported that the SBNC will commence meetings soon. They will be looking to nominate candidates for 2 seats. Marc also provided a report of BOE meetings attended by the various SBNC members.

### **Greenville Fire District**

1. Jon Faust was elected to the commission, with very heavy turnout.
2. The GFD has responded to the Town's Fire District Consolidation Committee report, and members also issued dissenting reports. All reports are available on the ECC website. The response indicates that the GFD has negotiated very favorable overtime arrangements, which the Town is studying to see if it can use.

### **Town Affairs –**

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#### *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*

1. Bob Bernstein reported that burglaries continue and they are noted on our Facebook page. Bob receives reports from the police, neighborhood watches and residents.
2. WestHELP is to close the facility; the Town will lose \$1.2 million in rent and will need to look for another tenant.
3. The Valhalla litigation continues. Depositions continue, with Feiner being deposed by the VSD. Thus far there have been no surprises in discovery.
4. Fortress Bible has not yet indicated the dollar amount of the claim against the Town that it has won. The Town is appealing the decision that the Town must issue building permits, and will likely combine that with an appeal of the monetary judgment, as soon as Fortress Bible files with that amount (expected to be in excess of \$5million).
5. Bob provided a brief synopsis of the Town Budget. While the tax rate increase on the unincorporated area is not staggering (4.5%), it maintains that increase by drawing down from reserves (3.1M) and borrowing (2.5M). The borrowing is contemplated for any certiorari claims that may have to be paid. This is in effect borrowing to cover any shortfall of tax revenues to cover operating expenses. The Town has said that the borrowing will only be done as a last resort, and not used if not needed. It may be unrealistic to think that there will not be certiorari claims. The continued growth in Town expenditures (7%) seems highly imprudent, especially given proposals for state-wide caps on tax increases (2%). The tax rate increase on the town entire (including villages) is 70%.
6. The Shop-Rite at Midway Plaza has requested permission to open a small restaurant/deli area within the store.
7. Town-wide revaluation. There are pros and cons to the revaluation, but it cannot be done at the school district level unless the town revalues. Arnold Laubich voiced a concern that revaluation could hurt long-time residents whose properties are currently underassessed and encourage them to move out. If they are replaced with younger residents with school age children, school costs could go up, along with school taxes. Robin Schaffer believed that the School Board, as the elected body with the most at stake, should weigh in. The consensus, however, was that because the school board deals with educational matters, and referred the matter to the ECC, which deals with public policy matters, the ECC is the appropriate Edgemont body to weigh in on the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

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