

Kenneth C. Riscica

From: John Jeffrey <johnrjeffrey9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:45 PM
To: Kenneth C. Riscica
Cc: Mary Frances Jeffrey
Subject: Re: Public Hearing

Thanks Ken.

Very informative article.

It would be helpful to know the views of the other four members of the PB on this matter.

Best,

John

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 5:22 PM Kenneth C. Riscica <mayor@plandomeheights-ny.gov> wrote:

Follow up.

With respect to Notice, today we posted notices on the utility poles around the Village as we always do, and then this appeared this evening.

[Plandome Heights to consider giving Planning Board powers to trustees - The Island Now](#)

I thought the testimony from the Planning Board Chair, as well as the quotes from the text of the law were quite informative. I'm feeling good that the critical information is out for folks to digest and that our Public Hearing, which will be thoughtful, will be helpful to the community to understand why the Trustees, the PB, the Village Attorney and the Building Inspector are unanimous in this proposal.

Ken

From: John Jeffrey <johnrjeffrey9@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 6:05 PM
To: Kenneth C. Riscica <mayor@plandomeheights-ny.gov>
Cc: Mary Frances Jeffrey <mfjeffrey6@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Public Hearing

Thanks again Ken.

See my add-on [comments]

Best,

John

On Sun, Jan 17, 2021 at 5:44 PM Kenneth C. Riscica <mayor@plandomeheights-ny.gov> wrote:

John –

Thanks for this. I appreciate you challenging me in this way. It reflects real concerns, I get that.

Please see below.

Ken

From: John Jeffrey <johnrjeffrey9@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Kenneth C. Riscica <mayor@plandomeheights-ny.gov>
Cc: Mary Frances Jeffrey <mfjeffrey6@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Public Hearing

Ken,

See my additional [cooments]

Thanks.

John

On Sun, Jan 17, 2021 at 3:41 PM Kenneth C. Riscica <mayor@plandomeheights-ny.gov> wrote:

John –

Thanks for this. I am staying safe and sound and I hope that you and Mary Fran are also.

My responses are in **ORANGE** below.

Ken

From: John Jeffrey <johnrjeffrey9@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Kenneth C. Riscica <mayor@plandomeheights-ny.gov>
Cc: Mary Frances Jeffrey <mfjeffrey6@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Public Hearing

Hello Ken,

I trust you are staying safe & sound.

A few questions on this matter:

Does the merging of the Planning Board into the Board of Trustees save the town any \$? **NOT STRUCTURALLY, BUT PERHAPS IN EFFICIENCY OF LEGAL EFFORT AND CERTAINLY IN AVOIDANCE OF NEEDLESS LITIGATION. WE ARE NOT SAVING DIRECT SALARIES, FOR EXAMPLE. [How does merging the PB into the BOT avoid needless litigation?] VILLAGE COUNSEL, THE TRUSTEES AND I ARE CONCERNED THAT UNTRAINED PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT REGULAR MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE EXPOSE THE VILLAGE TO POTENTIAL LITIGATION. A POOR DECISION IS \$25,000 OR MORE IN LEGAL FEES, 7.5%+ OF OUR LEVY. [Makes sense]**

Will the entire Board of Trustees review & approve all Planning Board matters? **YES, THE ENTIRE BOARD. TO HAVE A SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO HAVING A PLANNING BOARD, IN MY VIEW.**

Will there be a Board of Trustees subcommittee to handle Planning Board matters? **NO, NOT PLANNED OR CONTEMPLATED.**

I assume certain members of the Board of Trustees would still have to take the necessary training for Planning Board matters - correct? **FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NONE OF THE CURRENT PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS TAKES ANY PLANNING BOARD TRAINING. NONE. THAT IS PART OF THE PROBLEM. THE VILLAGE OVERCOMES THIS WITH EXTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT OF VILLAGE COUNSEL TO "TRAIN" THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS IN THE MATTERS AT HAND. IN THE MATTER THREE YEARS AGO, AN ENTIRE 2 HOUR EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO LEGAL TRAINING TO PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS. WITH RESPECT TO THE BOT, WE REGULARLY DISCUSS MATTERS LIKE THIS WITH VILLAGE COUNSEL AND THE BUILDING INSPECTOR. FURTHER, WE ARE REGULARLY ADVISED OF DEVELOPING ISSUES BY OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NY CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE NC VILLAGE OFFICERS ASSN. SO WE HAVE A BASELINE OF KNOWLEDGE. BUT WE WILL EITHER HAVE TO TAKE TRAINING OR BE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED BY VILLAGE COUNSEL.**

