

Minutes of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association Meeting Held On Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at Stratford School at 8 P.M.

The monthly meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association, which was also the Annual Meeting, was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at the Stratford School cafeteria. Manny Velez, chairman of the Nominating Committee, began the meeting by introducing the new slate of Directors. Manny mentioned that two directors, Michelle Harrington and Mike Holland, had termed out. He stated that the Nominating Committee voted unanimously to re-nominate William Slattery, Matt Abrusci and Cathy Wood. They also nominated Tina DiMino and Robert Bommarito to fill two open spots on the Board of Directors for three year terms. The Board then appointed three other applicants, Tom Stenson, Colleen Foley and Kathy Auro, to replace the three directors, Manny Velez, Jim Sugrue and Vinny Fusco, who were stepping down. These three newly appointed Directors will fill the remaining term of the outgoing Directors. Upon motion, the recommendations of the Nominating Committee were accepted and the five new Directors were approved.

President Slattery then opened the regular business meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Slattery then announced that this was his last meeting as President of the POA and thanked everyone for their support during his tenure as President. He then introduced the new members of the Board including, new President, Greg Senken, Vice-President, Matt Abrusci, Treasurer, Courtney Rosenblatt and Secretary, Robert Bommarito.

President Senken began with the Committee Reports.

Library Committee

The Library Committee chairman, Randy Colahan discussed the recent budget cuts imposed by the Committee and stated that the library would start closing on Sundays and had to lay off employees to stay within their budget. In addition, the Committee decided to increase fines and charge for paper to increase revenues. He stated that the various contracts to which the Library is bound affected the cuts that the Committee was able to make.

School Board

Dr. Fiersen handed out an overview of the proposed School budget for 2013-2014, and explained the budget process and things contained in the budget, including how the tax levy cap works and the various constraints imposed on the Board. He also explained that Federal and State aid to the Garden City schools has been declining and that the Board undertook various efforts to control costs. He further stated that despite the budget constraints the Board was able to maintain most services at current levels including class sizes and bus services, but had to modify some programs including having students pay for summer school. Dr. Fiersen highlighted the various achievements and distinctions earned by the Garden City Schools and finished by reminding everyone to vote for the School Budget on May 21st from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the High School Gym.

Trustee's Report

Trustee Brian Daughney spoke about a recent change to the zoning law which changes the definition of the word "family" to address several issues relating to renting of homes in the Village. He further stated that the law was written in accordance with guidelines provided in recent case law.

Trustee Daughney stated that the Village recently passed its Budget and was able to come in under the 2% tax cap. In order to comply with budget constraints he stated that the Village recently had to lay off 6 firefighters and that further lay-offs throughout the Village may be necessary in the future to comply with the budget. The Village is also looking at all options available to reduce costs including re-negotiating various village contracts.

Trustee Daughney also announced that the Village is being sued by firefighters citing unlawful lay offs.

Trustee Daughney encouraged residents to sign up for the SWIFT 911 emergency notification system and stated that the Village would be performing a test of the system to insure it is working properly.

In response to a question from a resident, Trustee DeMaro stated that he would look into the status of the road repaving/patching along Tullamore Road and whether state or federal aid is available to the Village for repaving projects.

Trustee DeMaro also stated that the Board of Trustees has discussed the possibility of charging a fee for parking permits for the open parking spots at the Stewart Manor LIRR station. The Board has not discussed parking permits for the Nassau Blvd station.

President Senken encouraged everyone in attendance to continue to attend the POA meetings and to encourage their neighbors to attend and get involved. President Senken ended the meeting by thanking the new members of the Board as well as the past members for their service and issued a special thank you to Jeri Newman, a long time resident of the Village, for her numerous years of service to the POA and the community.

The meeting concluded at 9:35 p.m. The next meeting, which will be the final meeting before the summer break, will be held at the Stratford School on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bommarito
Secretary