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“Board Ed 101”: Technology Advisory Board

Plandome Heights embodies “home rule” through its five Boards; each is unique in its purpose and acts independently:

- Board of Trustees
- Zoning and Appeals Board
- Architectural Review Board
- Planning Board
- Technology Advisory Board

In our continuing series “Board Ed 101”, the Winter Newsletter focuses on the Technology Advisory Board (TAB), a new Board formed in April 2008. Its mission is to enhance and then maintain the technological integrity of our Village hardware and software and its function to safeguard Village records.

As the first order of business at the April 2008 meeting, the Board of Trustees publicly recognized that data about VPH and its residents needed to be safeguarded and available upon demand if confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. The technological resources used on a daily basis in the VPH office by the Clerk-Treasurer, Deputy Clerk and Building Inspector needed to be on a shared platform and organized in such a way as to maximize the efficiency of a well-run office. The Trustees recognized, frankly, that as an elected body comprised of VPH residents with individual areas of expertise, technology may or may not be among them. Nonetheless, the Trustees needed to ensure that technological expertise is always

available to the VPH irrespective of BOT membership. Put simply, the BOT recognized there was a void and took steps to solve it by creating the Technology Advisory Board.

TAB is unlike other Village Boards in that it is advisory to the Mayor and/or BOT in matters concerning technology on an ad hoc basis. Membership is comprised of two to five appointments by the Mayor, in consultation with the Technology Advisory Board Chair, to serve for renewable periods of two years. Current membership, terms and biographies are highlighted below:

Don Parker, Chairman, 2010

Don Parker has managed technology solutions for the Financial Services industry for the past 15 years. He is currently Global Relationship Manager for CorrectNet Inc, the world’s largest client reporting firm. Past positions include VP Product Mgt BRIDGE, and VP Product Mgt Instinet, both now Thomson-Reuters companies, as well as sales manager roles at NYFIX and Trading Technologies. Don received his MBA from NYU’s Stern School of Business in 1991. Plandome Heights residents since 2002 at 18 Winthrop Road, Don and his wife, Pam, have two daughters Delaney (14) and Emory (13). Don was appointed almost three years ago to represent VPH at Greater Manhasset Council meetings, and is also spearheading the clean up and beautification of the Plandome Heights Preserve.

Technology at the VPH office had not been updated in years. Two workstations were in place for three people.

Website email links were non conforming.

Back-up procedures were outdated. There was no "Help Desk" functionality.

We have come a very long way but there is more to do.

To volunteer please email your interest and area of expertise to: "webmaster@plandomeheights-ny.gov"

Technology Advisory Board, con't

Trey Harragan, Member, 2010

Trey Harragan has spent over 24 years developing software for computers and companies, large and small. He and his wife Donna have lived at 28 Grandview Circle, Plandome Heights for more than 10 years and have 4 children: Christopher (12), Kyle (8), Emily and Amanda (5).

Richard Kraft, Member, 2010

Richard Kraft manages Distributed Infrastructure, Web & Data organizations as well as the Operational Department for Morgan Stanley's Retail Brokerage. His operational responsibilities include Financial Advisor Workstation, Client Facing Portal, and Call Center applications. Richard is also accountable for Web Infrastructure, Middleware, Quality Assurance, Data Warehousing, Data Modeling, and Data Reporting. Prior, he served as sales technology manager for Morgan Stanley's Project Management Office.

Before joining Morgan Stanley, Richard was an independent consultant specializing in Data Center consolidations and relocations for large financial firms (JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank and Bear Stearns). In addition to contributing to the Village of Plandome Heights, Richard is also the technical advisor to other non-profit institutions, including the Manhasset School District. Richard received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Richard and his wife, Diane, have lived in Plandome Heights since 1998. They have two daughters and reside at 151 Bournedale Road North.

There are now three new workstations at the VPH office, each configured to work together in certain respects yet distinctly set up to accommodate special needs. The main workstation is for the Clerk-Treasurer, with remote access by Trustee Ken Riscica for VPH's QuickBooks application used for financial work. This configuration allows greatest efficiency for treasury work.

We were successful in being assigned a special computer to be used by the Court Clerk, who is also the Village's Deputy Clerk. NYS Unified Courts permits small villages such as VPH to share resources. As a result, this workstation serves a dual role. The Deputy Clerk works four days a week, and on Fridays puts on her "Court Clerk" hat – using the same hardware at all times.

The third workstation is set up with its own email account for the VPH Building Inspector and is also used by the Mayor during off hours to work on the VPH website and for grant writing.

In addition to the three new workstations, VPH has a new dedicated fax and a scanner, and we are working on a back-up system via the internet. Don Parker has written a draft Policy Statement and Procedures for VPH, the first of its kind, which is currently under review.

We are 75% through the end of the first term of TAB and we have come a very long way but there is more to do.

