



## **SPECIAL MEETING**

**TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF OSSINING  
OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY  
53 CROTON AVENUE-BUDARZ THEATER  
OSSINING, NEW YORK**

**MARCH 7, 2017  
7:30 P.M.**

**SUPERVISOR  
Dana Levenberg**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

**Karen M. D'Attore Elizabeth R. Feldman  
Kim L. Jeffrey Northern Wilcher, Jr.**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – ROLL CALL**

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on March 7, 2017 at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Avenue-Budarz Theater, Ossining, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Dana Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Kim Jeffrey, Northern Wilcher, Elizabeth R. Feldman and Karen D'Attore. Also present was Town Counsel Christie Tom Addona and Confidential Secretary Victoria Caferelli.

#### **II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Levenberg announced the following:

I have a few short announcements to make before we proceed with our agenda. March is Women's History Month, a great opportunity to honor all of the remarkable contributions women have made in history. I am honored to serve alongside so many women representing our Town, Village, County, and State, as well as the countless advocates in our community fighting for women's equality and other important issues. In the words of First Lady Michelle Obama, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."

The Ossining Documentary and Discussion Series will also be marking Women's History Month with a special event on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, where they will host a showing of "Makers: Once and For All," at 6:30PM here in the Budarz Theater at the Ossining Library. I hope you will attend this wonderful film and panel discussion documenting the momentous fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and exploring the global struggle for women's rights.

March also marks the third month of the Ossining Basics Kick-Off, and the principle this month is "Count, Group and Compare." As we all know, education begins at home and in the community, and every step we take towards getting our youngest scholars ready for the classroom is crucial to their life-long learning. As you travel around Ossining, you may start to see signs that highlight the third principle of the Ossining Basics-- Count, Group and Compare. I visited C-Town last week with Nelly Garcia, where they have agreed to participate in a plan to help parents of our youngest learners to "Count, Group, Compare" with their children while grocery shopping. Signs will be placed throughout the produce section to remind parents how to engage their children in this important literacy based activity. Join in with the community to Count, Group, and Compare the fruits and veggies at C-Town, and look out for other initiatives throughout town related to this month's theme.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef has a Town Hall meeting coming up soon in our community. This meeting will be held at the Community Room at the Briarcliff Public Library, 1 Library Road, this Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to engage with your elected representative at the state level about issues and concerns that are of importance to you.

Recently, the news of threats of hate crimes has caused concern for so many in the Ossining community. Additionally, it remains unclear as to how recent executive orders related to immigration will impact local municipalities. In light of recent unsettling and uncertain

news, I would like to remind everyone of the unity resolution that the Town Board recently adopted. This resolution has been translated into Spanish, and will be posted on our website soon. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the resolution to understand the Town Board's desire to be a community of inclusivity and welcoming, as well as one of appreciation for members of groups to whom hate is often directed for no other reason than how they were born or the choices they have made along the way. A big thank you goes to Carry Cubillos at Ossining Public Library for providing the translation. Since we have already heard this in English, I will give a shot at reading it in Spanish:

Considerando que, con el aumento crímenes de odio dirigidos hacia grupos minoritarios, especialmente los inmigrantes, personas de color, miembros de la comunidad LGBTQ y quienes observan el Islam y el Judaísmo, han aumentado significativamente a raíz de la elección nacional; y Considerando que el cambio de administración a nivel Federal esto ha causado que a las personas de grupos minoritarios, especialmente los inmigrantes, gente de color, los miembros de la comunidad LGBTQ y quienes las observan, Islam y judaísmo, sientan verdadera preocupación sobre posibles desafíos a sus derechos civiles, tales como el registro forzoso, e incremento en la supremacía blanca sentimientos que han sido expresados abiertamente, así como la revocación propuesta de lo que ha sido la difícil batalla para legalizar el matrimonio gay en todo el país , y

Considerando que los de los Estados Unidos de América fue fundado en el principio que TODOS han sido creados iguales y con los derecho a la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad a todos aquellos que llaman esta gran nación su hogar, independientemente de quien ellos amen o en lo que ellos creen; y Considerando, el Pueblo de Ossining es y siempre ha sido una comunidad inclusiva, unificada con la creencia de que todos buscamos los mismos objetivos; para vivir en felicidad, paz, prosperidad y seguridad; y

Considerando que, como representantes elegidos por todos y para todos los residentes del Pueblo la de Ossining, tenemos una obligación especial de defender nuestros electores y hablar manifestándonos en contra del odio, la violencia y la discriminación en contra todas las personas; Se Resuelve ahora, que el Consejo de ciudad del Pueblo de Ossining, por la presente condena todo discurso de odio y acción violenta dirigida a Judíos, Musulmanes o aquellos que se presumen Judíos o Musulmanes, inmigrantes, personas de color o los identifican como lesbianas, homo-sexuales,bi-sexuales, transgénero o personas en cuestión;y

Ser lo más resuelto, que por la presente se comprometen a perseguir una agenda política que afirma, todos los derechos civiles y humanos y asegura que ellos sobre la base de género, orientación sexual, raza, religión o inmigración el estado pueden convertir al gobierno sin miedo de recriminación; y A si mismo se resuelve, que reafirmamos el valor de la sociedad pluralista, la belleza de una comunidad compuesta por múltiples culturas que coexisten pacíficamente con el derecho inalienable de toda persona de vivir y a practicar su fe sin miedo.

