

**Board of Trustee Workshop Meeting**  
**July 28, 2009 at 7:30 pm**

The Board of Trustees for the Village of Cold Spring held a workshop meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 7:30 pm at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY. Present: Mayor Seth Gallagher, Trustees Lynn Miller, Bruce Campbell and Gordon Robertson

Absent: Trustee J. Ralph Falloon

Also: Part time Police Officer Gary Marino

Members of the public

Mayor Gallagher opened the meeting and introduced Officer Marino. The meeting was initiated by residents who asked the board to address quality of life issues at the waterfront. Mayor Gallagher read the following letter:

To: The Cold Spring Village Board

From: Margaret Vetare, 12 Main Street

Date: July 28, 2009

Re: Quality of Life Issues for Waterfront Residents

Thank you for calling a meeting to discuss quality of life issues for residents of the waterfront area. I won't be able to attend but would very much like to weigh in on several matters.

I've lived on Lower Main Street for more than ten years and while there are many charms to being in this neighborhood, I have to say I have seen a serious decline in my quality of life in recent years. The main problems boil down to one concept: pollution.

Noise pollution is probably the most serious problem:

Some residents play music at top volume from inside their homes and vehicles.

Dogs left unattended all day long and into the night while owners are at work bark incessantly.

Young people use the gazebo/dock area as a gathering spot, often well past 11:00 when that area is legally closed, and tend to talk, laugh, and shout without regard for how loud they are. The high volume is as annoying at 8 or 9 PM as it is "after hours."

Motorcycles like to rev their engines as they "scoop the loop." Many if not most of the motorcycles that visit Cold Spring are out of compliance with legal decibel levels.

Hudson House dumpster pick-up very early on Tuesday mornings is outrageously loud.

When the Hudson House had live music on their patio in previous years, the volume was excessive for the tiny space and was quite invasive for those of us living right next door.

Mercifully they have not had music this year so perhaps this is now officially a non-issue.

Air pollution is a major concern:

There are many truck deliveries for the Hudson House. While some turn off their engines during a delivery, others do not, and residents are faced with the serious health danger (not to mention unpleasantness) of breathing in diesel exhaust. The sharp edges and tiny

size of diesel exhaust's particulate matter make this kind of air pollution among the most hazardous known and a major factor in causing lung cancer.

People driving through who pause to chat with residents typically idle their cars, sometimes for fifteen minutes at a time.

It seems some residents occasionally burn trash or other (toxic-smelling!) fume-producing materials in their yards.

Hudson House has been better this year and last about maintaining the cleanliness of their dumpster area, but in previous years the smell of rotting garbage has been overwhelming.

It's important for them to keep up good hygiene practices in that area.

Since the neighborhood is essentially at the bottom of a valley, air circulation is limited so we experience a "sink" of these pollutants. They stay put because they're more or less stuck down here.

Miscellaneous issues:

Increase in amount of graffiti in the train underpass

Some dog-walkers do not clean up after their dogs, particularly on North Street where presumably their negligence is less visible but where the droppings are still a huge nuisance for residents.

I would be happy to help brainstorm solutions to these problems or to provide feedback on any proposed solutions. Thank you for making the effort to improve the area.

Residents in attendance also expressed concern about vehicles traveling at excessive speeds and asked about installing speed bumps. Mayor Gallagher will investigate traffic regulations to determine if speed bumps can be installed. Several residents asked for closing the waterfront park earlier, perhaps at 10 pm instead of 11 pm or closing at dusk.

Additional requests included placing a video camera at the bandstand to monitor activities. There was discussion about providing youth with a place to go and about working with the township for recreational opportunities. One resident brought up noise from the boat club property and asked if the boat club could notify neighbors of upcoming parties.

On the other hand, one resident opposed increasing restrictions and believes that more signs and lights are pollution and cameras are an invasion of privacy. He offered that the activities provided by the Recreation Department are structured and area youths don't have a place to go.

