

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2009

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efreem Citarella, Fire Deputy George Wahlers, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers 1st Assistant Fire Chief John Meeker.

MINUTES

Mr. Premuroso requested that a change be made to the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting minutes. Under "Amawalk Water Treatment Plant" in the "Deputies Report" section, the 1st sentence should be changed to read, "The Amawalk Water Treatment Plant is willing to allow the Fire Department to install a hydrant on the property outside of the gated area, but want to know who would pay for it."

Mr. Citarella made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting as amended. Mr. Wahlers seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

The Mews at Baldwin Place - The Bureau met with the Architect, A.J. Coppola; Engineer, Rich Williams, and the Realtor, Ken Kearney for The Mews at Baldwin Place, which is the senior housing (rentals for 62 and older) component of the Somers Planned Hamlet. The site plan was reviewed and discussed. A request is being made that two parking spaces be removed from the main entrances of both buildings to allow for fire and medical emergency vehicles. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Wright's Court - On September 14, 2009 a memo was received from the Town Engineer regarding the Wright's Court site plan. The Bureau had previously requested that an emergency access be placed across the proposed courtyard between the buildings, as it is imperative that the Somers Volunteer Fire Department have full access to the egress of all three buildings on the site in case of a fire or medical emergency. The Planning Board requested the code referencing emergency access. A reply memo was sent on October 16, 2009 referencing Section 503.1.2 *Additional Access* of the Fire Code of New York State. It reads, "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." On October 22, 2009, a follow up memo was received from Mr. Gagne, with an email attachment from Planning Board member John Keane. Mr. Keane is requesting that the Bureau reconsider their request for code

compliance to Chapter 5 of the New York State Fire Code. Although the Bureau appreciates Mr. Keane's input, the recommendation stands as originally submitted. Recent review of the updated site plan reflected the recommendation and it looks quite nice. A memo will be sent to Mr. Gagne.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes was absent. John Meeker, 1st Assistant Fire Chief attended in his place and reported on the following:

168 Route 118 Structure Fire - On October 29 there was a structure fire at 168 Route 118. The fire may have been caused by a combination of chimney failure, rotted beams and electrical. A complete fire investigation has been done. The house is able to be rebuilt.

DEPUTIES REPORT

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

Deputy Wahlers had nothing new to report this evening.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Premuroso did not have anything new to report this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Heritage Farm - Mr. Premuroso met with the owner and gave him a plan to correct the problem with the hydrant.

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 medical call. The situation has been resolved at 233 Route 202 and Tri Star Group (Mahopac Avenue). Mrs. Schirmer will draft a letter to the owners of the following: Stuart's Farm, Schwartz's Horse Farm, Tennis Academy (Orchard Hill Road) and Amawalk Farm (Wood Street) in an effort to resolve these issues.

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 has to order flammable materials stickers. Upon receipt, he and Mr. Wahlers will conduct a site visit and have the owners post them.

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. The Town Board only approved two signs, Mayflower Lane and Ferdinand Drive. The Bureau agrees that the three road signs are needed for fire and medical emergencies, but the Town has to recognize these roads. A memo will be sent to the Town Planner, with a copy to the Town Board.

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 has a call into David Clapp, of the State Education Health and Safety office. An update will be given in December.

Lupi's Bikeway Plaza - 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. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers will conduct 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. Another site visit has to be conducted.

37 Mekeel Street - There is a home at 37 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, 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 to get an update.

Somers Central School District Bus Garage - Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers were supposed to meet with Robert Klick, Assistant Supervisor of Building and

Grounds to tour the new bus garage, but the meeting had to be cancelled due to a water emergency in Heritage Hills. The meeting will be rescheduled.

Grand Central Deli - It was previously reported that gas cans and gas powered equipment was being stored in the basement of Grand Central Deli. An inspection was done and they have removed the gas cans, as well as the equipment. A fire door was installed and the walls and ceiling of the basement were sheetrocked. A follow up inspection will be done by Mr. Premuroso.

12 Louis Drive - The wall between the garage and the basement at 12 Louis Drive was widened so that a small vehicle could access the basement. Jet skis were being repaired in the basement as well. An inspection was done and they were told they had to repair the wall and install a fire door. A follow up inspection will be conducted by Mr. Citarella.

Truss Construction Identification - Costs for these signs have been secured. Those for Granite Springs Realty (day care center) will be ordered first.

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - Samples of Fire Alarm Permit stickers have been obtained. Once the stickers are ordered and received, they will be sent to all permit holders. Hopefully 2010 budget funds will allow for this purchase right after the new year.

Mrs. Schirmer had been receiving regular updates via email from the dispatchers office when a fire alarm was responded to and a permit was not on file. She has not heard from anyone in quite some time. Evidently that person is no longer working in the office. Mr. Meeker will investigate and report back to Mrs. Schirmer.

Fire Prevention - All fire prevention programs were held as scheduled and were well received. Mr. Premuroso thanked the Fire Department for all their hard work and effort.

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

The Willows - The hydrants at The Willows were flow tested on Wednesday, October 7 and the results received.

Heritage Hills - All of the hydrants at Heritage Hills that were painted red have now been painted yellow. They are in the process of testing and flushing the hydrants.

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. Mr. Premuroso will speak

to the owners.

IBM - IBM conducted their fire evacuation drill on October 14. Mr. Premuroso was in attendance and all went well.

Astoria Bank - Mr. Premuroso will follow up to see if the old fire alarm system has been removed.

Open Gate - They have finally put key operated pull stations in the residential cottages at Open Gate. They are also working with a company to resolve the kitchen ventilation problem they have been experiencing. There was a problem with cars blocking the fire hydrants, it turned out to be the staff and it was dealt with. It was reported that they will be tearing down their maintenance building. Once that is done, the maintenance department will be operating off site.

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 at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 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