The English Version will be re-posted on our Website. [Whereas, an increase in hate crimes targeted towards minority groups, specifically immigrants, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and those who observe Islam and Judaism, have increased significantly in the wake of the national election; and

Whereas, administration changes at the Federal level have caused persons from minority groups, specifically immigrants, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and those who observe Islam and Judaism, to feel genuine concern over possible challenges to their civil rights, such as forced registration, an increase in white supremacy sentiments being expressed outwardly, as well as the proposed reversal of the hard-fought battle to legalize gay marriage nationwide; and

Whereas, the United States of America was founded on the principal that all are created equal, and extending the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to ALL those who call this great nation home, regardless of who they love or what they believe; and

Whereas, the Town of Ossining is, and always has been, an inclusive community, unified around the belief that all strive for the same goals: to live in happiness, peace, prosperity and safety; and

Whereas, as elected representatives by and for all of the residents of the Town of Ossining, we have a special obligation to stand up for our constituents and speak out against hate, violence and discrimination against any persons;

**Now Therefore be it Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining, hereby condemns all hateful speech and violent action directed at Jews, Muslims or those perceived to be Jews or Muslims, immigrants, people of color, or those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning; and**

**Be it further Resolved, that we hereby commit to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms all civil and human rights and ensures that those targeted on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination; and**

**Be it further Resolved that we reaffirm the value of a pluralistic society, the beauty of a community composed of multiple cultures co-existing peacefully, and the inalienable right of every person to live and practice their faith without fear.**

**Finally, I am excited to announce we will rename the renovated Shine House: Cedar Lane Arts Center! Parks Foreman Mario Velardo and his staff have been working very hard to prepare for its official opening on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. We are planning a preview of programming, including ceramics, as well as an art show by the Ossining Arts Council at the grand opening, and I look forward to sharing the details with you very soon. In the meantime, in collaboration with the Ossining Arts Council, the Town is seeking for submissions from artists for a competition to design a sign to greet people as they enter the new arts center. Exact details and an application will be published on the Town's website this week, but the design should be for a piece approximately 4 feet by 6 feet that will hang on the wall. We encourage artists to envision a finished piece fabricated from various objects and materials, but it must be prepared to be hung on the wall.**

**Cedar Lane Park has a lot of exciting projects going on, and we have Town Engineer/Interim Village manager Paul Fraioli to discuss some of these projects with us tonight. First, he will be sharing information about programming for the Cedar Lane Arts Center from Village Recreation Superintendent Chris Soi, who unfortunately could not attend tonight's meeting. Then, Paul and Victoria Cafarelli from my office will give us an update on the grant the Town received from Senator Carlucci's office for \$85,000 to rehabilitate the pond at Cedar Lane Park and surrounding areas. Although the Town was informed that we had secured this funding a number of months ago, the paperwork from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) was recently received by our office to begin the financial review stage. A resolution is in front of the board tonight to establish a capital project for this work, as this is a reimbursement grant, and Paul and Victoria will give us an update on the progress of this project and documentation the Town needs to provide to begin reviews.**

**Councilmember Jeffrey announced that on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Senator Carlucci will be holding Student Advisory Council meeting at the Ossining Public Library. This is event is for students from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**On Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Senator Carlucci will holding a "Know your rights" forum at AMD cafeteria.**

### **III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION –TOWN ENGINEER PAUL FRAIOLI**

**Continuing with new projects at Cedar Lane Park, I would like to invite Paul Fraioli and Victoria Cafarelli to give us an update on grant funding for the rehab of facilities at the Cedar Lane Park pond.**

**Paul Fraioli discussed resolution A Finance- Capital Project #2017-5200- Cedar Lane Park Pond Facilities Restoration.**

**Victoria Cafarelli explained the status of the grant application and spoke about the grant funding program.**

**Councilmember Wilcher questioned if there was going to a protection/fence around the pond.**

**Ms. Cafarelli and Supervisor Levenberg explained that yes there will a posted rail fence around the pond. There will also be a gravel pathway.**

**Councilmember Feldman questioned what materials do they plan on using?**

**Mr. Fraioli explained that this has not been specified as of yet.**

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING** *Visitors shall be accorded one (1) three (3) minute opportunity to address this topic.*

This evening, we will be re-opening the public hearing relating to Local law #2 of 2017, which includes proposed changes to zoning in several areas of the Unincorporated Town. The Board has heard from many of you in recent weeks via email, phone and letters, specifically regarding the rezoning of the Maryknoll property. While we plan to let everyone speak who wants to go on the record, the Town Planner, David Stolman from Frederick P. Clark Associates, will give a presentation to provide some background on this proposed legislation as well as changes made to the law based on input from the Board.

