

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
December 1, 2009

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

Michael Moore, Legal Council  
Patty Blackwood, Clerk  
Donald Cropsey, Jr., Building Inspector  
Paul Miller, Chief AFD      Guests 11

7:30 p.m.

Trustee Whalen introduced five members of Boy Scout Troop # 264 attending Board meeting in order to earn "Citizenship in the Community" Badge. Boy Scout Troop # 264 opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keith Lee, Co-Chairman of the Parks Committee, submitted a 2009 activity summary report to the Board of Trustees relating to the various yearly functions in the Village Parks. Trustee Marshall acknowledged Keith Lee on the extraordinary work that has been accomplished by the Parks Committee over the past year.

Mayor Gaughan reported Altamont Community Traditions "8<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Holidays" to be held in the Village on the weekend of December 5-6. Altamont Museum's event to be held weekend of December 5-6 is postponed due to health reasons of Marijo Dougherty, Museum Archivist. Altamont Free Library is collecting food, DVDs and games for the troops in the Middle East. For those donating to the troops in the Middle East, Altamont Free Library will waive any late library fees. Altamont Free Library has received donation of \$1,000 from Key Bank and permission to put routers on the roof of Key Bank in order for the library to offer wireless service in Orsini Park. Village of Altamont's website has had continual problems with virus alerts. Mayor Gaughan will come back to the Board next month with a proposal to upgrade Village website.

Paul Miller, Chief AFD, reported five calls for the month of November. Tanker chassis for new tanker truck will be in production at Toyne, Inc. on January 15, 2010.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to approve the Treasure's report; Abstract #12, Abstract #13 and transfer of funds as submitted.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

**Public Comment:**

Jim Gaige, 115 Prospect Terrace, stated light shining on flag in Orsini Park has been out for over one year and would like the flag in the Community Room to be replaced. Mayor Gaughan indicated that he would follow up with the Department of Public Works and the Volunteer Fire Dept.

Danny Ramirez, 141 Maple Avenue, stated SEFCU Bank lights are an issue when driving into the Village. The lights had deflectors on them in the past and don't appear to have the deflectors on them now making it hard to see in foul weather conditions. Mr. Ramirez gave the Village Board invitations to the Victorian Holiday festivities.

Donald Cropsey, Building Inspector, stated Town of Guilderland has been working with SEFCU Bank regarding their outside lights. SEFCU Bank must comply with NYS Banking Regulations for their ATM. Mr. Cropsey will continue to work with SEFCU Bank to have them come up with adequate shields for their lights and report on the matter at the next meeting.

Richard Straut, Barton & Loguidice, reported on Sanitary Sewer System and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Priorities. Village of Altamont was required by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation in its SPDES permit that was updated in July 2007 to investigate inflow and infiltration of storm water in the sanitary sewer system. The examinations undertaken by the Village have included efforts to identify sources of inflow and infiltration and work required to preclude storm water from entering the sanitary sewer system, as well as an examination of improvements of the wastewater treatment plant that, if made, would equip the plant to allow it to treat the high flows caused by inflow and infiltration without bypassing the biological treatment process.

Considering the apparent widespread nature of the Village's inflow and infiltration and the lack of storm sewers in parts of the Village with excessive inflow and infiltration, it is likely to take many years and significant funds to sufficiently reduce inflow and infiltration to the point where bypass of the existing treatment process would be eliminated, and it is further likely that such efforts would not achieve the end goal within reasonable cost and timeframes.

Considering current limitations of the treatment plant capacity and deteriorated condition of some of the process components, the Village is concerned that if available resources were applied solely toward eliminating inflow and infiltration in the Village's sewers, all available financial resources would be applied toward reducing inflow and infiltration, and would have ignored the need to plan for the necessary upgrade of the treatment plant.

Village examined the concept of upgrading its treatment plant, correcting the process plant deficiencies, as well as reducing inflow and infiltration, such that the overflows would be eliminated more quickly than through an inflow and infiltration reduction program alone.

At the direction of the Board of Trustees, Barton & Loguidice worked with Supt. of Public Works and Trustee Christine Marshall to develop an implementation plan for improvement of the sanitary sewer system and treatment plant based on findings of analysis to date. The "Proposed Prioritized Sanitary Sewer and Treatment System Work Plan" is to apply the Village's financial resources on a priority basis such that the Village can maintain its sanitary sewer infrastructure in a financial sustainable manner.

