

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
January 08, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Monachino Lapey  
Trustee Bennett  
Trustee Owen-Michaane  
Trustee Case  
Trustee McLaughlin  
Attorney Cornachio  
Manager Luft

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND FIRE SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Monachino Lapey led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and notified those in attendance where the fire safety exits were located.

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OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Monachino Lapey opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The Mayor thanked the service departments for their outstanding work especially during storm events. She spoke about having the entirety of Boston Post Road paved from the Bronx border to the New Rochelle border. She thanked the New York State DOT and the State elected officials. The Mayor said that the potholes are gone and the signage is excellent. She said that Village Manager Luft was the closer in the process. The Village Manager said that she was told by the DOT that Pelham Manor was the easiest community to work with.

Trustee Owen-Michaane discussed public safety and pedestrian safety. He and the Village Manager highlighted the crosswalk at Sandford Boulevard which is in the jurisdiction of Mount Vernon. The Village reached out to Mount Vernon and they ordered parts to fix the crosswalk signal.

Trustee Case attended, with Deputy Mayor Bennett and Trustee McLaughlin, the "walkout" ceremony for Firefighter Donald Swartout which commemorated his last day of service after thirty-three years with the Village. The Mayor congratulated him on his retirement.

The Mayor said that Trustee McLaughlin has been working on the new Village website. Mayor Monachino Lapey said that if residents have issues, they should call Village Hall at (914) 738-8820 and you will be walked through the problem.

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MINUTES

Mayor Monachino Lapey asked if there were any comments or questions on the minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 11, 2023.

There were no comments or questions.

After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 11, 2023 be and hereby are approved.

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PROCLAMATION FOR EAGLE SCOUT ASHOK SEECHARRAN

The Mayor said that between five and six percent of scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. They must complete merit badges and an Eagle Scout project. Ashok Seecharran is the second Eagle Scout in his family.

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Ashok Seecharran has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America with Troop 1 Pelham since 2018 and has completed all requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, and

WHEREAS, Ashok Seecharran has provided a benefit for the community and his Eagle Scout Project expresses his interest in neighborhood enhancement, and

WHEREAS, Ashok Seecharran constructed a series of platform steps located at the High brook Highline which is a two-acre park and community trail in Pelham, and

WHEREAS, the steps provide an alternative path to safely ascend and descend a challenging, steep slope in a park and community trail, and

WHEREAS, the platform. steps leave enough space for strollers and bicycles and all steps span a total length of twenty feet and have a width of three feet with a perimeter of pressure-treated wood with gravel poured into each one and topped with a thin layer of mulch to enhance the visual appeal, and

WHEREAS, the duration of the project spanned multiple weekends and was completed with help from friends and Troop 1 Scouts, and

WHEREAS, Ashok Seecharran who is sixteen years old and will graduate from Pelham Memorial High School in 2025, will have his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on January 11, 2024

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Pelham Manor hereby recognizes Ashok Seecharran and extend to him on behalf of ourselves and the citizens of the Village of Pelham Manor congratulations for having attained the rank of Eagle Scout and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Proclamation be presented to Ashok Seecharran.

The Mayor asked if any Board members would like to say something.

Trustee Bennett congratulated him and thanked him and those who helped him. He said the he was a credit to his family, himself and the community.

Trustee Owen-Michaane said that through hard work and determination, he was a role model. He congratulated his parents on having two Eagle Scouts in the family.

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REPORTS

Fire Commissioner Case discussed the monthly report with Chief Greco. He said that it was a busy month. There were fifty-three runs, four structure fires and two lithium battery fires.

The Fire Chief urged people to follow directions on how to charge a lithium battery. They should not be overcharged. The Chief said that Captain Costa will be in school for three and a half weeks. Captain Rebholz will teach classes at the Fire Academy and Firefighter Higgins will graduate from the Fire Academy in another week.

Fire Commissioner Case said that you have to get in front of a lithium battery fire. He said that it is not just putting the fire out, but what you do with the battery after the fire is out.

The Mayor and Board thanked the Chief for his report.

The Village Clerk said that there were twenty vital statistics records requested, twenty-eight building permits, one notice of violation, four letter in lieu of a certificate of occupancy and one certificate of occupancy issued.

The DPW Superintendent said that December was a relatively heavy month. Eighty-nine percent of all material recycled through December Fifteenth was leaves. Four street lights were replaced. The plows are ready for winter weather. It is anticipated that there will be high winds tomorrow.

Trustee Owen-Michaane commended the Village Manager, the DPW and the community. He said that a recycling percentage over eighty percent is an extremely good percentage. He said that the average recycling rate in Westchester County is fifty percent and twenty percent in New York State.

The Mayor said that Christmas trees may be put at the curb for collection.

After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Fire Department, Village Clerk and DPW reports be and hereby are adopted.

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CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TESTING

Manager Luft said that the Village will be smoke testing throughout the Village to assess how the sanitary sewer system is operating.

The Mayor said that the low bidder is Fred A. Cook, Jr. Inc. That company knows our system and they are markedly lower than the other bidders.

The bidders are listed below.

National Water Main Company	\$124,120.00
Fred A. Cook, Jr. Inc.	\$ 90,480.00
Arnold Construction Company, Inc.	\$261,000.00
Duke's Root Control, Inc.	\$145,000.00

After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that Fred A. Cook, Jr. Inc., the low bidder, be and hereby is awarded the contract for Sanitary Sewer Smoke testing at a cost of ninety thousand four hundred eighty dollars.

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ABSTRACT OF VOUCHERS NUMBERS 31939-32004

After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the mayor be and hereby is authorized to sign Vouchers Numbers 31939-32004.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Kate Pringle, 26 Suburban Avenue, asked about the status of stormwater grants from July 2023 and the Save the Sound lawsuit.

She was told that the awards will be announced in January. Westchester County has allocated funding in its new budget for stormwater issues in Pelham Manor. This funding is through a new program and it involves more regional issues. The Mayor said that we don't have final numbers in terms of funding.

The Village Manager spoke about a sequence of projects and said that the Village is always looking for funding for these projects.

Trustee Owen-Michaane spoke about stormwater mitigation and the interim measures and projects the Village has done.

Village Attorney Cornachio said that the Village is in the middle of finalizing a settlement with Save the Sound. He said that all sides think this is a fair settlement.

Gianni Magnani, 435 Carol Place, commented on statements from the last meeting. He said that he agreed with the Village using native species and that invasive plants do a lot of damage and should be avoided. He did not agree with the No Mow Zones.

Mr. Magnani was not in favor of changing the venue for Village elections. He said that the cost to run a local election is approximately six thousand dollars which is a small part in an eighteen-million-dollar budget. Mr. Magnani spoke about the differences between November and March elections, moving Village elections to the Westchester Board of Elections, locations for the Village election, and the location of local officials on the ballot.

Mayor Monachino Lapey thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor said that there was an issue regarding the employment of a particular person.

After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Board be and hereby is authorized to conduct an Executive Session to discuss the following:

Employment of a particular person

No action was taken in Executive Session.

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ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no fisher business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Clerk