Before opening the public hearing on Local Law # 2, I would like to invite Town Planner David Stolman to deliver a presentation providing background on this proposed legislation.

At 8:34 P.M., Councilmember Jeffrey made motion to open the Public Hearing and it was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher.

- **Public Hearing in the Matter of Local Law #2-2017 for the Purpose of Amending the Zoning and Cabaret Chapters of the Town Code”**

Supervisor Levenberg stated: I would like to open this public hearing and invite anyone to address the board on the subject of Local Law #2. Also, just so you know, we plan to keep this hearing open and will reopen it at the Town Board Meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

- **Father Raymond Finch** Ryder Road expressed his strong objection to the re-zoning of the Maryknoll’s properties in Ossining. Fr. Finch feels that they are being targeted.
- **Sister Regina Pellicori** Ryder Road stated that this doesn’t have an effect on the present use. This land belongs to the men & women who we are responsible for. We are very supportive of green space. A good portion of the land is farmed for the benefit of the Ossining Food Pantry and the surrounding area. We are asking for a reconsideration of this.
- **Quantel Bazemore** Ellis Place does not know how the conservation/sub-division fits into this plan but would like the board to consider this.
- **Mary Ann Sorese** Village of Ossining resident. Ms. Sorese raised some concerns about the property at Maryknoll. The process thus far has been top /down. Maryknoll is a major employer to residents of Ossining and surrounding areas. Maryknoll shares their financial resources in the form of grants.
- **Town Counsel Christie Tom Addona** stated that there has been an open dialog on this topic from a legal prospective. From a legal prospective it was strongly recommended that plans be submitted as part of the record.
- **Councilmember Jeffrey** did not realize that there was a strain on this topic. This was the opportunity to speak with our planner during the public hearing.
- **Councilmember D’Attore** explained that this board is very progressive in affordable housing and we unanimously support affordable housing, conservation and green effort. We are willing to work with you and find a solution.
- **Councilmember Feldman** we did not want to be accused on any back room dealings. We are very fond of Maryknoll.
- **Sister Regina Pellicori** stated that we are willing to keep the dialog open. Feels that this does not really resolve the issue for everyone.
- **Father Raymond Finch** feels that we are a member of the community and we are looking for ways to engage each other for the benefit of the community.
- **Supervisor Levenberg** feels that this great that we have communication and we really appreciate the engagement with the community.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that we will be re-opening the hearing on Local Law #2 at our Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the courthouse. Now we will move into Board resolutions.

At 9:15 P.M., Councilmember Wilcher made motion to adjourn the Public Hearing until March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman.

**V. BOARD RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Finance- Capital Project #2017-5200- Cedar Lane Park Pond Facilities Restoration**

Councilmember Jeffrey moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining authorizes establishment of Capital Project 5200, titled, Cedar Lane Park Pond Facilities Restoration, to replace the dock, remove floating dock, install walking path and rain barrels. The project budget of \$85,000 is funded by a transfer from General Fund Balance for cash flow purposes, which will be repaid by a Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) Grant.

Increase:	3707110.200.5200	\$85,000 – Cedar Lane Park Pond Facilities Restoration (Expense)
Increase:	37050.5031.5200	\$85,000 – Cedar Lane Park Pond Facilities Restoration (Expense) (Revenue)
Increase:	100060.4795	\$85,000 – Fund Balance (Revenue)
Increase:	1009550.905	\$85,000 – Transfer to Capital (Expense)

Supervisor Levenberg stated As Paul Fraioli and Victoria Cafarelli presented earlier, providing documentation of grantee equity for the reimbursable grant we have received through Senator Carlucci's office is necessary for the completion of the financial review for this project. The \$85,000 cost for this project will be funded by a transfer from General Fund Balance to be repaid by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York upon the completion of the project.

**Motion Carried: Unanimously**

**B. License Agreement – Ossining Boat and Canoe Club**

Councilmember D'Attore moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman that the following be approved:

Resolved, that the Supervisor is authorized to execute a new license agreement with the Ossining Boat and Canoe Club for the operation of its organization and continued use of the premises it has utilized on Westerly Road in a portion of the Louis Engel Waterfront Park for a five year term retroactively commencing January 1, 2017, in a form approved by the Counsel to the Town.

Supervisor Levenberg stated that the previous two-year license agreement between the Town and the Ossining Boat and Canoe Club expired at the end of December. This resolution approves a five-year license agreement with the Ossining Boat and Canoe Club, retroactive to January 1, 2017.

**Motion Carried: Unanimously**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT-EXECUTIVE SESSION-ADVICE OF COUNSEL**

At 9:30 P.M., Councilmember D'Attore moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Feldman to adjourn into Executive Session.

Approved:

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Mary Ann Roberts Village Clerk