Trustee Marshall stated the "Proposed Prioritized Sanitary Sewer and Treatment System Work Plan" gives the Village a long-term capital improvement plan for the village's wastewater infrastructure.

Mayor Gaughan stated the draft "Proposed Plan" needs to be studied carefully and reviewed at each year's budget. Village of Altamont may be on a list to receive low interest loan in the future and Mayor Gaughan will continue to lobby for grants and low interest loans.

Trustee Aylward stated Village Board needs to get the support of the residents and funding is fundamental for the "Proposed Plan".

**Public Hearing 7:55 p.m.**

Public Hearing was opened with the reading of the Legal Notice by Michael Moore, Legal Council.

Mayor Gaughan reported "Code of the Village of Altamont" will be available on the internet once it's adopted. "Code of the Village of Altamont" is an effort of culmination of five years worth of work by Village Board and Village Board predecessors beginning with development of Comprehensive Plan, enactment of Sub-division regulations and Zoning regulations all of which occurred in the last four years. Last step in the process was an adoption of a resolution that was passed December 2007 approving Village to pay General Code to review "Code of the Village of Altamont" as it existed to make sure it was consistent internally and was up to date with codes in New York State.

Trustee Whalen stated he was involved in the process of the "Code of the Village of Altamont" particularly in the beginning regarding land use. Trustee Whalen reviewed "Schedule A" which is a summation of all changes General Code found were necessary to make to Village's previous codes to comply with formatting as well as complying with current code within New York State. Trustee Whalen stated he was pleasantly surprised he did not have a lot of questions regarding the changes made by General Code. All changes made by General Code made sense. Trustee Whalen stated he is comfortable with the changes General Code has proposed.

Harvey Vlahos, Main Street, inquired on the sale price of the "Code of the Village of Altamont", if they are available to the general public, if the "Code of the Village of Altamont" will be available to download online and if the online copy would be indexed.

Mayor Gaughan stated "Code of the Village of Altamont" will be indexed online. Mayor Gaughan reported Village is awaiting response from Albany County Planning Board prior to approving "Code of the Village of Altamont". Any feedback from them will be discussed at the next meeting. If no response from Albany County Planning Board after thirty days, Board will go ahead with enacting "Code of the Village of Altamont".

Trustee Whalen reported Village has ten copies of "Code of the Village of Altamont" that will eventually be distributed. One copy will remain with Village Clerk for residents to use at the village office.

Trustee Whalen stated if a change is made to "Code of the Village of Altamont" the change automatically is reflected and tracked throughout the entire book.

Mayor Gaughan stated "Code of the Village of Altamont" will be updated specific times of the year. Prior to update, any changes would be put in section of book and online titled "new laws".

Harvey Vlahos, Main Street, inquired on the cost of "Code of the Village of Altamont."

Mayor Gaughan reported "Code of the Village of Altamont" cost approximately \$12,000.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to close public hearing at 8:07 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen approving items C1-C7 on Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) be answered no to having any adverse effects in the process of the codification. **All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve Mayor Gaughan to sign Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) on behalf of the Village.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve resolution to adopt negative declaration on Local Law No. 2-2009 "Code of the Village of Altamont".

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve for Legal Services from Michael Moore for a fee of \$14,400 annually billed at \$1,200/month. This proposal will take effect January 1, 2010. All terms from the 2009 Agreement would remain the same. This arrangement will be reviewed by Young, Sommer...LLC and the Village Board in December 2010. The rates proposed in this amendment will not change during 2010. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve request to dispose of the following records after a review by the Museum Personnel for any historical significance as recommended by Patty Blackwood, Village Clerk.

Per Schedule MU-1, page 64 – Claims and Warrants – 1.[275] Claims for payment (approved or disallowed), including claim, vendor's voucher and bill: Retention 6 years.

**Vouchers Dating: June 1, 2002 through May 31, 2003**

**BP Gas Charge Slips: FY 2000 through 2003**

Per Schedule MU-1, page 66 – General Accounting and Miscellaneous – 17.[282]

Receipt (received) or copy of receipt (issued) other than for payment of taxes: Retention 6 years.

