# The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

**7:00pm - Sustainable Putnam Presentation on Home Solar**

The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees met at 7:35pm, on Monday, April 17, 2023, for their regular meeting, with Mayor Winward presiding, Trustees Biro, Campanile, Moroney and Zhynovitch present.

**Pledge to the Flag**

Mayor Winward opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Reorganization Meeting**

**2023 Appointments**

**Deputy Mayor                                 David Moroney**

**Street Commissioner                                  David Moroney**

**Auditing Committee                                   Tom Campanile**

**Personnel                                                     Maria Zhynovitch**

**Building Maintenance                                David Moroney**

**Recreation                                                   Travis Biro**

**Nelsonville Woods Liaison                     Maria Zhynovitch**

**Liaison, Village of Cold Spring                 Tom Campanile**

**Liaison, Town of Philipstown                    Travis Biro**

**Emergency Services Liaison                      David Moroney**

**Building Inspector                                      William Bujarski**

**Acting Justice                                              Stephen Tomann**

**Village Attorney                                          Daniels, Porco & Lusardi**

**Village Clerk/Treasurer                             Melissa Harris**

**Records Access Officer                               Melissa Harris**

**Court Clerk                                                  Melissa Harris**

**Official Bank                                                M & T Bank**

**Official Newspaper                                      PCNR**

**Village Historian                                          Michael Bowman**

**Motion:  The Board sets 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month as their regular meeting night, and the second Wednesday at 7:30pm for their workshop night, as needed, and authorizes the Treasurer to purchase postage and pay utility bills prior to Board approval.**

**Approval of Vouchers**

Abstract #11, in the amount of $18,979.86 was audited and ordered paid by a motion from Mayor Winward, seconded by Trustee Campanile, enacted all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 20, 2023 and the March 23 Special CCA meeting were approved by a motion from Mayor Winward, seconded by Trustee Zhynovitch, enacted all in favor.

**Correspondence**

The mayor summarized the following correspondence:

* Cathy Costello re: trees that she believes are a danger to her property on North Pearl Street. Mayor Winward will consult with arborist Ian Kingsley to see if any remediation needs to be done by the Village.
* Charles Powell re: the cutting of trees on the Downey property at 3 Brook Street. The mayor stated that there has been no update from the DEC, who met with Mr. Downey at the end of March. She stated that Mr. Downey has not applied for any permits with the Village.
* Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club re: donation for their Annual Kids Fishing Derby. Upon motion by Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Biro, enacted all in favor, $500 will be donated to the Fish and Fur Club.
* Haldane School Foundation re: Geocache/Scavenger Hunt. They are seeking permission to use the Nelsonville Woods for this event. The Village has asked to be listed as an additional insured and will give permission.

**Reports**

Clerk Harris

Clerk Harris read the Treasurers’ Report.

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Treasurer's Report

31-Mar-23

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GENERAL FUND

Previous Balance $325,443.87

Receipts:

 Total $17,033.54

Disbursements:

 Total $27,196.08

Current Balance $315,281.33

Checking Account $315,282.54

Savings Account $124,359.30

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TOTAL $439,641.84

Mayor Winward

Mayor Winward reported that the 2023/2024 budget was adopted at the Budget Hearing on April 12, 2023. She reported that the budget is balanced, with a 2.99% increase totaling $8741.00.

Trustee Zhynovitch

Trustee Zhynovitch reported on the Earth Day nature walk in the Nelsonville Woods that took place on Sunday, April 16 with educator Peter Cutul. Many native plants were identified, and an eagle’s nest was spotted. She hopes this nature walk will become an annual Earth Day tradition.

Trustee Moroney

Trustee Moroney reported that the yard debris pick-up will be Saturday, May 13, and reminded residents that large branches and tree limbs are not allowed. The Royal Carting bulk trash pick-up will be Friday, June 9. A list of acceptable items will be sent out via email by the clerk, and posted on the website and Village Facebook page. Mayor Winward added that there will be a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off at Fahnestock Park on May 6.

