

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2009

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efrem Citarella, Fire Deputy George Wahlers, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes.

MINUTES

Mr. Wahlers made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Citarella seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

Wright's Court - A memo dated September 14, 2009 was received from the Town Engineer regarding the Wright's Court Site Plan. According to Section 503.1.2 *Additional Access* of the Fire Code of New York State, "Additional fire apparatus access roads shall be required by the code enforcement official based on the potential for impairment of a single road by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions or other factors that could limit access." The Somers Volunteer Fire Department finds it imperative to have full access to the egress of all three buildings on this site in case of a medical or fire emergency. A reply memo will be sent to Guy Gagne.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes reported on the following:

Dry Hydrants - A discussion has been ongoing about the dry hydrants in Town in terms of their maintenance and testing. The Somers Fire District is willing to take over ownership and maintenance of them after they have been tested. Mr. Byrnes reported that all of the dry hydrants on public property have been tested and are operating, with the exception of the one on Sunderland Lane. A dive drill will be performed to clear the blockage.

Moving forward, the Bureau of Fire Prevention will be consulted by the Town to make a decision as to whether or not a developer is required to install a hydrant.

Mr. Wahlers asked about the hydrant at Heritage Farm. Mr. Premuroso is working with the owner with regard to rectifying the problems with that hydrant.

DEPUTIES REPORT

Deputy Vigliotti was not present, therefore a report was not given.

Deputy Wahlers reported on the following:

1 Maple Avenue - The Fire Department responded to a call at 1 Maple Avenue. They had some equipment and a minimal amount of gas cans being stored on the property. Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers will do a site visit and bring the owner flammable materials stickers to be posted.

233 Route 202 - A fire and building safety inspection was done by Mr. Citarella and Mr. Premuroso on September 8, 2009. There is a three family residence on the property. A letter was sent to the owner itemizing corrections needed within 30 days to prevent any further legal action.

Building Department Notification - All agreed that if a dangerous situation is visible outside of a single or two family dwelling, the Bureau Deputies will complete a deposition and the Building Department will issue a violation.

Wooded Acres - Roads have been cut and paved, and street signs installed (Mayflower Lane, Ferdinand Drive East and North) in this subdivision, between Pinesbridge Road and South Lane. An inquiry was made as to whether or not the street signs were approved by the Town. A memo was sent to the Town Board, but an update has not been received. Another memo will be sent.

School Parking - There has been an ongoing concern about the parking situation at the schools during dismissal time. In January, a memo was sent to the Town Board regarding legislation for fire zone enforcement. A memo was received back in February indicating that the draft of the legislation was forwarded to the school district administration for input. Mrs. Schirmer sent a memo in April to the School District Superintendent requesting an update, and there was no response. In July, Mrs. Schirmer was directed to call the School District Superintendent's office. They requested that a copy of the correspondence be sent to them, which was done. In return, the School Superintendent sent a copy of a letter from their attorney, dated April 2, 2009 regarding the issue. They indicated that the Supervisor's office was emailed a copy of the letter on April 15, 2009. The letter stated that research indicated that the Town does not have the independent authority to designate parking restrictions on School District property. Mr. Wahlers would like to pursue this further. Mr. Premuroso will contact the State Health and Safety office. The next step may be to write a letter to the School Board with a copy to the School District Superintendent.

Lupi's Bikeway Plaza - Cars are parking on both sides of the entrance, therefore not leaving enough room for emergency vehicle access. In addition,

there is a backdoor sign that reads "Raceway Entrance". This door leads to the basement of the building and they were told they could not race in the basement, as it is against Town Code. The hobby shop was told however, that they could race upstairs, and the sign was to be removed. Mr. Citarella and Mr. Premuroso will do a site visit.

Tennis Academy - There has been concern over parking at the Tennis Academy on Orchard Hill Road. Mr. Citarella has met with the owner. Issues still exist. He and Mr. Premuroso will plan another site visit.

Properties with Multi Dwellings - There are a few properties in Town with multi dwellings. There has been past concern over numbering and signage on these properties, as it relates to a fire or ambulance call. Mr. Premuroso will be in touch with the owners of the following: Stuart's Farm, Schwartz's Horse Farm, Tri Star Group (Mahopac Avenue), Tennis Academy (Orchard Hill Road) and Amawalk Farm (Wood Street) to resolve this issue.

Residence on Mekeel Street - There is a home on Mekeel Street that has an in the ground pool that is not fenced in, and they are using a shed as an illegal apartment. Mr. Citarella will follow up.

Amawalk Water Treatment Plant - The Amawalk Water Treatment Plant is willing to allow the Fire Department to install a hydrant on the property outside of the gated area, in the interior of the property, but want to know who would pay for it. A memo was sent to Steve Pilla, Chairman of the Somers Fire District, but a response was not received. Mr. Wahlers will speak to Fire District Commissioner Paul Green about an update.

Somers Central School District Bus Garage - Mr. Premuroso will contact Robert Klick, Assistant Supervisor of Building and Grounds to make the arrangements to have him and Mr. Wahlers tour the new bus garage. The Somers Fire Chief will be invited to attend as well. It has also been suggested that a Fire Department drill take place at the garage in the future.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Premuroso reported on the following:

Truss Construction Identification - Costs for these signs have been secured and Mr. Premuroso will be ordering them.

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - Samples of Fire Alarm Permit stickers. Once the stickers are ordered and received, they will be sent to all permit holders. Unfortunately a freeze on spending has been put forth by the Town Board. The stickers cannot be purchased until the freeze is rescinded.

Fire Prevention - Fire Prevention programs will be done this week with the students at the Primrose Elementary and Somers Intermediate Schools.

Pepsi - Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers will be meeting with the Fire Wardens at Pepsi to discuss their evacuation plan.

The Willows - The hydrants at The Willows will be flow tested on Wednesday, October 7.

Heritage Hills - All but one of the hydrants at Heritage Hills that were painted red have been painted yellow. The one hydrant was omitted in error and will be repainted. Beginning next week, they will be testing and flushing their hydrants. It will take about 6 weeks to do since there are so many hydrants in Heritage Hills.

Somers Sport and Fitness - The Fire Department responded to a call recently at Somers Sport and Fitness. They didn't evacuate and the workers didn't seem to know whether it was a fire alarm or a burglar alarm.

Citizens Bank - A key for the Citizens Bank could not be located in the knox box. Mr. Wahlers said that he was told by a representative of the Astoria Bank that it is against the law for a bank to leave a key to the bank in the knox box. Somers Fire Department 2nd Assistant Chief Mike Cyrulik has been asked to check all knox boxes in Town to be sure that there are keys in them.

IBM - IBM will be conducting their fire evacuation drill on October 14. Mr. Premuroso will be in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Code – In 2007, Chapters 4, 26, 62, 98 and 116 of the Town Code were reviewed and changes made, and noted. Chapter 158 still has to be reviewed. Since the Town committee created to review the Town Code in its entirety has not met in quite some time, this item is not urgent. The Bureau will review Chapter 158 in the near future, and at that time, will address the following: fire lanes at commercial sites in Town, and deciding which chapter should include the topic of dry hydrants and fire hydrants, to include color coding of all fire hydrants. Once completed, all changes will be forwarded to the Town Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Bureau of Fire Prevention

cc: Bureau of Fire Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning & Engineering Department
Somers Fire District