

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cooperstown was held at the Village Office Building, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, New York on August 30, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jeff Katz, Trustees Ellen Tillapaugh, Cynthia Falk, James Dean, Louis W. Allstadt and Richard Sternberg. Trustee absent was Bruce Maxson. Also in attendance from the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce were Matt Hazzard and Hannah Bergene and Chamber Board members Danielle Henrici, Andy Marietta and Matt Hazzard. Also in attendance were Police Chief Michael Covert, DPW Superintendent Brian Clancy and Village Clerk Teri Barown. There was one (1) member of the public present.

**Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce** – Mayor Katz stated that the meeting is being held to discuss events requested through the permit process by the Chamber and items that have and haven't been delivered by the Chamber.

Mayor Katz began by stated that a private entity is requesting use of public property and once the permit is granted our role is not to be involved. He noted the Village is the custodian of public property and sets the criteria for its use. He said that the Board ends up the place for complaints and/or feedback on special events and provides future approvals based on this.

He stated that the Trustees grant the requests they can and the Chamber doesn't always like some of the criteria.

Dr. Sternberg stated that the Chamber requested an Olympic Watch party in Lake Front Park and that Dr. Sternberg through Parks Board requested information regarding the alcohol plan, which was not provided. He said he didn't see the need for alcohol at an event that began at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Allstadt stated that he has similar concerns as Dr. Sternberg to that particular request. He stated that there are a number of regularly late requests that don't provide complete details. He said the Chamber starts the process right on top of the event providing the application as a done deal and it doesn't sit well.

Mr. Dean stated he believes the Chamber feels entitled and doesn't take the interests of others into consideration. He stated that the Trustees issue permits with conditions and the Chamber events stifle out other interests.

Dr. Falk noted that the Chamber organizes events that bring people to Cooperstown and with the exception of the Hall of Fame it is the Chamber bringing people to Cooperstown. She noted that this is part of the downtown economic development strategy.

She said the areas she feels that we need to work out the kinks are 1) street closings in the downtown business area, as there are many businesses who feel this negatively impacts them; 2) vending and the competition between outside vendors and merchants and how to balance this; 3) alcohol use and how to permit to make it part of the event.

Ms. Tillapaugh stated she concurs with Dr. Falk's comments.

She stated that her main concern is the lack of communication and that if we need information the Chamber should be providing it.

She said that the Chamber needs to recognize it is the Village that receives complaints regarding events held and that the same thing happens during the Hall of Fame events.

Mr. Hazzard asked what the Trustees feel the role of the Chamber should be.

Mayor Katz provided background on a past Chamber Director who he felt essentially ran Village government in that process didn't apply to the Chamber and where public money was used to pick up Chamber garbage. He stated that has been completely pulled away from as it cannot occur.

He stated he feels nothing would be better than to have every business a Chamber member.

He said he sees us working in parallel, sometimes together and sometime not at all.

He noted that he feels Cooptoberfest was a success, but there is a need to listen to others.

He stated at the core we are not a partner with the Chamber, but that doesn't mean we can't work together. He said that the Chamber represents a private membership.

Dr. Falk stated that the Chamber needs to reiterate more with the Main Street businesses.

Dr. Sternberg stated he feels that the Chamber compartmentalizes Main Street businesses when taking a poll.

Ms. Barown stated she feels that there needs to be better communication.

Mr. Hazzard stated he meant zero disrespect to the Village that the event was denied. He stated the idea came together 5 days before as there were no plans to celebrate Sarah Groff True, which he felt was a disgrace, so the Chamber decided to take the lead.

He said he found out the event was tabled 6 or 7 days after the meeting and with only a few weeks left found another location.

He stated that the Chamber is private organization that defends its members and its job is to advocate for businesses.

He stated he is not trying to run Village stuff and it is helpful to hear from a Trustee.

He stated that he realizes the Village asks for more heads up on the Cooperstown Field Days and not announce the dates until there is approval.

He said the Chamber only asks the Village for 5 permits a year and that it takes time to come up with the details.

He stated that the Chamber is the only community organization to have a paid individual to be a business and Village advocate. He noted he attends public hearings and represents 155 members in the Village with over 5,000 employees. He said it is his job to represent every way he can and noted that over 70% of the membership was against paid parking.

Dr. Sternberg stated that it was 70% of those that responded and stated he felt Mr. Hazzard was playing with numbers.

Mr. Hazzard thanked Dr. Falk and Ms. Tillapaugh for their positive comments and stated he feels some positive events sponsored by the Chamber include Music on Main in Pioneer Park, bike

rentals at the Chamber and partnering with the Village on including the trolley brochure in the area map.

Mr. Hazzard stated he is not playing with numbers and that is a fact. Dr. Sternberg and Mr. Allstadt both concurred that the percentages are flawed.

Mr. Hazzard stated he would love to have the Village as a member of the Chamber, and stated that most municipalities financially support their Chambers.

He stated that the Trustees are only hearing negatives from businesses not positives and noted that the Chamber gets complaints about the Village also.

He stated that the Chamber operates the only visitor center/kiosk in the County.

