

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 6, 2008**

Mayor James M. Gaughan  
Trustee William F. Aylward  
Trustee Kerry Dineen  
Trustee Christine Marshall  
Trustee Dean Whalen

Michael Moore, Attorney  
Jean La Crosse, Clerk  
Patricia Blackwood, Deputy Clerk  
Timothy McIntyre, DPW  
Paul Miller, Chief AFD

Donald F. Cropsey, Jr.

**7:30 pm**

Mayor Gaughan called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keith Lee, Co-Chairman of the Parks committee, forwarded a monthly report to the Board of Trustees relating to the various fall functions in the Village parks. The report highlighted recent activity located along the planting strip in front of Knowersville Plaza. In order to improve the sight line for vehicles exiting the Plaza, trees and shrubbery were removed and relocated to the Maple Avenue Park. Ornamental grasses and sedum have replaced the trees in this area with additional planting planned for the spring. The complete Park's report will be entered into the official Board Minutes' records.

Trustee Aylward inquired about a potential sight obstruction at Schoharie Plank Road (E). Superintendent McIntyre says that there is not a significant issue and as the trees grow the sight clearance will continue to improve. Mayor Gaughan states that we continue to remodel and refurbish the Village streetscape and with patience we will achieve our common goals of beautifying the Village.

Mayor Gaughan acknowledged the recent milestone anniversary celebrations of William and Sylvia Aylward for 50 years of marriage as well as Gordon and Marsha Perlee for 60 years of marriage. An official letter of congratulations will be sent to the celebrants.

Donald F. Cropsey, Jr. reported that the Planning Board heard their first request under the new Zoning Law for a Special Use Permit and have successfully approved the opening of a new Chinese Restaurant at Altamont Plaza in the center Business District. The Planning Board is considering further training exercises in the way of "mock hearings" assisted by Mr. Cropsey, Jean La Crosse and volunteers.

Timothy McIntyre reports that the new plow truck will be ready for service following lettering, licensing and insurance certification. Leaf and lawn collection will continue through November.

Trustee Whalen provided a written report on the Crouse House. As we continue to move forward with the redevelopment of this historic property Trustee Whalen has outlined five steps for the committee's consideration: 1) intended uses for the building; 2) building stabilization; 3) design plans; 4) Budget, and 5) funding. A full copy of the report will be entered into the official Board Minutes' records. The committee's membership includes: Shelly Johnston, Civil Engineer; Marijo Dougherty, Archivist; Alice Begley, Town and Village Historian; Patty Blackwood, Deputy Village Clerk; Cindy Wadach, Town of Guilderland Senior Services Coordinator, and Dean Whalen, Architect and Village Trustee.

Trustee Dineen reported that the Business Collaborations initiative project is back on track following the distribution of welcome packages to new 2008 property owners who were enthusiastic over the recognizable new business growth in Altamont. A meeting is planned for 7:00 pm Monday, November 17, 2008 at the Hungerford Market. Local Business owners as well as those on the outlying areas of Altamont are welcome to attend and share ideas.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve the Treasurer's report, Abstract #9 and Abstract #10. **All in favor.**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to accept the bid, submitted by Don Cornell, Highway Superintendent Town of Wright, in the amount of \$8,601.00 on 1998 Ford F700 Dump Truck, Surplus Equipment per recommendation of Timothy McIntyre, Superintendent of Public Works. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Marshall made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to approve holding Village Election on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 per Election Law § 15-104(1)(b). **All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve the appointment of Thomas M. Tubbs, Jr., Main Street, for membership in Altamont Fire Department per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to approval the Altamont Fire Department's participation in the City of Schenectady's Annual Holiday Parade on November 22, 2008 per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen for approval of new officers elected into office by the membership of the Altamont Fire Department on Monday, Nov 3, 2008 per request of Chief Miller as follows: Paul Miller, Chief; 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Robert White, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Mark Wertman. **All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to hold a Public Hearing on December 2, 2008 on Local Law No. 4-2008 Village Recycling Law. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve a connection to Village Water for a single family dwelling at 124 GI Road SBL 37.04-2-39 per request of Troy Miller. Superintendent of Public Works, Tim McIntyre, has reviewed the application and approved the connection. **Roll Call: All in favor**

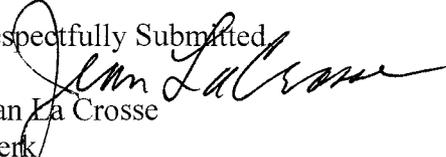
Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve a connection to Village Water for a multi- family home at 220 Brandle Road SBL 37.00-3-9 per request of Carl A. Felix. Superintendent of Public Works, Tim McIntyre, has reviewed the application and approved the connection. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve an Amendment for Legal Services from Michael J. Moore for a fee of \$14,400 annually billed at \$1,200/month. This proposal will take effect January 1, 2009. All Other terms of the December 2007 Agreement would remain the same. This arrangement will be reviewed by Young Sommer..LLC and the Village in December 2009. The rates proposed in this amendment will not change during 2009. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve Board Minutes for September and October 2008. **All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to adjourn at 9:00 pm. **All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jean La Crosse  
Clerk

