

VILLAGE OF POMONA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2001

CORRECTED MINUTES

Present

Mayor: Herb Marshall
Deputy Mayor: Al Appel
Trustee: Nick Sanderson

Village Attorney Reuben Ortenberg
Village Engineer Joe Corless
Village Clerk Sue Glantz
Sub. Bldg. Insp. Mike Zrelak, Jr.

Absent

Trustee: Ian Banks

1. Salute to the Flag

2. Open Period

No one wished to speak during the Open Period.

Trustee Sanderson moved to close the Open Period, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Public Meeting – Pine Court Group Home

Mayor Marshall introduced Dennis Barry who represented the sponsoring agency, Abbott House who addressed the meeting. The proposed group home would house seven developmentally disabled adults between the ages of 20 to 35. Mr. Barry gave some background on Abbott House and the proposed residents for the group home. Mr. Barry then introduced George Hoehmann, the Director of Programs for developmentally disabled people. Bernice Levinson, of Pomona, whose daughter is one of the proposed residents of the home, and Gerald Lee, of Wesley Hills, whose daughter will live in the home. Mr. Hoehmann gave a brief history of the State's movement, called New York State Cares, for developmentally disabled people to be placed in residences in a community. Of the seven people proposed for the group home, four are in wheelchairs and have severe ambulation issues.

Mrs. Bernice Levinson then spoke about her daughter's disabilities and her need of physical therapy. Her daughter is presently in a Kingston facility and her parents live in Pomona and would like her housed closer to them.

Mr. Gerald Lee, another parent of a disabled adult scheduled to go into the proposed group home, spoke. His daughter currently lives at home with her parents in Wesley Hills and would benefit from living in a group home.

Mr. Hoehmann replied to a question about the type and number of staffing for the group home.

Mayor Marshall brought up the matter of group home saturation in the Village of Pomona. Presently there are seven group homes in the Village and this group home would be the eighth. Also, it is very close in proximity to two other group homes in the area. Mayor Marshall commented that the proposed group home is near to his house and he has no concerns about it. He did voice concern about the over saturation in the Village of group homes and to that end has met with Senator Morahan and Assemblyman Gromack to ask their assistance in working toward no further group homes in the Village until other towns and villages have group homes comparable with their populations.

Kevin Lee of 14 Capitol Drive, Washingtonville spoke on behalf of his sister who is a potential resident of the group home. He is a Ramapo Police Officer and has not encountered any problems the few times, in his official position, had to visit a group home. His parents are getting on in age and need to find suitable living accommodations for their daughter.

Colette Levine, 3 Ormian Drive, Pomona expressed her concern about over saturation of group homes in the Village. She is concerned about her property values and feels another group home so close to the others would devalue it.

Frieda Robins, 2 Pine Court, Pomona lives next store to the proposed group home. She is concerned about the noise since her bedroom is only 20 feet from the home's driveway. The amount of traffic generated by staff, visiting parents, etc. There is already a concern about property values because of the East Ramapo School District's reputation and a saturation of group homes would be another problem.

Mulli Diamont, 5 Pine Court, Pomona also lives next to the proposed group home and is concerned about noise and traffic on such a small cul-de-sac. The group home would use small vans to transport their clients to day programs outside the area and feels that Pine Court is too narrow to handle them.

Gerald Inman, 4 Pine Court, Pomona another neighbor of the proposed group home did not want it in his neighborhood. He feels his property values will be lowered and is not the type of neighborhood he wanted when he moved to Pine Court.

Deborah Inman, 4 Pine Court Pomona expressed concerns about the amount of traffic. Her children walk on Pine Court to Chestnut Drive to board the school bus to and from school. Mrs. Inman was concerned about the noise caused during the change of shifts at nighttime.

Elaine Wagman, 11 Chestnut Drive, Pomona was concerned about the noise level from the staff, i.e., radios blaring, etc.

Fred Warshaw, 6 Wavy Willow, Pomona inquired as to the regulations governing group homes and the density issue. He was also concerned about real estate values with the saturation of group homes in the Village.

Arlene Relos, 6 Pine Court, Pomona felt the residents should be told of the process and the different locations that were visited for possible group homes.

Valerie Redler, 13 Chestnut Drive, Pomona felt the number of group homes in the Village was excessive. She also was concerned about the increase of traffic on Chestnut Drive to get to Pine Court.

Pauline Jarney, 13 Tamarack Lane, Pomona asked how was the staff screened, what type of people are hired to work in the group home. She would like to see more families move into the Village, which would upgrade the East Ramapo School District.

