

Now that two of our three major projects are completed – the tax reassessment and the Village Hall Renovation – the Trustees and I can direct our focus to more of the nuts and bolts of the day to day Village operation. I am disappointed to report that the Kensington Road Project has encountered delays due to what I believe are unreasonable demands placed on it by Metro North. Every other agency has functioned in a very fair and expeditious way, save for Metro North.

The next few months in Village government will focus on updating the Village code to reflect the realities of 2007. It will be a time of multiple public hearings as we try to update our noise ordinances, sidewalk maintenance and parking ordinances and the option of a new agreement for Verizon FIOS service in the Village. Actions concerning day to day operations can be changed by simple resolutions introduced and voted on at the same public meeting.

However, changes to our Village code/set of laws requires a very formal and prescribed process. Local law is the highest form of legislation in a Village as the power to enact a local law is granted to local governments by the Constitution. A local law has the same effect as an act of the State Legislature. Actions that require the adoption of a local law usually involve the structure of the government, the transfer of power from one official to another or a change from a State wide standard.

Since our proposed changes amend the village code, procedurally we are required to inform the public that such matter is before the Board of Trustees and their comments will be heard of the issue. Five days must elapse between the publishing of the notice and the public hearing itself.

After a public hearing is held, the public law can be voted on and adopted at the same meeting. There is no required waiting period between the public hearing and the vote.

However, if the Trustees materially changed the proposed law based on the public input, it must receive a new public hearing and be renoticed accordingly.

The following is a quick synopsis of what will be discussed at the July and September meetings. The Board of Trustees does not have a regular meeting in August.

We are reviewing our noise law with the idea of placing time limits on when large trucks and garbage haulers can pick up and deliver in the Village. Late evening and very early morning truck noise have greatly impacted the quality of life of our neighbors who live adjacent to the business district. We are attempting a compromise between the needs of a business district and the tranquility desired by residents.

There are two issues pertaining to Village parking that require public hearings. One is the continued public hearing regarding the parking accommodations needed for the duration of the Kensington Road project. This hearing remains open to receive any additional comments from residents.

We are also updating the “chalking” law to specifically include Pondfield Road in an effort to stop the habitual practice of meter feeding. Our goal is to have a healthier turnover of spaces and to increase commercial traffic and encourage staff and employees to make use of our longer term parking options.

Our sidewalk law will also be amended to reflect what has been our actual practice, that of requiring all property owners to maintain the sidewalks in front of their homes or businesses. Most communities place this responsibility with the property owner with curbing and road repair in the purview of the municipality.

And finally, we will conduct a public hearing to review a contract proposal by Verizon to bring their FIOs service to the Village in addition to the Cablevision service currently offered.

Check the Village website for meeting agendas to avail yourself of the opportunity to speak on any of these issues.