November 6, 2008

Dear Jean:

Please ask the Village Board to pass a resolution to approve payments of the following abstracts:

**ABSTRACT #9**

GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,219.68
WATER FUND	3,227.03
SEWER FUND	<u>244.15</u>
TOTAL	\$5,690.86

**ABSTRACT #10**

GENERAL FUND	\$104,910.13
WATER FUND	24,663.31
SEWER FUND	<u>30,254.77</u>
TOTAL	\$159,828.21

Note: \$107,000 was transferred from the General Fund Reserve (\$76,000), Water Fund Reserve (\$15,500) and Sewer Fund Reserve (\$15,500) to pay for the new Dump Truck. \$8,600 is being approved for the sale of the old dump truck. \$4,699.89 will come from the General Fund \$3,000, Water Fund \$800, Sewer Fund \$899.89 equipment lines.

Also, please approve the following transfers:

**General Fund**

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
\$2,000	A1990.400 CONT. FUND	A8030.400 PLANNING RESEARCH

**Water Fund**

\$580	F1990.400 Cont. Fund	F8320.402 Power/Township/Reservoir
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**TO:** Mayor Gaughan & Village Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Keith C. Lee  
**DATE:** November 6, 2008  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Report from the Parks Committee

This report covers the months of September and October, which are traditionally the "clean up" times for gardens.

The Village volunteers have added a new planting area to the gardens and green spaces that will be maintained in the coming years. The 86 foot long planting strip in front of Knowersville Plaza until recently contained three lilac trees and various other shrubs. The combination of a very shallow growing area and a need to improve the sight line for vehicles exiting the Plaza resulted in the removal of the trees and most of the shrubbery. The trees have been relocated to Maple Avenue Park, and the two most viable shrubs (potentilla) have been moved and replanted in the strip. Three varieties of ornamental grasses - zebra (*miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus'), Karl Foerster (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster') and fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln') - have been planted, as well as "Autumn Joy" sedum, in the strip. The grasses and the sedum were either donated or taken from plantings in other parts of the village. Annual blooming plants will be added in the spring.

#### **Orsini Park & Angel Park**

The weeping cherry trees came back from their radical pruning last winter, and have flourished this summer. Our thanks to the Village's DPW staff for the repair and painting of the gazebo. The two goose-neck lighting poles in the park are scheduled to be replaced by lighting fixtures that are more in keeping with the Village's Victorian character. The replacement by National Grid will be done at no expense to the village.

#### **Entrance, Bozenkill Park**

The master gardeners from Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension have been cutting back the summer's growth and weeding in the entrance garden. The plan for next summer will be to remove some of the ornamental grasses from this garden to open up the opportunity for a larger variety of additional plantings.

The tulip trees, sycamores, and one crimson birch that were added to the park have survived the summer and appear to be thriving. Of the trees added last fall, one of the red oaks was replaced and one of the white oaks may have to be replaced as well. In the last year a total of 14 trees have been added to the park.

## **Maple Avenue Park**

As you know, the primary activity this summer was the installation of a pre-school playground in Maple Avenue Park. The components of the playground were selected after consulting with the parents and board of the Altamont Cooperative Preschool, and are appropriate for ages 5 and under. In addition to the equipment, limestone 'bench' boulders were purchased to provide seating in and around the playground.

The three lilac trees from Knowersville Plaza have been relocated here, near the culvert on the south side of the park.

The removal of the summer's growth has nearly been completed, with the cutting back of the hostas remaining.

## **Western & Maple Ave/Bridge**

The mock orange and viburnum bushes were pruned and shaped after bloom, and the whole area was weeded. Gradually, flowering plants will be added to this area to provide more color and interest in all seasons.

## **Parking Area/Maple Ave/next to CW Fox**

No activity.

## **Triangle Garden/Schoharie Plank Rd W**

The garden has been cut back for winter, and some of the plants thinned to improve growth next year.

## **Triangle Garden/Maple Ave & Bozenkill Rd Intersection**

The two gardens in this area have been planted primarily with ornamental grasses. The ten varieties of grasses and six plantings of summer and fall blooming flowers have done very well over the summer. The area planted last year has filled in and showed significant growth, to the point where some of the grasses have been removed to allow for next year's growth. Plans are being discussed to add a third small planting area in the triangle.

## **Knowersville Plaza**

As noted above, this area has been renovated and will be regularly maintained by the village's gardening volunteers.

As always, we offer our thanks, particularly for the work at Knowersville Plaza, to Tim McIntyre and his DPW staff for their assistance, guidance, and patience.