Mr. Barry of Abbott House responded that potential staff is interviewed to the best of their ability. Work references, fingerprinting, checking with the child abuse registry; a thorough screening is done. There is ongoing evaluation of the staff and good people are kept, and others are not.

David Zuber, 21 Ormian Drive, Pomona was not in favor of the group home and if it goes in, he will be moving out of the Village.

Mayor Marshall stated that if the proposed group home was challenged, the hearing would be held before the New York State Mental Health Group that runs the local agency. The Village has challenged group homes in the past, twice, and lost both times after spending many taxpayer dollars. The State agency has always turned down a Municipality request to deny a group home location.

Trustee Sanderson moved to close the Public Meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant

No one from the public asked to speak on the matter.

Trustee Sanderson moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

Deputy Mayor Appel moved to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for establishing handicap access to Secor Park and Burgess Meredith Park, seconded by Trustee Sanderson. Motion carried 3-0.

**5. Adoption of Minutes
January 22, 2001**

Because of the absence of Trustee Banks and Deputy Mayor Appel was not present at the January 22nd meeting, the adoption of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

6. Cultural Center

The Director's report is attached to the minutes. Mr. Gde requested that the two water problems be looked into. There is still one gutter that needs to be repaired or replaced.

Deputy Mayor Appel moved to spend up to \$1000.00 for gutter repairs at the Cultural Center, seconded by Trustee Sanderson. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Gde asked to purchase a vacuum cleaner for the Cultural Center. He will use the funds from the Equipment budget for the Cultural Center. Mr. Gde also asked for a new computer, printer and scanner for the Cultural Center. A request for funds will be made to Senator Morahan and Assemblyman Gromack to purchase the computer equipment.

7. Village Hall Refurbishment

The work is progressing; the entry doors have been changed to swing out instead of swinging in. The heating system has been installed, and the casing for the windows and doors has been delivered.

8. Burgess Meredith Park Improvements

Mr. Corless has the State forms on the bridge for signature by Mayor Marshall.

9. Grants and Awards

Mayor Marshall will forward to Deputy Mayor Appel the forms for Special Request Grants from the State of New York.

10. Building Department
A. Code Enforcement

Discussion was held concerning the real estate signs that are still being placed in Village right of ways and on roads. If it continues, the matter will be processed under the current littering law with fines of \$500.00. The Deputy Mayor will be following up on the Avenall situation within the next two weeks.

B. Building Inspector

Mr. Zrelak reported that the tenants in the Ramsey Subdivision have been evicted. The kitchen stove was removed and is stored in the basement. Mr. Ferreira plans to use the facility to store construction supplies. Mr. Ortenberg commented that the submission for road dedication is incomplete. There are many problems, some of which are taxes due, liens, notices of pending lawsuits. Nothing will be done until the builder's attorney contacts Mr. Ortenberg. The correct paperwork has been submitted for the road dedication on Halley I. Once Mr. Corless confirms that all the requirements have been met, the matter will be put on the Board's agenda.

C. Engineering

Mr. Corless approved the request for a return of escrow by Ramsey Estates.

Trustee Sanderson moved to return the escrow amount of \$1500.00 to Ramsey Estates, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Marshall reported receipt of a letter from Howard Phillips stating the Van Kleeck sewer connection is moving ahead and will go to bid by late March with installation in May 2001.

11. Legal Period

After discussion it was decided to name the entrance road to Cheesecote Park, Cheesecote Lane.

Trustee Sanderson moved a resolution that the road leading from North Ridge to Cheesecote Park be named Cheesecote Lane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion then ensued regarding the filings on Grievance Day. Mr. Ortenberg will research the matter and report back to Mayor Marshall.

12. New Business

Discussion was held regarding a request for memorializing the dredging of the Hudson River.

Trustee Sanderson moved to adopt a resolution supporting the completion of the EPA reassessment of PCB's in the Hudson River including the timely implementation of remedial action by dredging, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Marshall announced the meeting with Mirant has been changed to Monday at 2 p.m.

The matter of the group home proposed for Pine Court was discussed. If the area residents request it, Mayor Marshall will meet with them.

Trustee Sanderson moved that no action be taken to object to the group home proposed for 3 Pine Court, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion failed 2 in favor, 1 opposed. Mayor Marshall voted in opposition.

13. Office Period

There was no business at this time.

14. Trustees Period

There was no business at this time.

Trustee Sanderson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Appel. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Malverne J. Toll