

MINUTES

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

October 18, 2017

WALDEN WOODS MEETING HOUSE

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Marlene Towers, Secretary, at 7 PM.

Roll Call: Present were Marlene Towers and Lynn Fitzgerald. Absent was Chairman, Joe Palladino.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Village Council held September 20, 2017 were approved as written.

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Financials: At this point it appears finances are going to be within budget. The tree work has been completed, although still need to have reseeding done. The amounts paid for water usage seems to be coming in under budget, so should offset any overage in other areas.

Old Business:

Landscaping Projects: Most are now completed. Still need to complete brush trimming on Primrose and Fall seeding and over seeding.

Sidewalk Repairs: All are now completed.

Tree Work: Completed all work scheduled for this year. The Landscaper still needs to grade and reseed the areas where trees were removed.

Pothole Patching: The pothole patching on Primrose and the exit from Knollwood North would be completed on October 19.

Mailbox Replacement in the Lower Village: As it is late in the year and winter is approaching, it was decided to complete this project in the spring of 2018.

Asphalt Replacement on the Knoll: Because the Council felt the use of an engineering firm to consult on the project was necessary, the cost has been added to the 2018 budget. We have received at least one quote and are waiting for another.

New Business:

Discussion of 2018 Budget: Announced that there would be an increase in the HOA fee in 2018, as costs have gone up, especially with landscaping. Increase would be at least \$10 per month, although \$25 per month was discussed at the budget workshop.

Village Rule Change: Presented possible changes to rules regarding shrubs and foundation beds as delineated in Subsections 25.13 and 25.14 of the Conservancy rules. Discussion centered on what are considered foundation beds within the rules and whether or not the new rule was really necessary. There was a feeling the original rule stated much of what was written in the new rule. More discussion is needed prior to bringing the new rule to the Conservancy Board for a vote.

Owners Forum: Homeowners present questioned the rule change. Felt it should be left alone. Council member indicated the reason for the rule was in response to the increased landscaping costs for the Village. All quotes from the landscapers had the Village costs well over the costs to the other Councils. One homeowner asked if the increase in the HOA fee was being made to offset the cost for asphalt replacement on the Knoll. No homeowner present was surprised that the fee would increase or that it could be as high as an additional \$25. Also discussed safety issues, primarily due to the recent car break-ins in the area. A meeting was being held at the Poquonock Fire Station by the police chief to address neighborhood concerns. Unfortunately, the meeting was being held at the same time as the Village Council meeting. Two residents who did attend prior to coming to the Council meeting stated they would send out what they learned in an email to residents.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Marlene Towers, Secretary.