

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2009

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efreem Citarella, Fire Deputy Al Vigliotti, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Citarella seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

Opengate - A site plan to widen the parking lot at Opengate was received and reviewed. There were no objections. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board. In addition, a Notice of Intent for the Planning Board to act as Lead Agency for this project was received.

Homeland Towers, LLC - 121 Route 100 Cell Tower - A Notice of Intent for the Zoning Board of Appeals to act as Lead Agency for this project was received.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes reported on the following:

6 Manor Lane - There was a carbon monoxide incident at the group home at 6 Manor Lane. Fifteen residents and staff were treated and/or transported to the hospital. The low levels of carbon monoxide found were either caused by a down draft from an old boarded up fireplace or a chimney that was never cleaned. Mr. Citarella reported that the Director of the group home followed up with him two days after the incident, and both the boiler and chimney had be cleaned.

Lovell Street - A brush fire covering about 4 acres occurred on Lovell Street by Lakeshore Drive South. This is the third time there was a brush fire in this area. It is believed that they are being caused by the power lines.

Somers Woods Development - Last month, Mr. Byrnes received a SEQRA notice for the Somers Woods Development on Route 100. He did make some comments.

School District Fire Inspection - The fire inspection for the School District

should have taken place between February 15 and April 30. Mr. Byrnes reported that he was never notified of the inspection, as required by State law, nor was he given a copy of the report generated.

DEPUTIES REPORT

Deputy Vigliotti reported on the following:

Hydrant in the Business Historic Preservation District - In August, information was forwarded by the Town Engineer regarding grants available for this type of project. Although Mr. Vigliotti believes it is the Town's responsibility to research the grant since the Bureau is volunteer, he will take a look at the website.

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

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Fire Inspector Premuroso reported on the following:

Heritage Hills - The previously reported water problem at Heritage Hills has been resolved. It was a water flow issue.

OLD BUSINESS

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 sent 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. Mr. Citarella heard back from Mr. Stuart, he is in the process of putting up signs. The owner of the Tennis Academy contacted him as well. A site visit was done and signs have been put up.

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 ordered flammable materials stickers. He and Mr. Wahlers will conduct a site visit and have the owner 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 approved all three signs at their November 12, 2009 meeting.

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 called David Clapp, of the State Education Health and Safety Office, and he indicated that this is a Statewide problem. If the schools are concerned with these types of situations, it is really up to them to resolve them with the local authorities.

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 - A site visit was conducted. The owner reassured Mr. Citarella that the tennis courts are used by her and her friends only. At any given time there will be no more than four cars at the courts.

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 apartment. A site visit was done and a violation was issued for not having a fence around the pool. There was no evidence of anyone living in the shed.

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 indicated last month that he would speak to Fire District Commissioner Paul Green to get an update. Mr. Byrnes reported that this was previously discussed in the spring. Unfortunately there is no funding available for a new hydrant. There is a hydrant located up the street, at Liberty Way and Chalmers Boulevard that can be used if ever needed.

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 and Mr. Wahlers.

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 - The signs to identify truss construction have been ordered. At some point all buildings in Town with truss construction will be identified, but Mr. Premuroso will begin with Granite Springs Realty and North County on Route 118 and the Lincoln Hall sewer treatment plant.

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - Mr. Premuroso has ordered Fire Alarm Permit stickers. They will be sent to all Fire Alarm Permit holders, with a request that they be displayed near the front door of the building/residence.

Fire Alarms - Mrs. Schirmer had been receiving regular updates via email from the dispatcher's office when a fire alarm was responded to and a permit was not on file. She had not heard from anyone in quite some time. Evidently that person is no longer working in the office. Mr. Meeker said he would investigate and report back to Mrs. Schirmer. In the meantime, Mr. Wahlers sent a letter via email to Steve Pilla to try and resolve this situation. Mrs. Schirmer took it upon herself to resume visiting the dispatch office once a month to pick up the reports. She has done so in November and December, and the files have been brought up to date.

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 spoke to the owners.

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

Angle Fly Preserve - A memo was received from the Town Board regarding a request from the Somers Land Trust to officially name the two roads in Angle Fly Preserve now that it is open to the public. The names proposed are Reynolds Road (for the roadway leading to the condos) and Tatham Lane (for the roadway leading to the Tatham house). Mr. Byrnes indicated that since the roads are dead ends, they really should not be called a "Road" or a "Lane", but a "Court". A discussion took place and the Bureau would like the roadways to be called Reynolds House Court and Tatham Mansion Court. A memo will be sent to the Town Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010 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