

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020 AT THE DR. JEFFREY OPPENHEIM COMMUNITY CENTER, 350 HAVERSTRAW ROAD, MONTEBELLO, NEW YORK. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:40 P.M. FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Present:	Lisa Levin	Chairperson
	Dorice Madronero	Member
	Rosemary Mocio	Member
	Bill Ellsworth	Member
	Amy Rapoport	Member
	Maureen Danzig	Member
	Robert J. Israel	Member
	Matt Moetzing	Ad Hoc
	Josh Goldstein	Ad Hoc
	Craig Long	Village Historian/HPPC Advisor
	Warren Berbit	Village Attorney
Absent:	Tony Piazza	Member

Chairperson Levin opened the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the September 25, 2019 and the November 20, 2019 meeting minutes, and any comments re: the same. Motion to approve minutes was made by Member Ellsworth and seconded by Member Madronero. Motion passed, all in favor.

Meeting opened by HPPC thanking Member Rapoport for her service on both the Parks Commission and the HPPC. Following tonight's meeting, she will be resigning from the Commission as she is moving out of the area.

Parks Update:

Member Rapoport gave an update on the KGPP signs. She has not heard back from Thomas recently, but the last contact with them indicated that they are getting organized and would get back to her with a start date. The trail sign designs have been approved by the Village Board with a couple of changes so he is all set to go from the Village's perspective. Member Piazza will take over the project moving forward as the contact person.

Member Madronero visited the park recently and detailed her concern for trash and park usage. Member Madronero also expressed concern for a photographer using the park for a photo shoot, also noting debris possibly left by same.

Members agreed that they are concerned if photographers are using the park for photo shoots without permission from the Village and whether a permit should be required for commercial photography use (or any other commercial use). Member Madronero also noticed that a personal trainer had posted an advertisement for services on one of the trees. Perhaps there is a need for additional signage to address these issues?

Discussion continued about whether there is a garbage issue in the park and if so how to address same.

There was concern if vehicles have crossed the trail barriers and have driven into the park. Member Israel lives right across the street from the parking lot and asked if there is a way to limit the number of people in the park or limit the parking that overflows from the lot on to the street. Mr. Berbit indicated that it might be

possible to prohibit on-street parking due to safety concerns but would need strong enforcement of it and the police would have to be willing to patrol more often.

Members discussed means of better enforcing rules, such as the addition of closed-circuit cameras monitoring activity in the park. Mr. Berbit indicated that he thought that Ramapo Police were driving through more often to monitor the park. Member Israel stated that he has noticed a greater presence at night. Member Madronero asked about the repercussions of getting caught misusing the park – fines, etc. Mr. Berbit responded that it depends on the situation and whether someone is caught in the act, as it's a due process issue and the infraction would need definitive proof. A motion was made by Member Rapoport, seconded by Member Mocio, all in favor, to request that the Village Board develop additional methodologies to better police the park, including (but not limited to) the installation of closed-circuit cameras, increased fines for misuse and also address the overflow parking and limiting park capacity.

Member Rapoport moved on to discuss the algae bloom in the ponds. Chairperson Levin reported that the ponds were treated on May 6, however, the ponds were still exhibiting a lot of algae. Member Rapoport suggested that perhaps the Village Board would consider installing aerators in ponds #2 and #6. There are two bubblers in #2 and #6 but they are not enough to stem algae growth. Pond #6 also has algae eating plants installed, however, the algae may still be growing.

The “In-the-Park” programs are on hold at this point because we cannot be sure that there will be less than ten people and can't allow a “gym” function yet. Due to the reopening criteria, they cannot be held until New York enters “Phase 4.” The Village Board and the Mayor recommended that the HPPC have everything in place with the activities so that as soon as Phase 4 is a reality, we can move forward to begin offering the programs later in the summer.

With no other Parks business, discussion moved on to Historic Preservation.

Historic Preservation Update:

The W3R signs estimates have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 shutdowns. Mr. Long will follow up and report back at next meeting if there is any progress. Mr. Long also mentioned that NYSHPO has not been responsive during this time as it has been shuttered as well. Another issue is that Bill Krattinger, who was our Preservation contact has been promoted and hasn't had a chance to introduce his replacement.

Moving on, Chairperson Levin gave an update on the Historic Map revision. She had contacted Jonathan Lockman, Village planner, who will be working on the updates. As of meeting date, she had yet to speak with him but had gotten an email reply from him to set up a time to do so.

Moving on, Chairperson Levin discussed the HPPC website content and asked Mr. Long for his permission to reprint some of his early newsletter submissions for content on notable Montebello residents and properties. Mr. Long said that it would be fine with him.

Chairperson Levin initiated discussion of removing the garage outbuilding on the Johnson Farm property. The garage appears to be collapsing and has become not only an eyesore but also a safety hazard. Member Rapoport also raised concern that someone might be living in the building. Members agreed that the HPPC should request that the building inspector go to property to take a look at it for safety concern. Mr. Berbit indicated that it is also an “attractive nuisance” placing the curious in danger.

Members discussed the idea of featuring interesting properties on Village social media outlets. Will contact Deputy Clerk and/or Village Clerk about this and add links to social media on website and vice versa. Also should have a short discussion with Village Board about it.

Chairperson Levin moved on to the Maple Grove Cemetery clean-up. Member Danzig has a contact who had offered to put together a group to clean up the cemetery, however, since the offer, she has broken her foot and the project is on hold. Chairperson Levin cautioned Member Danzig that the group can clean up small debris and bushes, however the large trees must be left for the Village to remove using a tree company. There are liability issues involved with tree removal so cannot be done by an uninsured party.

Discussion moved on to Montebello Day 2020. Chairperson Levin stated that the Village is not sure if it will happen this year due to social distancing concerns.

Mr. Berbit brought up two additional issues for the HPPC to discuss. The first issue is whether the Village should reduce the number of HPPC members to nine total (down from eleven total), consisting of seven members and two ad hoc. This reduction would make achieving a quorum easier with four members instead of five. Members agreed to discuss it further and, in the meantime, search for potential new members and/or submit names of interested parties to the Village Board to fill the vacancies. The second issue is whether street lights should be installed in neighborhoods. Mr. Berbit indicated that the Village has been getting some requests to add them, however the Village Board always preferred fewer lights to maintain rural quality and avoid light pollution. Members discussed issue and believed that it should be looked at on a case by case basis. In some areas, it might be necessary for safety reasons based on the changing demographic of the Village.

With no further discussion, motion to close meeting was made by Member Madronero, seconded by Member Moetzinger. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.