

Incorporated Village of Floral Park
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 2, 2017

Department of Public Works

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that over the past few weeks, a few residents have inquired about the various trimming and removal of trees in the Village, primarily in the West End. Although the Village Tree Department is actively working in the Village every day, the majority of the work in the West End is being done by PSE&G. In order to ensure trees and their branches do not disrupt power and to be in compliance with Federal and New York State regulations, PSE&G must have a vegetation and tree trimming program in place according to American Standards Institute (ANSI 300) regulations. This states that utilities need to clear power right of ways periodically to create a clearance zone. The Federal Regulation (ANSI Standards) requires clearances to the wires at 8 feet on the sides, 12 feet above and 10 feet below. Although this is unfortunate, it cannot be avoided. Trimming trees away from power lines, which is called directional trimming, although at first may look different, keeps the tree healthy and directs new growth away from power lines.

Our Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Stephen Siwinski and Kevin Ginnane, as in the past, met with PSE&G prior to the utility's most recent work. At these meetings, they discussed each tree that PSE&G decided had to be taken down, and, in a good number of cases, they were able to work with PSE&G to only have the tree trimmed instead of being removed.

As a proud participant for the past 20 years in the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program, the Village is committed to ensuring our Village maintains its tree canopy which is why we have PSE&G replace trees that need to be removed with wire friendly trees at no cost. Our Department of Public Works has also almost completed their spring planting program and we are now in the process of establishing a planting list for the fall planting season.

Belmont Park Task Force

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that last week the Task Force met to discuss various items related to Belmont Park such as the following:

- The privatization of NYRA;
- Various new stories surrounding the RFP that may be forthcoming; and
- NYRA Improvements at Aqueduct

As in the past, we still are requesting that the NYRA Board, along with elected officials, make us aware of any significant changes that may occur at Belmont so that we can speak with them about potential impacts.

Beautification Committee

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the Beautification Committee, an all-volunteer group led by Lucille Zimmer, is responsible for planting various plants and flowers in the various pocket parks that exist in our Village, met last week. They are in the process of planting various flowers and sprucing up the pocket parks. If you see them working in the next few weeks, please stop by to say 'thanks' as they certainly put a little more 'floral' in Floral Park.

Fire Department

Trustee Pombonyo reported that during the month of May, the Fire Department has completed two out of four intensive evening training sessions at the Nassau County Fire Services Academy in Bethpage. Working with firefighting instructors from the Academy, our Floral Park firefighters have practiced their skills in extinguishing fires on multiple floors in both model concrete garden apartments and larger, complex multi-story buildings. Precise firefighting strategies and safety procedures are reinforced through instruction and hands-on experience with working fires. Two evening training sessions remain when our department will face working fires in a warehouse and a home. Our Floral Park Fire Department and the leadership are to be commended for their strong commitment to volunteerism, generosity with their time, hard work, and ever-increasing expertise.

Recreation Center

Trustee Chiara reported that the Recreation Center is in full swing. The tennis courts have been prepared and are now open for play. On Saturday, May 20th, is the opening of the tennis tour. If residents have any inquiries, please call the Recreation/Pool Building at 326-6336.

The Recreation/Pool Booklets have been sent out and should have been received by all residents. Please refer to this booklet for important information regarding summer activities. Trustee Chiara said he would like to encourage all residents to consider a membership at our wonderful pool. It is a great place to cool off and socialize with your neighbors. Wednesday, May 17th is registration for the youth pool programs from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Recreation/Pool Building. Please refer to the booklet for details.

This year, the Recreation Center will be offering a limited number of non-resident memberships to one of our neighboring communities, pool members from the Clinton G. Martin Pool District in New Hyde Park in North Hempstead. Their pool is being reconstructed and we thought it would be a nice neighborly gesture. We will also be offering membership to our local business owners who have a vested interest in our community.

On Saturday, May 20th at Centennial Gardens, the Hance Family Fun Day will take place. It will start immediately after the 5K race which starts at 9:00 am.

On Friday, June 9th is the Floral Park Conservation Cocktail Garden Party. It is their annual fundraiser and a great way to spend a spring night with neighbors and friends. It begins at

5:00 pm and ends at sundown. In the event of rain, the Garden Party will be held at the Recreation/Pool Building.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Longobardi reported that this past week, he, Trustee Archie Cheng and Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick meet with the President of the Long Island Rail Road, Patrick Nowakowski, to go over issues regarding the third track expansion project. At this meeting, we explained our concerns for Floral Park. Nothing was resolved at this meeting but we are moving forward with an open dialogue. We will make sure all of our concerns are addressed and we will do everything we can so that this project, should it go through, is not detrimental to our Village.

Mayor Longobardi said that Memorial Day will be celebrated on Monday May 29th and is once again being hosted by the American Legion. The parade will begin in front of the American Legion at 10:00 am on Elizabeth Street and will proceed to Memorial Park on Tulip Avenue for ceremonies beginning at approximately 11:00 am. This is an event the Legion works very hard to put together and Mayor Longobardi urged residents to come out and enjoy this wonderful day in which we honor all of those who have and do serve to protect us and our great country.