

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

May 7, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held in the Faculty Lounge at the Edgemont High School on May 7, 2007. The following officers and directors were present: Michelle McNally, Madelon O'Shea, Chris Klerer, Larry Rusoff, Lisa Wexler, David Stern, Pam Ray, Karen Kelly, James Lasser, David Younger, Todd Garvelink, Robin Schaffer.

Officers and Directors not in attendance Neal Lerner, John Blakley, John Sganga.

Civic Associations represented: Longview (), Fort Hill (), Cotswold (Ken Beiser), Greenridge (Bob Bernstein), Old Edgemont (Frank Kaiman), Northern Greenville (Robert Rosenberg), Southern Greenville (), Central Park Avenue ().

Guests included Heather Murray (Inquirer). Ed Krauss also attended.

Michelle McNally presided over the meeting and Pamela Ray took minutes. The meeting was called to order at 8:15PM. Motion Mr. Stern, second Ms. O'Shea, the minutes of April 9, were approved with 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report: \$330 in membership dues was received. We have 47 paid members to date for the fiscal year 7/1/07 to 6/30/08. Total Assets at 5/7/07 are \$6493.83. We discussed pros and cons of building an E-mail base for mailings.

New Business: We talked about how to get people involved in the SBNC process. A discussion on the need to possibly amend the By-Laws was tabled due to time constraints.

Safe Routes to School Program and Walkable Communities-Naomi Klein from the Westchester County Department of Transportation contacted Michelle to see if we had any interest in having her present the Safe Routes To School Program. All voted in favor and Michelle will invite her to the June meeting. On 5/8, Michelle, Lisa and others will walk the Hartsdale Avenue area with Town and County representatives and attend a presentation on walkable communities.

County Legislator Tom Abinanti contacted Michelle regarding Ardsley Road. He offered to come to speak to us. We will invite him to our June meeting. Included in our discussion with Tom will be our preference for replacing the blacktop footpath on Ardsley Road with a cement one.

Civic Association Presidents-E-mail Michelle with your 2007-2008 meeting dates. The Calendar Committee Meeting is scheduled in May.

The owner of the Central Square property was granted an \$87,000 certiorari for fiscal 2005 and 2006. The school district will absorb \$75,000 and the fire district \$12,000.

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

The school budget vote and election of school board members will be held on 5/15. Also on the ballot is the EXCEL Proposition requesting approval for the school district to accept state funds, to be applied towards renovation of two science labs at the high school.

The Board agreed to hold the Edgemont Get Together at the Greenburgh Nature Center. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and run the event. Jim and Karen offered to help.

Zoning and Planning

240 Old Army Road is on the Planning Board agenda for June 6. The neighboring residents and the Edgemont Association are opposed to the subdivision that would create a new lot on Bretton Road. A previous variance request to subdivide the property was denied by the Zoning Board.

154 Old Army Road-a steep slope permit is on the agenda with a possible construction of a third story.

135 Old Army Road-Michelle and Madelon have heard that the current owner wants to demolish the existing house and replace it with two houses. Madelon said the house might be a historic property.

644 Fort Hill Road is another home for sale that may be a historic property.

1 Artillery Lane –The owner has applied for a steep slope permit. The immediate neighbor is opposed and has informed the Planning Board that the plans submitted for the steep slope permit differ from what was approved by the Zoning Board for this project in 2006. When an applicant goes before both the Zoning and Planning Boards, those boards must coordinate. We may need a requirement for coordinated review written into the zoning regulations.

New Business

A Town Board public hearing on 5/ 23 will address providing partial property tax exemptions to volunteer firefighters/ambulance workers who serve in districts with fewer than five paid firefighters. Unincorporated Greenburgh has professional and volunteer firefighters. For the typical resident of a village, the tax exemption will be \$10.32. For the typical resident in the unincorporated section of Greenburgh, the tax exemption will be \$181.13 (based on an average assessed value of \$15,000). The proposal was discussed, as were alternative ways to honor our volunteer firefighters. We also talked about why those districts that hire professional firefighters should be asked to subsidize communities who choose not to have paid firefighters. It was suggested the state change the law so it includes **all** volunteer firefighters. Another suggestion was to encourage the town to grant an exemption to fire protection districts that qualify under state law, and only for fire protection district taxes.

Motion Bob Bernstein, second Michelle McNally, resolved to oppose the exemption providing partial property tax exemptions to volunteer firefighters/ambulance workers who serve in all volunteer fire/ambulance corp. districts. The motion was approved with 9 voting yes and abstentions by Pam Ray, Robert Rosenberg, and Frank Kaiman. It was further resolved that Michelle would suggest as a compromise that the exemption be granted only for fire protection districts that qualify under state law, and only for fire protection district taxes.

Hartsdale Flood damage was reported by Hartsdale merchants to be worse than we were told. A study needs to be done on how to prevent a repeat occurrence. As far back as 10/4/05, the town engineer expressed concern about the flooding on East Hartsdale Avenue. He indicated in a memo that there is a concrete pipe to supply drainage and that the capacity of the pipe is inadequate.

Motion Mr. Kaiman, second Mrs. Ray, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

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