**New Business**

May 8 Joint Public Session on Fjord Trail

Mayor Winward stated that there will be a May 8th Joint Public Session with the Village of Cold Spring and the Town of Philipstown. Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and State Office of Parks have accepted an invitation to answer questions presented by the municipalities and the public. This public session was planned in order to give residents and elected officials a voice to express concerns about the Fjord Trail. She stated that while the State’s nonprofit partner, HHFT, a subsidiary of Scenic Hudson has had many public sessions, the public and elected officials are not feeling heard about the very serious concerns they are having about the number of visitors the Trail will bring, and the environmental impacts. Many feel that the current public forums have not allowed proper Q&A or input. The mayor stated that the style of meetings has been to present info on posterboards in corners and not bring questions for the whole group to hear the responses to. The municipalities of Cold Spring, Nelsonville, and Philipstown - although the most impacted by the trail – are not the lead agencies – Parks and by extension their partner, HHFT are. Therefore – the three municipalities felt it important to have them come and answer questions in a format that all could participate in and hear responses. The mayor is thankful the State and HHFT have agreed to do so. She hopes that all have seen the process to collect some questions from the public in advance of the meeting to make sure HHFT and the State come with answers. Folks can submit questions online or hard copy in any of the municipal offices, and we can have them entered for someone if doing so online is difficult. Importantly, residents may also present comments or questions at the meeting as well, and she highly encourages folks to do so, even if they have submitted questions in advance. It is so important for the State and HHFT, and all the elected officials to hear what the public’s concerns are. The mayor stated that she feels very strongly that the Trail as currently planned does not have to be a done deal and this is a very important opportunity for to advocate for changes if desired. To make sure there is enough time to hear from everyone, there will be a 3 min time limit per person at the mtg.

The mayor discussed the Nelsonville specific concerns as follows:

* The Trail will likely have spill over affects into the Nelsonville Woods. The Washburn Trail links directly into our woods, which we maintain and have very little resources to do so.
* Shared concern of many in the greater community that Cold Spring will be even more inundated with visitors and impact our quality of life and ability to access the commercial and cultural hub of Cold Spring that attracted residents to settle here.
* Our residents want improved access to the Trail. Right now, the sidewalks on 9D/Morris Avenue end half way. It would help visitors and residents alike to extend the sidewalks all the way to Little Stoney Point.

Budget Transfers

Clerk Harris reviewed the necessary budget transfers. Upon motion by Mayor Winward, seconded by Trustee Zhynovitch, enacted all in favor, the budget transfers were approved.

**Projected Expense Deficits**

Clerk Codification 1325.43 $2,372.00

Clerk Contractual 1325.44 $1,852.14

Election 1450.5 $140.00

Buildings 1620.4 $6,410.40

Buildings 1620.41 $1,985.00

Bldgs - Electricity $1,651.87

Insurance 1910.4 $174.79

Fire Inspector 3620.43 $72.00

St. Mtce General 5110.41 $1,000.00

Pearl St. Sewer 5110.43 $2,356.87

St. Lighting 5182.4 $1,650.00

Cultural 7550.4 $582.97

Planning Board 8020.4 $69.00

**Total****$20,317.04**

**Projected Expense Surplus**

Fuel1620.42 $3,000.00

NYS Retirement 9010.8 $1,320.00

Law Contractual 1420.43 $5,000.00

Law 1420.4 $3,300.00

Engineer 1440.4 $2,500.00

Contingency 1990.0 $300.00

Hydrants 3410.4 $200.00

**Total $15,620.00**

**Old Business**

New Law Firm

Mayor Winward stated that she and Trustee Zhynovitch have talked to five or six law firms to replace our current representation, Daniels, Porco and Lusardi, since Bob Lusardi announced his retirement effective May 31, 2023. She stated that the going rate for firms is at $200-250 per hour, and she is hopeful there is room to negotiate. She and Trustee Zhynovitch are planning to have a contract in hand by the May 15 board meeting.

CCA Update

Mayor Winward stated that after favorable bidding earlier this month, the village entered into an agreement to join a CCA with a 2-year fixed rate and using 50% renewable energy sources from Direct Energy. Although all parties asked repeatedly for an opt-in, the program only works on an opt-out basis in order to have enough group purchasing power. However, residents may opt-out immediately or at any time and you may also opt back in at any time. Importantly, residents may also change to the standard rate (which is a mix of primarily non-renewable energy sources similar to CH’s current source mix) or may change to 100% renewable whenever they like as well. For those who prefer the standard or least expensive rate, this offers residents a choice that they did not have before with Central Hudson. Direct Energy will likely be sourcing from different suppliers for the standard rate so residents may be able to get a better deal than with Central Hudson. An in person Q&A event is confirmed for May 23 at 7pm at Village hall. A Zoom Q&A option will be offered as well on May 20 at 11am and on May 27 at 1pm. Residents will be sent the opt-out letter with clear instructions soon. The opt-out options are by sending back a provided post card, online, or by phone. The change-over will begin in July.

Open to the Floor

There were questions from several residents regarding both the CCA opt-out, as well as questions about the Downey property and the Department of Environmental Conservation’s involvement. Mayor Winward summarized the DEC timeline, and will continue to keep residents updated.

Adjournment

Upon motion of Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Campanile, enacted all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully presented,

Melissa Harris

Village Clerk