Mayor Gallagher spoke of the potential use of the Dockside property for use by local youth. Other uses under consideration include: boat storage, restaurant, Building Bridges Building Boats program.

Trustee Miller spoke of air pollution and the issue of trucks idling. It was pointed out that state regulations prohibit idling beyond five minutes. The Hudson House will be contacted about this matter.

One resident spoke of finding drug paraphernalia at the shoreline and was advised to report to the police department immediately.

Overall residents felt that their situation had improved within the last month. Lastly, a resident encouraged residents to work together and to speak to their neighbors if a problem exists. John Dunn spoke of an electronic means of communication for waterfront residents through facebook.

### **Gross Tax Revenues**

Mayor Gallagher read the following section of a proposed local law:

The purpose of this Local Law is to raise tax revenue needed to serve the existing and growing needs of the residents and property owners of Village of Cold Spring. The Board of Trustees realizes that such funds cannot come from real property taxation alone and that the tax base of the Village must be broadened. To that end, the Village will henceforth impose a tax on furnishing utility services as authorized by Village Law §5-530.

Mayor Gallagher would like to open this issue up for discussion. He sees this utility tax as a method to move away from property tax as it is based more on consumption and an incentive to save on electricity. Questions and concerns put forth were as follows:

The Village is taking away from residents with one tax and giving back to them in another direction; would prefer to have revenue coming from outside the village.

Members asked for information on utilities involved and possibility of restricting to certain utilities

Expected amount of revenue and surrounding communities that receive this tax

Concern about affect on local businesses at a time when there are open storefronts

Tax will penalize residents that have gone to electricity for heating.

Members would like to receive a breakdown as to where the revenue would be coming from.

Mayor Gallagher and Trustee Campbell will gather additional information for future discussion.

### **Water Department Public Notice**

Mayor Gallagher read the following public notice from the water department:

The Cold Spring Water Department is continuing its investigation of discoloration in the distribution system. The storage tanks at the facility, have been drained, cleaned, and inspected. There was little sediment on the tank floors, but enough to be considered as a contributing factor, according to Superintendent Greg Phillips.

Another factor has to be the raw water in the reservoirs: "We've received over 16 inches of rain since June 5<sup>th</sup>", Phillips continued, "You can drive by the reservoir on Fishkill Road and see the color tint in the shallows. Some of that color is making its way through the filters and adding to the problem." Phillips described

that until they get the source water problem solved, the distribution issues (related or not) will not go away.

This week, consultants from JM Water Services and Slack Chemical will be onsite to assist in the identification of source water issues and their resolution. In addition, media in the clarifiers and filters will be scoured to remove any buildup that has accumulated over the years.

Updates will continue to be posted in the PCN&R and on the website:  
[www.coldspringny.gov](http://www.coldspringny.gov)

### **Scheduling Meetings in August**

Mayor Gallagher will be away during the third week in August and recommended canceling the workshop unless an issue develops.

### **Senior Picnic**

The senior citizen picnic is scheduled for August 15, 2009 at 12 noon. Trustee Campbell will be in charge of planning.

### **Correspondence**

Armando Iaconangelo and Italia Iaconangelo expressed concern about a tree that is directly across from their home and garage on 203 Main Street. In their opinion, the tree poses the potential to cause personal injury or property damage. On 8/26/08, this tree was inspected by the NYSDEC Urban Forester. The Village has contacted him and asked to reassess the condition of this tree.

### **Bill Approval**

Trustee Robertson moved to approve the audited bills with the exception of two bills that were marked. Motion seconded by Trustee Campbell and unanimously approved.

### **Miscellaneous**

Trustee Robertson expressed concern about The Grove property not being secured. Mayor Gallagher will follow up with Ed Trimble.

Mayor Gallagher moved to enter into executive session to discuss a police investigation and a personnel issue. Trustee Miller moved to exit from executive session and seconded by Trustee Campbell and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Saari, Village Clerk