

Kenneth C. Riscica

From: Diana Merenda <diana.merenda@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 6:18 PM
To: emergency@plandomeheights-ny.gov
Cc: Kenneth C. Riscica; Alvin Soloman
Subject: Re: Public Hearing - Additional information

Mayor thanks for this. I am writing to note with interest the objections from the Civic Association and to vigorously disagree. The main position seems to be concentration of power and potential conflict of interest. These objections maybe could have some legitimacy if the situation was egregiously rife with overwhelming potential transactions... but nothing could be further from the truth. VPH is a mature entity with virtually all lots accounted. For the small handful of open lots, surely the BOT in conjunction with the VPH attorney could advise and rule. Surely we would not need countless hours of training year after year after year just for the sake of saying we were compliant with the letter of the law.

The time trouble and monetary charges take a toll unwarranted for the effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Merenda
516.263.7086

On Jan 29, 2021, at 6:02 PM, Plandome Heights <emergency@plandomeheights-ny.gov> wrote:



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

We have established a web page to present you with the resident inputs we received and various other items in connection with Monday's Public Hearing; Thanks for your comments! You can see this at [Public Hearing Materials](#) .

There is good information there. For example, one resident provided us with a list of 10 Villages, large and small, representing approximately 1/3 of the Villages in our Town who do not have a Planning Board. We added the specifics of their law so that you can see how that is working for them.

Once again, the purpose in our hearing is to "receive inputs from residents" as I indicated in my January 14 communication (below) and in the January 25 [Winter Newsletter excerpt](#) . Once we have your inputs we will need time to digest and to consider it; certainly a few weeks, possibly months given other priorities. This matter has been discussed for years and your input is the next logical step in a thoughtful process that is bearing fruit.

I remind you that no vote is planned for Monday's Public Hearing. As always, comments, questions and criticisms are cheerfully accepted. I look forward to seeing, or hearing from, you.

Stay safe, practice patience...be tolerant...help others.

*****ORIGINAL MESSAGE BELOW*****

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.

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