He stated that as far as the comment regarding "alcohol-fueled" events, most fundraisers contain this component and that the Village has this presence through the Distillery and also has Ommegang nearby.

Mayor Katz concurred that the Chamber worked well with the Village on the trolley brochure, Music on Main, and having Mr. Hazzard as part of the steering committee on the comprehensive planning.

He said where we are stuck is in the permit process and there needs to be more communication and detail early in the process.

Mr. Hazzard stated that it is difficult to give specific details upfront, as sponsors generally are not determined until 3 to 4 months out.

Mayor Katz stated he is speaking more in terms of logistics and the dynamics of how the event will operate.

He stated as far as alcohol is concerned, we have had many successful events that have included alcohol including the Harvest Supper on Main Street and the 75<sup>th</sup> HOF Anniversary Concert and Movie at Lake Front Park. He said the key is to manage the alcohol component properly.

Dr. Sternberg stated he feels that there are not 5,000 employees of Chamber members in the Village. He stated he represents 2,000 people, 1,000 of which vote.

He said he understood the Olympic Watch event to be a celebration and not a fundraiser and has big problem with alcohol for a morning celebration. He felt it was reasonable to have details regarding sales of alcohol.

Mayor Katz stated that he wants to facilitate the permits, but we may not always agree on how.

Mr. Hazzard stated that the Chamber doesn't own land to host events and needs the Village property for a place to put on community events. He said he feels a good representation of the members like what we have to do.

Ms. Henrici stated that the Chamber wants the business community to thrive and wants to work with the Village. She stated that the Chamber board feels that Mr. Hazzard is a visionary and has

done an exceptional job in making the Chamber thrive. She stated the Board will do whatever is necessary to provide better communication.

Ms. Tillapaugh stated that communication is the key and it is best to have a Chamber representative in attendance to answer questions that come up with permits are entertained.

Mr. Hazzard stated he and Hannah both were unable to attend the Trustee meeting for the Olympic Watch permit, but he heard from Dr. Falk that evening.

Mayor Katz wrapped up the discussion by stating that the events are exceptionally good on the whole but we need more details early as the Trustees shouldn't have to spend an hour at a meeting flushing out 10% of the details.

**Cooptoberfest, 2016 Permit Modification Request** – Mr. Hazzard provide a request for modifications for the 2016 event including closing Main Street between Chestnut Street and Pine Boulevard for street vendors. Chief Covert noted that Mr. Hazzard review this with him and he is fine with it.

Dr. Sternberg made a motion to approve the permit modification as submitted by the Chamber. Ms. Tillapaugh seconded the motion.

Ms. Tillapaugh inquired as to how Upper Main Street would work for a mini-craft show. Mr. Hazzard stated as this would be the first attempt he is not sure, but feels it would be another way to bring people to the businesses on Upper Main Street.

A vote on the motion had the following results:

AYES: Tillapaugh, Falk, Dean, Allstadt, Sternberg                      Motion carried.

Dr. Sternberg and Mr. Dean left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

**LOSAP Investment Allocation** – Mr. Allstadt provided information regarding moving the junk bond investments in the program to other bond accounts. He noted that the junk bonds are a very small portion of what we have and there is a lot of investment in sub-prime car loans. He stated he has been looking at this for some time, we don't have to move right now, and would want the move managed by RBC.

Ms. Tillapaugh noted that this discussion has occurred over the course of a few months at Finance Committee and as we are essentially the managers and we can move or eliminate certain funds.

Mr. Allstadt stated that Mr. Bloomfield is not totally in agreement with this move. Following discussion, consensus was to agree with Mr. Allstadt's suggestion. Mayor Katz asked Mr. Allstadt to provide information to Mr. Bloomfield to move the funds as suggested.

Mr. Allstadt noted that divestment from fossil fuel investments is a subject that has also been discussed at Finance Committee and Mr. Bloomfield has been asked to discuss with Mr. Rogers at RBC for guidance in moving in a staged way from fossil fuel investments.

**Doubleday Dog Walk** – Ms. Tillapaugh made a motion to approve the permit application of the Susquehanna Animal Shelter for use of Doubleday Field for a dog walk on October 16, 2016 as submitted. Mr. Allstadt seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Tillapaugh, Falk, Allstadt, Katz                      Motion carried.

Ms. Tillapaugh suggested moving permits to the beginning of the Trustee agenda to make it easier for requestors to attend.

Mayor Katz made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 11:12 a.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Ms. Tillapaugh seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Katz, Tillapaugh, Falk, Allstadt                      Motion carried.

Mr. Allstadt made a motion to return to regular session as 11:25 a.m. Ms. Tillapaugh seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Katz, Tillapaugh, Falk, Allstadt                      Motion carried.

Mayor Katz made a motion to ratify the Police Teamsters Contract for a one year extension (through May 31, 2017) with the only change in terms a two per cent (2%) increase in salary retroactive to June 1, 2016. Ms. Tillapaugh seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Katz, Tillapaugh, Falk, Allstadt                      Motion carried.

Mr. Allstadt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. Ms. Tillapaugh seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Katz, Tillapaugh, Falk, Allstadt                      Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri L. Barown, RMC  
Village Clerk  
Village of Cooperstown