**Water and Sewer payment receipts April – October 2002, April – October 2003**

Per Schedule MU-1, page 65 - General Accounting and Miscellaneous – 3.[247] Journal recording chronological entries of all fiscal transactions: Retention: 6 years

**Accounting General Fund Journal FY 2002 through 2003**

**Water Fund Journal FY 2002 through 2003**

**Sewer Fund Journal FY 2002 through 2003**

**Water and Sewer Journal April 2002 through April 2003 (2 ledgers)**

Per schedule MU-1, page 1 – General – 3.[3] Meeting Files for meetings of governing body of board or agency, commission or committee thereof, including agendas, background materials and other records used at meeting : Retention: 1 year

**Board meeting handwritten notes - 2001 through 2007**

**Planning Board meeting notes – 2001 through 2007**

**Zoning Board meeting notes - 2003**

Per schedule MU-1, page 173 – Tax Collection – 1.[595] Tax Collection Records – a. Tax collection data file, returned copy of tax bill, copy of receipt issued taxpayer, collector's daily accounts, receiving office tapes, records of overpayment, rebate or refund, record or notice of payment of post-due taxes, report on tax monies collected, request for extension of time to collect taxes, and similar records: Retention: 6 years

**Village Tax Receipts – 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003**  
**Report of Tax Monies - Collected – 1985 through 1993**  
**Copies of Village Tax Bills – 1999 through 2003**      **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to approve of Board Minutes for November 2009. **All in favor**

Trustee Marshall made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.  
**All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Blackwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT

RESOLUTION to ADOPT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Altamont (“the Board”) held a public hearing on December 1, 2009 to receive comments on a proposal to enact Local Law No. 2 of 2009, “A local law to provide for the compilation and codification of the local laws, ordinances and certain resolutions of the Village of Altamont into a municipal code to be known as the ‘Code of the Village of Altamont’;” and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the comments and other material presented at the public hearing, including a review of the environmental impacts that may arise as a result of this proposed Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed Local Law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board adopts a negative declaration pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act as set forth on the attached document entitled “Classification of Action and Negative Declaration,” dated December 1, 2009.

December 1, 2009

James Gaughan  
Mayor  
Village of Altamont

**TO:** Mayor Gaughan & Village Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Keith C. Lee  
**DATE:** December 1, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** 2009 – Parks’ Activity Summary

Highlights of activity in the Village’s parks during 2009 include:

- painting was completed for Maple Avenue Park shelter;
- planting of trees in the Village by cub scouts;
- official opening of Maple Avenue Park & Tot Playground;
- completion of sidewalk from archway to shelter in Maple Avenue Park

### **Orsini & Angel Parks**

Winter storms resulted in the loss of many limbs from the trees in Orsini Park. Village DPW staff trimmed the damaged limbs and removed debris. Altamont Community Tradition’s (ACT) annual Green & Clean Day, with the guidance and support of the Village’s Gardeners Deb Guilfoyle and Anne Best, brought out village residents and guests to rake and mulch and trim and shape up the parks for the summer.

The partnership of Mae’s Flowers in Knox and the Village’s Gardeners resulted in many beautiful geraniums and other cool weather tolerant plants being added to the parks. Also, the gardeners added two large ‘Herbstonne’ rudbeckia to the flagpole bed, and dwarf and flag irises, as well as the Peace Roses from the Home Front’s Medal of Honor celebration, to the Orsini bed along Main Street. They also added lamiastrum groundcover around the two Linden trees in Angel Park.

The parks were the site of the annual Altamont Free Library’s chicken barbeque, a wedding, a concert series sponsored by the Library and ACT, a fund raiser for Guildershaven, and the focus of the First Annual Bicycle Circuit Race. The Village replaced three of the old wooden slat benches with new iron benches that match the ones installed after the road reconstruction in 2002 and 2003. The remaining wooden slat benches are planned for replacement in Spring 2010.

### **Entrance, Bozenkill Park**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County’s Master Garden program continues to support and provide volunteer assistance for the maintenance of these gardens. The major floral display, as in past years, is the hundreds of “Hyperion” daylilies that line the left side of the entrance road. Perennials plantings added to the garden this year included sanguisorba (burnet), nepeta ‘six hills giant’ catmint, rudbeckia ‘Goldquelle’ and a Joe Pye weed variety called ‘Phantom’. Altamont Orchards provided dozens of annual plants to add color to the late summer garden.

