

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Kelly Myers, Michael Campbell, Mary Leahy, Michael Karashay and William Murphy

Absent: Trustee Richard Moore

Others Present: See attached attendance list

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comments on Local Law #1/2006 and Local Law #2/2006. Local Law #1 proposes a change to Village Zoning Law regarding noise and raising the permitted decibel levels in the Village. Local Law #2/2006 addresses handicapped parking spaces on Partition Street and parking in front of the Boys and Girls Club on Partition Street.

Mayor Yerick opened the Public Hearing at 6:35pm. Trustee Karashay led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

He gave a brief history of the reason for the change in the Zoning Law. There was a dispute between neighbors on Valley Street over the noise emanating from a pool pump motor. The current ordinance states that any continuous noise over 50 decibels is a violation. The Village borrowed a decibel reader from the Town of Woodstock and measured the sound at the neighbors lot line and found it to be in violation of the ordinance. Code Enforcement Officer Eyal Saad took readings at five additional pool locations in the Village and all readings were over the allowable 50 decibels. NYCOM was contacted and sample laws from other communities were compared to the Saugerties Village law. The decision was made to raise the decibel level. Mayor Yerick added that the Board might want to change the proposed law after receiving public comments. The Village has since purchased its own decibel meter.

Mike Flannigan, owner of Flanigan's Dry Cleaner's – 211 Main Street, said he was concerned that the noise level in the business district was not addressed. He is pretty sure he will be in violation and suggests that the noise level for the business district be raised.

Penelope Milford of Valley Street spoke. She is the resident who has complained about her neighbor's pool pump motor for 3 years. She gave the Board a history of her efforts to solve the situation with her neighbor, finally resulting in her purchase of a new pool pump motor for her neighbor. She is adamantly against raising the permitted decibel level. She gave a noise level demonstration using her own decibel reader and a recording of a motor. Some members of the Board objected to the demonstration saying it did not reflect a true sound level because of the enclosed space of the room. Heated discussion followed.

Barry Ballister of Washington Avenue asked why the decibel level was being raised. Mayor Yerick replied the Village investigated noise ordinances in other communities and found that our 50-decibel level was the lowest of any. Mr. Ballister replied that the Village is increasing its ability to invade privacy. He asked if raising the decibel level in

the best interest of Village residents. He feels there will be an increase in the number of noise complaints.

Bart Friedman of Mynderse Street said he listened to the pool pump noise from the inside of Ms. Milford's house. He found the sound to be very irritating – like a dentist's drill. He feels if the decibel level is raised that people will not maintain their motors. He said it's a slap in the face to Village residents.

Trustee Karashay spoke saying the decibel level of a normal conversation is 60 decibels. Mayor Yerick said the Village has tried to help with Ms. Milford's problem. Trustee Myers advised that the average noise is over 50 decibels.

Gwen Snyder of Second Street complained that she is wakened every day by car noise.

Ron LeBlanc of Hill Street spoke saying he was against raising the noise level. He feels there should be separate levels for residential and commercial areas. Ask residents to cover pool motors instead of raising the level. Raising the level will affect the quality of life in the Village.

Trustee Murphy feels that preventing noise from passing cars and motorcycles is very hard to enforce.

Suzanne LeBlanc, of Hill Street said the Board has done much to improve the quality of life in the Village. She suggested stopping a few trucks and motorcycles that have loud motors and the word would spread that the Village does not tolerate loud motors. She is against raising the decibel level.

Mayor Yerick presented a letter from resident Melanie Gardner who does not want the decibel level raised.

Mayor Yerick thanked everyone who spoke saying all their comments will be taken into consideration by the Board. There would be no vote on the change to the noise ordinance at this time.

The Public Hearing continued with Local Law #2/2006. This law adds two handicapped parking spaces on Partition Street and addresses parking in front of the Boys and Girls Club.

There was some confusion as to the location of the handicapped spaces on Partition Street. Trustee Campbell suggested that the handicapped spaces be located in the alleyway into the Municipal Parking Lot by Mirabella's Restaurant.

Mayor Yerick asked if the Board had copies of the letter from Joe Fay, the Director of the Boys and Girls Club. The Board has copies of the letter. The letter asks that the three spaces in front of the Club be designated as pick-up and drop-off.

Mike Flanigan spoke. In addition to the dry cleaning business, he also owns the brick residence next to the Boys and Girls Club. He said the area is now a “no-mans land” and people are abusing the spaces by parking there all day. He said the hours on the proposed law are for summertime only. The business community needs all the parking it can get. He feels the parking is mismanaged and is not in favor of a drop off zone.

Trustee Campbell suggested that lines be painted to delineate the parking spaces.

Alex Wade said he understood that Joe Fay requested only one spot for pick-up and drop-off and the other space would be metered.

Maurice Tessier suggested that signs be placed with pick-up and drop-off hours listed.

Cindy Saporito advised the Board that the summer hours for the Club are 10:00am to 5:30pm and winter hours are 2:30pm to 5:30pm and again from 6:30pm – 9:30pm. She said it is not the Club’s intention to hurt the business community.

Rick Smith suggested that the Club pick-up and drop-off the children up Partition Street past the FireHouse or in the Municipal Lot.

Trustee Murphy presented a letter from Anthony and Donna Buono, owners of the Exchange Hotel. They are not in favor of a pick-up and drop-off zone in front of the Club.

Maurice Tessier said it was his understanding from the Planning Board meetings, the both spaces in front of the Club were to be designated pick-up and drop-off.

Mayor Yerick thanked everyone for their comments. It was apparent that some changes must be made and another Public Hearing scheduled.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to close the Public Hearing. Carried. The Public Hearing closed at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank  
Village Clerk

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