In addition to other outlets, why can't The Notice for Public Hearing on this matter be communicated by you in another Plandome Heights communication? **MY INTENTION WAS TO WRITE A PIECE FOR THE NEWSLETTER. UNFORTUNATELY REAL LIFE GOT IN THE WAY. I MAY STILL DO THAT. WE OFTEN DON'T VOTE ON A MATTER IMMEDIATELY AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING.[I would suggest that it would be quite helpful if you can circulate a short note about the date for The Public Hearing. This way it gives townspeople full & fair notice about the meeting. Also, provides the town with cover on the inevitable complaints on this matter] I DON'T SEE AN ISSUE OF "NOTICE."** THE LEGAL NOTICE IN THE PAPER, THE WEBSITE NOTICE AND THE NORTH SHORE ALERT IN OUR COMMUNITY HAS FOLKS ALERTED. I AM TOLD THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION ALERTED THE BROADER COMMUNITY AND THE MANHASSET TIMES AND MANHASSET PRESS OF THE ISSUE AT A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY EVENING. I DO SEE AN ISSUE OF INFORMATION. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS ONE VEHICLE FOR PROVIDING THAT, THERE COULD BE OTHERS. I PLAN TO HAVE A THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING. THE VILLAGE ATTORNEY WILL PRESENT AND THE BUILDING INSPECTOR WILL PRESENT. YOU WILL HEAR THEIR ADVICE TO ME. ONCE THAT PRESENTATION IS MADE, AND QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED, IF THERE IS MORE TIME OR INFORMATION NEEDED, I AM OPEN TO THAT. I CAN TELL YOU I HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO OTHER MAYORS WHO HAVE GONE THIS ROUTE. THEY FOUND THEIR RESIDENTS RECEPTIVE TO THE CHANGE. [My point was not questioning the thoughtful process to indicate the pros & cons of the merger. My point is why not send another town newsletter with a short concise statement regarding the date of the hearing. I do not see any downside to doing that]

After receiving answers to these questions, I will let you know my thoughts on this proposed merger of the Planning Board into the Board of Trustees. **I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT. THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST AND FEEDBACK.**

[I trust your judgment & integrity. Therefore, I support this merger]

Many thanks.

Best,

John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mary Frances Jeffrey** <mfjeffrey6@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 7:43 AM

Subject: Fwd: Public Hearing

To: John Jeffrey <johnrjeffrey9@gmail.com>

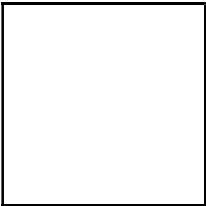
----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Plandome Heights** <emergency@plandomeheights-ny.gov>

Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 7:01 PM

Subject: Public Hearing

To: <mfjeffrey6@gmail.com>



This is a message for residents of the Village of Plandome Heights from Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica.

On February 1, 2021, we will have a Public Hearing in order to receive input from residents.

The Board of Trustees has observed that our Planning Board rarely has matters to address. The last matter was three years ago and before that, there have only been 4 matters in 20 years. The Planning Board reviews "land use" matters. There are no active or new matters at this time.

The fact is we are a mature community with few land-use matters requiring the attention of a Planning Board. Despite this, the Village commits a full complement of 7 volunteers to that Board. Those members are required to

attend 4 hours of training each year and may go a whole 5-year term without using that training. Other villages are in this situation and some use the Board of Trustees to manage such matters.

So, our Public Hearing is called to seek your input into the idea of merging the function of the Planning Board into the Board of Trustees. Our Architecture and Zoning Boards will not be affected by this change.

The Notice of the Public Hearing will be published in the Manhasset Press next week and is available to you now at [Notice of Public Hearing](#). The draft of the change to our law is also available to you now at [Text of Law](#). You can participate in the Public Hearing in several ways: (a) electronically as indicated in the Notice or (b) you can also send in your comments by email to the Clerk by email and they will be included in the record. Of course, you can always contact me directly.

This e-mail has been sent to you by VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS. To maximize their communication with you, you may be receiving this e-mail in addition to a phone call with the same message. If you no longer wish to receive email notifications from VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

To view the VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS privacy policy, please [click here](#).