

The Edgemont Community Council, Inc.

Founded in 1947 to determine community opinion on civic matters and coordinate community action thereon and to plan and promote the general welfare of the community embraced within Union Free School District #6.

Post Office Box 1161

Scarsdale, New York 10583

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EDGEMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

January 9, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Edgemont Community Council, Inc. was held at the Edgemont Junior-Senior High School, January 9, 2012, in the faculty lounge. The following officers and directors were present: Geoff Loftus, Charles McNally, Robert Bernstein, Marc Ackerman, Jon Guttenberg, Greg Adams, Robin Schaffer, Monica Sganga, Matt Jaffe, and Karen Kelly

Officers and Directors not in attendance Schuyler Kraus, John Coleman, Todd Garvelink, Jonathan Faust, John Blakely, Robert Klerer, Johnathan Kelly, Alec Clarke, and Andrea Weiss.

The following Civic Associations were represented – Fort Hill(x), Edgemont Association(x), Longview(), Southern Greenville(), Cotswold (x), Greenridge (), Northern Greenville(), and Central Park Ave().

Guests/members – Lisa Wexler (BOE liason to ECC), Arnold Laubich, Margaret Goldberg, Peter Mellis, Walter Groden, Madelon K. O’Shea, Dom Caratozzolo, Ed Kraus

Minutes – The November and December minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report was presented by Mr. Adams, indicated 147 paid members and assets of \$3,403.59 as of 12/5/2011.

SBNC - Mr. Ackerman reported that the SBNC continues to meet and is still actively recruiting.. January 25th is the deadline for nominations to the SBNC. SBNC meetings have discussed the dire situation the school budget is in (with the 2% tax cap).

Update on Village Discussions –

Marc Ackerman gave his update on his listening tour, indicating interest in the topic. Bob Bernstein proposed a Resolution, which passed unanimously, thanking the committee members for their work and recommending a committee be formed to move forward. [Mr. Ackerman's report, and the Resolution from Mr. Bernstein are both available on the ECC website.]

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The Central Park Avenue Association
The Cotswold Association
Edgemont Association
Fort Hill Association

Greenridge Association
Longview Civic Association
Northern Greenville Association
Southern Greenville Association

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Town Affairs –

A. Cell Phone Antennas

Geoff Loftus discussed the 20 applications that NextG has for special permits to install cell phone antennas on existing telephone poles in residential neighborhoods, which was the subject of a special ECC meeting on January 5. There are 12 locations proposed for streets in Edgemont. The applications are pending before the Town Board, which has already held two public hearings on the issue, with an additional public hearing scheduled for January 25. The Town's Antenna Law generally prefers that such antennas be located in nonresidential areas and only allows them in residential areas after efforts to locate wireless facilities in nonresidential areas to fill in caps in cell phone coverage have been exhausted. At the meeting on January 5, Geoff reported that former ECC president Michelle McNally, a member of the Antennas Review Board, had written to the Town Board to say that NextG's representations to the ARB that it did not have "permission" to install cell phone antennas in as-of-right locations along State rights-of-way on Central Avenue and other state roads was not only "unsubstantiated" but now appeared to be contradicted by (1) a filing NextG had made in July 2011 to the FCC in Washington that it could have access to such locations provided it agreed to pay a fee to its competitor Crown Castle which had a license from the state to offer wireless services along the State rights-of-way, and (2) the announcement in December 2011 that NextG was being acquired by Crown Castle itself, thus possibly removing even the impediment of having to pay a fee for such access. Geoff also reported that Town Supervisor Paul Feiner said after getting Michelle's letter that he would recommend referring the NextG applications back to the Antenna Review Board for further consideration. The town board, meanwhile, has agreed to meet with NextG to discuss these applications at its next work session. It was also reported that Ms. McNally has since resigned from the Antenna Review Board, and that there were now several vacancies on that board.

Bob Bernstein suggested that the ECC recommend that the Board reintroduce amendments that require that notice be given to residents when applications for cell phone antennas are filed with the Town – not when those applications have been deemed completed, as is currently the case, so that residents affected by such applications can attend Antenna Review Board meetings where those applications are being discussed, and the ECC voted unanimously to make that recommendation.

B. New Water Rate Hikes

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The town has announced that last year's water rate hike of 72% was insufficient and that additional increases are needed to keep up with increases in the price New York City is charging the water district for water, and to finance various deferred capital projects. The town said in its announcement that the water district lost \$2 million in 2010 and even with last year's 72% hike, was expected to lose another \$2 million in 2011. The losses are financed by the Town's "A" budget. The water district, which serves Edgemont and most of unincorporated Greenburgh, as well as the Village of Irvington, is proposing to hike its rates another 10-15%, with additional increases possible later in the year. The town did not indicate how much an increase would still be needed in order for the water district to break even and/or replay the debt which has been accumulating. Among other things, the town said the district now needs to replace approximately 10,000 water meters because the town has concluded that they no longer measure water usage accurately. The proposed hike in water rates will be the subject of one or more town board hearings.

C. Leaf bagging

The town has eliminated leaf pickup for the coming year unless leaves are bagged. An analysis of the impact of this policy by Edgemont resident Stuart Seeley shows that for every \$1 the town saves, homeowners will have to spend \$20. Madelon O'Shea recalled being told that the town can't even handle bagging. Mr. Feiner has said there will be a public hearing on the Town's leaf bagging practice on January 25.

D. Court Administration

A new court administrator has been hired. The person will be paid \$90,000 annually.

Home Values

Misc. – Bob Bernstein said that local realtors are reporting that Edgemont sales for 2011 were down by 21%, while Scarsdale's were up 3%. There were a total of 49 homes sold in Edgemont, and in Scarsdale, which is twice the size of Edgemont, there were 199 homes sold. In addition, realtors are reporting average home prices in Edgemont fell 18% in 2011; Scarsdale experienced no drop in average price.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10.

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