

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**January 9, 2024**  
**Track #80**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on January 9, 2024. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Botto, Damm, Village Attorney Ring, Treasurer Mequia, Building Inspector Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the December 2023 Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Dan Falasco, the Village Engineer called in to report that we need to set up a meeting with the Town of Smithtown to address Millers Pond issues. The heavy rains and the high intensity of the rains for longer periods of time are wreaking havoc. The ground is super saturated, and water has nowhere to go. The storms are back-to-back, and residents have changed the grades of their properties with decks, pools, etc.... so it changes the flow of water. Mr. Falasco emphasized we need to take a regional approach to this because a lot of water is coming into this area. Mr. Falasco suggested the end of the week to see what's going on in the Town of Smithtown. He also mentioned the boards were pulled at Millers Pond per Leslie Kennedy.

Trustee Botto also mentioned the stream is a foot lower in one area than the other areas of the stream. Jim Deutch of Town of Smithtown Highway wants to set up a meeting with Trustees Botto and Damm next week. Trustee Botto said National Grid will be repaving Birchbrook and will pay for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cost to pave the street. The Town of Smithtown will be charging us for the curbing through a IMA contract.

Trustee Damm asked Trustee Botto if Mr. Murphy, TOS Highways Supervisor got in touch with him about the bridge over the stream at Old Route 111.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to open the public meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Deacon Jerry Reid – Volunteer member of the St. Patrick's Church in Smithtown, clergy for 9 years. Since Covid there have been many increases to the Church, insurance has gone up 60% and they are looking for ways to fundraise. There is a new Monsignor Brian Mc Namara who is only 1 of 8 Chaplains in USA. Also, Loius Cona who is Associate Pastor is present. Mr. Reid realizes there are laws in the Village of the Branch and certain events are not allowed in the Historic District. St. Patrick's is experiencing a financial crisis, and the school/church is in the red. Mr. Reid proposes to operate a festival in the front parking lot, not the sports area as they want to be good responsible neighbors. Mr. Reid and Monsignor McNamara worked together at St. Philip and James and successfully ran a carnival there for 17 years. They have worked with a company called Newton that is located locally, and they run the carnival/festivals. Trustee Carro mentioned to Mr. Reid that the Village does not allow "mechanical rides" and asked him when he planned on doing this festival. Mr. Reid said looking to do it Thursday – Sunday. The Board mentioned we don't allow multiple days in a row like that, and Mr. Reid asked if they could do it in the fields behind the rectory and Trustee Carro still said no mechanical rides. Trustee Botto said he supported the cause since he knows the church is hurting. The Board said they would get back to them by next month at the Board meeting in February.

Robert Lamonte – Uncle Giuseppe’s representative inquiring about storage refrigerators, how many they can have and for how long. Also, can they put a 4<sup>th</sup> one for Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to close the public meeting. Trustee Carro seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Auditors done.
- Still have 3 outstanding tax arrears.
- W2’s are being done this week.
- Made nice interest with NYCLASS by moving money from savings to checking for the higher rate.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2204 totaling \$22,805.63. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

### **Attorney Ring’s Report**

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Sent letter to Mr. Ewart at 9 Branch Drive.
- Sent the Village the TOS Fire District letter for conflict of interest.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to sign the conflict-of-interest letter with Smithtown FD. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

### **Building Inspector Arico’s Report**

Building Inspector reported that:

- Received \$1,950 income.
- 3 Permits, 7 CO’s, 21 inspections
- Sent letter to builder to remove pod from 9 Branch property, summons for the pod in 10 days if not removed by then.
- Frank Mannino was issued summonses for dumpsters and Mr. Arico told her those need to go to the landlord not the tenant.
- Scott is no longer with Public Safety so now have Brett Bailey back.
- Met Fire Marshall regarding code changes.
- Jacks Tobacco has been compliant.

### **Trustee Carro’s Report**

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Justice Court – No Court in December.
- Stop sign faded at Walsh Way by St. Patrick’s church and it is dangerous.

### **Trustee Botto's Report**

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Spoke to Dan about the stream, will speak to Town of Smithtown with Dan Falasco.
- Spoke to Bob and Jim from TOS Highway Dept about the bridge and putting the footings on the back side of the existing footings.

### **Trustee Damm's Report**

Trustee Damm reported that:

- On site botanist, was a former diplomat with the Nissequogue State Association and is a Greenbelt member, is clearing out invasive vines in the stream.
- Lots of debris and branches on the corner of Woodhollow and Sutton Place.
- Birchbrook fence is done and did a nice job.

### **Trustee Ryan's Report**

Trustee Ryan was not present to report:

### **Mayor Delaney Report**

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Trees, signs, and holiday RSVP.
- .Gov update.
- Suffolk County Planning Commission, Chris Ring will investigate.
- Asked all employees to get their sexual harassment and workplace violence training done.
- Need to get purchasing policy examples from Chris Ring

Special Use Permit – SHS- Birthday party 2/03/24 – Approved.  
SHS – Launch Party 2/08/24-Approved.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to abolish village registration day. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to identify the village election polling place as 40 Route 111 Smithtown NY from noon- 9pm. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting at 9:07pm. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine  
Village Clerk