

Inc. Village of Floral Park
February 4, 2020
Board of Trustees Meeting

Belmont Redevelopment Project – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Deputy Mayor Fitzgerald reported that the closure on Plainfield Avenue by the Empire State Development Corporation's (ESD) Belmont Redevelopment Project adjacent to the eastern entrance of the Belmont site on February 1st was cancelled. In connection with ESD, PSEGLI is installing new electric utility poles during the month of February on Plainfield Avenue between Miller and Vandewater Avenues in Floral Park. ESD's original plan was to close traffic completely on Plainfield Avenue between Vandewater and Miller for the three consecutive Saturdays, February 1st, 8th and 15th. PSEGLI informed the Village of the planned Saturday closure and detours through Village residential streets for the first time on Thursday, January 30th. An emergency meeting was planned for Friday, January 31st with the Village Police and Public Works departments and PSEGLI representatives to discuss an alternative work plan so a proper traffic mitigation plan could be developed. Despite that meeting, ESD announced it was proceeding with the work, Plainfield Avenue road closure and detour through residential streets over the Village's objections. ESD's announcement triggered emergency actions by the Village staff on Friday to address these last minute plans by ESD. Thankfully, Senator Kaplan was able to intervene on behalf of the officials and residents of Floral Park for the work scheduled last Saturday (February 1st) to cancel the work to allow time to provide for an opportunity for the Village, ESD and PSEGLI to develop a traffic mitigation plan for all of the work planned on consecutive Saturdays in the month of February. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked Gerry Bambrick, Village Administrator and the Village staff for their efforts and the residents for their patience.

Mayor Dominick Longobardi requested to piggyback on the Deputy Mayor's report to provide more details. A meeting was held this afternoon (February 4th) with PSEGLI to devise a properly vetted Traffic Mitigation Plan for the work that will take place this weekend (February 8th) and throughout February.

The new Traffic Mitigation Plan is as follows:

- Pole replacement will take place on Plainfield Avenue between Vandewater and Miller on Saturdays, February 8th and 15th
- Plainfield Avenue will remain open to through non-commercial traffic during the pole installation with a lane closure option; one lane open with slow down stop sign alternating north/south non-commercial traffic
- Commercial trucks north/south traffic between Hempstead Turnpike and Jericho Turnpike will be suspended during the pole work installation
- Local non-commercial traffic will be re-routed during the project time period to allow for driving access to Floral Park Memorial High School and the local community. Residents are asked to park in their driveways on the surrounding streets such as Locust, Vandewater

and Miller to allow for the traffic detour to flow better; notices will be delivered to affected residents

- PSEGLI will pay for the extra cost for signage and some PSEGLI preparation work will be performed on Fridays with no traffic interruption
- Residents should call Village Hall at 516-326-6300 if they have any questions

The Mayor thanked Senator Anna Kaplan for all of her hard work and efforts on Friday on behalf of Floral Park regarding this issue. Because of the opportunity to develop a properly vetted traffic plan, the Mayor stated that he believes the impact on residents will be mitigated. As earlier reported by Mayor Longobardi, “Senator Kaplan’s efforts in coordinating with the ESD, PSEGLI and the Village Staff better positioned the Village to plan and protect our residents and business owners from infrastructure and traffic issues that may arise during construction. I would be remiss if I did not also thank Rebecca Sheehan from Senator Kaplan’s office, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Deputy Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Darlene Lanza, Police Commissioner Steve McAllister, LT. Will Dougherty, Public Works Superintendent Kevin Ginnane, Michael Murphy, Esq. and Chris Chaffee from PSEGLI, all of whom spent most of last Friday working towards this resolution. Please be advised that we will keep you posted of developments as they progress.”

Conservation Society – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo announced that the national celebration of the 23rd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count 2020 will take place on February 14th – 16th. In Floral Park, Recreation Department staff member, ornithology expert and bird enthusiast, our very own Don Haug, will be present at the Centennial Gardens Floral Parkway gate on Friday, February 14th, 12 pm – 4 pm; Saturday, February 15th, 12 pm – 1 pm; and Sunday, February 16th, 1pm – 2 pm. Don will point out the many unique and beautiful birds that inhabit Floral Park and share their interesting stories. Bird watchers may count and record the birds they see and submit that at the Rec Center before 1 pm on February 17th to join the Conservation Society and other nature lovers in gathering data about our local birds. Visit www.fpvillage.org or the Great Backyard Bird Count website at gbbc.birdcount.org for more fascinating details. And don’t forget to bring your cell phone camera, binoculars and bird seed to Centennial Gardens!

Recreation Department and Pool – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo also announced that the Winter/Spring Session II recreation programs for children, adults and seniors are under way. Floral Park’s Screaming Eagles hockey team had a successful season. Congratulations to our champions!

It’s never too early to begin planning for our spring and summer activities at the park and pool, so the staff is beginning work on the ball fields adding clay, planting grass and doing the edging. Planning for our summer 2020 recreation and pool programs is also under way. You are reminded that a 2020-21 leisure pass or 2019 pool pass is required for the use of the park facilities and program registration throughout the spring.

All are invited to think ahead to the spring and summer months, and plan to enjoy your days and evenings at our rec center and pool!

Fire Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the Fire Department played their annual “Superblow” Football Game this past Superbowl Sunday. This game is played on the anniversary of the Tulip Hill Bowling Lanes Explosion that occurred on Super Bowl Sunday 33 years ago. This year Active and Reliance Companies won the game against the Headquarter Companies.

All members are currently taking their required annual OSHA physicals and mask fit testing.

This was an extremely busy month for the Fire Department. Calls for the month - Rescue 84; All other Firematic calls - 41, for a grand total of 125.

LIRR Third Track – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that he attended the monthly meeting with 3TC, other Villages, Towns of Hempstead and North Hempstead, Nassau County and the MTA. Plainfield Bridge work continues. Originally, the plan was to have Plainfield Avenue closed for two weekends. 3TC is now proposing only partial closures of Plainfield Avenue to install the bridge. At the present time, the Village does not know when and nor has it received any traffic plans. As soon as we finish our negotiations with the parties, we will report the pertinent information on the Village’s website.

Work continues on retaining and sound walls as well as the elevators at the Floral Park rail road station.

Library – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the recent Library Book Sale sponsored by The Friends of the Library was a big success. Nearly \$1,400 was received from the book sale and an additional \$140 from the donated Valentine’s Day gift basket raffle. Great job and much thanks to The Friends of the Library and our wonderful library staff.

Trustee Chiara also reported the Floral Park Library is currently hosting the extremely popular Tax Assistance Seminar Program every Tuesday from 10:15 am to 1:15 pm. Village residents can receive assistance with their taxes. Appointments are necessary, so stop by the reference desk to schedule an appointment. Time slots are filling up quickly so come by soon to secure a time slot.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi thanked the wonderful staff that serve the Village of Floral Park. He announced that Lauren Killigrew, Deputy Clerk is retiring this month and that the February 4th meeting is her official last meeting. Mayor Longobardi congratulated Lauren on her retirement and thanked her for her many years of dedication and service to the Board of Trustees and the Village residents.

On motion by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Pombonyo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Longobardi recessed the meeting at 8:24 pm.