In April, the scouts of the Webelos Den of Cub Scout Pack 51 planted three white spruce and three red spruce along Gun Club Road in front of the Village’s well site

Keith Lee participated in the Village's Bozenkill Park Summer Program, and assisted the counselors and the campers with planting an "animal garden", using plants with animal-themed names. Added to the garden near the pavilion were: elephant grass, cat mint, dragon's blood sedum, zebra mallow, bear's breeches, gooseneck loosestrife, bee balm, tiger lilies, toad lilies, and others.

In the main part of the park, the three white oaks that were planted near the tennis court were replaced under Black Creek's guaranteed replacement policy with three pin oaks. The rest of the trees, part the Mayor's continuing plan to add more trees to the park, have thrived and are doing well.

### **Maple Avenue Park**

The shelter was painted this summer by DPW staff and volunteers. The plan to add benches to the shelter is still viable, and plans are being discussed to construct the benches over the winter.

In May, a small butterfly garden was installed near the tot playground. Plants selected as both food sources for adult butterflies and the larval stages were planted. The Altamont Cooperative Preschool released several 'painted lady' butterflies the children raised from pupae later in the summer. Plant ID labels were also added to the garden to identify the fifteen plus plant varieties.

In September, a paperbark maple was planted as a memorial tree in the front of the park. Also, a tamarack tree was planted on the south side of the park, as part of Cub Scout Pack 51's April tree planting initiative.

The Maple Avenue Park and Tot Playground was officially opened on July 16. In a brief ceremony, Village officials and volunteers acknowledged the generosity of the many people who donated money and time for the development of the park, shelter, and the tot playground. Over \$17,000 was raised for the construction of the tot playground. Nearly all the money went to the playground construction, and the remaining funds, combined with a donation from Altamont Community Tradition, were used to purchase two iron benches for this park. Also on July 16, an art exhibit termed "Dogs in the Park" opened. Local artists were invited to create sculptures depicting a dog, or with a dog theme. The sculptures were displayed in the park until August 21. Mayor Gaughan and Keith Lee purchased and donated two dogs which have been installed in the park. As part of the exhibit, Marijo Dougherty, who organized the sculpture show, also organized four 'read to children' opportunities with 'story lady Jo Anne Liu, Altamont Elementary School Principal Peter Brabant, Barbara Muhlfelder, and Mayor Jim Gaughan.

In November, with the combined efforts of DPW staff, and volunteers Mike LaMountain and Al D'Alauro, the sidewalk was extended from the entrance arch to the shelter. The sidewalk material is bluestone that was 'recycled' from sidewalk upgrades around the village.

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

This year, the mock orange did not bloom as well as in past years, so pruning was delayed this year to see the results in the spring. The Korean spice viburnum added color and scent to the small planting area. The newly added yellow flag iris and rudbeckia 'herbstonne' added additional color this year.

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

No additional plantings were added to this area this year.

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

The small circular garden in the triangle between Schoharie Plank Road West & Western Avenue continues to be maintained by village and neighborhood volunteers. Annuals were added this summer for additional color, and several perennials have been thinned to reduce overcrowding.

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

The two grass gardens benefited from the wet, cool weather this year, and provided a spectacular display of the nine grass varieties. Daffodils bloomed in the gardens this year, and added some early spring color to the beds. As part of the cub scouts spring initiative, a tamarack tree was planted in the area. DPW staff moved a boulder to the area to help protect the newly planted tree from the ravages of errant snowplows.

### **Knowersville Plaza**

The 86' planting strip in front of Knowersville Plaza is a tough environment for getting plants to grow. The two remaining potentilla shrubs are still alive, but not all the grasses and sedum added Fall 2008 survived the winter. New divisions of the same varieties were added to the site, and with a little extra water through the drier periods, and the addition of primarily lantana plants to the perennials and by summer's end, the plantings did take root. We will continue to experiment with varieties of plants that can grow in dry, difficult spaces.

On behalf of the Parks Committee, thank you to the Village administration for its support, and to the many willing and ambitious volunteers for their help in the gardens, and to the members of the Altamont Community Tradition for their annual coordination of the Green & Clean spring cleanup throughout the Village. Our village gardeners, Anne Best and Debra Guilfoyle, also deserve a round of applause for their expertise and hard work as they continue to add plant material to keep our gardens looking new. We also extend our sincere thanks to Tim McIntyre and the Public Works staff for their help, support, and advice throughout the year.