To volunteer, please email your interest and area of expertise to: webmaster@plandomeheights-ny.gov. ■

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Deputy Mayor

Lawrence Bourguet
Trustee

Silva Ferman
Trustee

Kenneth C. Riscica
Trustee

Alvin Solomon
Trustee

Norman Taylor
Trustee

Valerie Onorato
Village Clerk / Treasurer

Ann Demeri
Deputy Clerk
Court Clerk

Cye E. Ross
Village Justice

Thomas M. Byrne
Village Building Inspector
Stormwater Mgmt Officer

Richard Hirt
Architectural Review
Board, Chair

Marion Endrizzi
Planning Board, Chair

Don Parker
Technology Advisory
Board, Chair

Eugene O'Connor
Zoning and Appeals
Board, Chair

Dollars & Sense

Trustee Ken Riscica reports progress on two matters:

- ◆ we have launched a “laddered CD program” to invest our idle cash at better interest rates with staggered maturities, and
- ◆ we have “reengineered” our financial processes so that we can generate timely “actual-to-budget” financial performance.

The laddered CD program results in an immediate increase in interest revenues of over 135% with continued safety of principal.

Difficult Decision

Everyone who was at the Village's 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance remembered what a fabulous event it was. Friends and neighbors came together to commemorate a milestone in our Village and celebrate with great joy and pride. We had a blast!

Over these last few months the co-chairs of the 80th Anniversary event worked hard to start to put together the same kind of highly anticipated event to be celebrated on June 6, 2009. We've been asking you to “Save the Date” in the recent Newsletters.

The team began discussions for the event as far back as mid March last year. Since then, as we all know, there has been a steady decline in the economy. Surely everyone knows at least one person or family who has been negatively affected.

Planning such a celebration takes a great deal of work and attention to detail. It also requires a minimum number of attendees to ensure that

Future results, in an anticipated declining interest environment, will be more modest.

The “actual-to-budget” reporting has identified that our current expenditures are running slightly over budget at the halfway mark of our fiscal year, November 30, 2008. With this knowledge, the Mayor and Treasurer can work to reduce our expenditures for the balance of the year to bring us back into line with the budget. Each month we will be able to measure that progress and continue to adjust our actions in real time. ■

the Village “breaks even” and does not lose any funds. Given the economic scenario, additional planned layoff announcements for January, the upcoming Presidential Inauguration, the “stimulus package” – frankly, with so many uncertainties on the horizon, your Board of Trustees now believes that it is entirely likely that we would not know until as late as April the anticipated number of attendees. By then, it is simply too late to plan properly.

For these reasons, your Board decided it would be best to cancel the celebration for the 80th – and to look with anticipation to celebrate our 85th Anniversary on June 7, 2014. The Board earnestly hopes that our neighbors will understand the reasons for this difficult decision.

The Board is grateful to Anja D'Angelo, Marion Endrizzi, Maryann Grieco and Ruth Petras for the work they have done to date on this project. We know that the work they started will help the next time. ■

VPH Registrar

In the summer of 2008, VPH appointed Leslie Gross, Clerk for the Town of North Hempstead, as the official "Registrar" for our Village. This position maintains vital records such as births and deaths. TNH has capacity for electronic record-keeping on a massive scale.

Prior to this appointment, VPH vital records were maintained manually by Tim Rice, Clerk for the Village of Plandome

Ms. Gross's office is located at 200 Plandome Road and there are several "deputies" who can assist you should you need to provide or retrieve vital information.

VPH Election Day March 18, 2009

Your Village elections will be held on a Wednesday this year, instead of the usual Tuesday, due to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations statewide. The positions up for election are for three Trustees and Village Justice. After four years of service on the Board of Trustees, Maryann Grieco will not be seeking a new term. The Board is incredibly grateful to Maryann for her valued service to the community. Current candidates

are: for Trustee, Lawrence Bourguet, Don Parker and Norm Taylor, and for Village Justice, Cye E. Ross, Esq. Candidates will be ringing doorbells weather permitting to secure the necessary signatures required to be on the ballot. Anyone interested in running for office should contact the VPH Election Officer, Valerie Onorato, at the VPH office Monday – Friday from 9AM to 4PM. ■

Plandome Heights Office Update

We finally did it. After months of construction, packing and unpacking – twice – and the inevitable delays in such projects, VPH officially cut the ribbon to its new 'village hall' on November 24th at a small ceremony attended by many of the village's volunteers. The

BOT hopes the residents will find the new premises worthy of their pride.

Unless posted to the contrary, all Board meetings and Court venues will be held at the Plandome Heights Village Hall, 37 Orchard Street. ■

□

UPCOMING NEWSLETTER FEATURES

- "Board Ed 101": focus on one VPH Board per newsletter
- "... As Lovely As A Tree ...": all about the VPH tree program
- What's New with Plandome Pond Park?
- VPH & Port Washington Office of Emergency Management
- "Adopt a Drain" Program – **YOU** can make a difference!

REMINDER: No Contractor or Landscaping Jobs on Sundays or Federal Holidays

Incorporated Village of Plandome Heights

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