

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Schmidt	Trustee Gallelli
Treasurer/Acting Manager Zambrano	Trustee Konig
Village Attorney Feldman	Trustee Olver
Absent: Trustee Brennan	

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Members of Boy Scout Troop #28 lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the following vouchers, subject to review by the Audit Committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Olver and approved unanimously.

General Fund	\$60,894.90
Water Fund	1,487.64
Sewer Fund	
Capital Account	33,643.14
Trust & Agency	2,002.10
Total	\$98,037.78

Mayor Schmidt announced that the new Acting Judge who sits in once a month for the Village is Anne Minihan and welcomed her on behalf of the Village.

Treasurer/Acting Village Manager Zambrano reported that, on April 28, 2008, the 2008-2009 budget was adopted. The initial budget was a 5.19% increase which was brought down to a 3.95% increase; \$40,000 was added for energy efficient initiatives which will be appropriated as needed. The full budget will be available in about a week or so; however, a summary is available tonight. The full budget will be posted on the website in a few days and will also be available at the Library and at the Village Office. Mayor Schmidt added that the Board worked very hard to come in with as low a number as possible; they have made a commitment that any cars purchased in the future will be hybrid cars, if at all possible, and the \$40,000 will be to cut down on energy usage.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

a) CDBG Applications – 2009-2011

Acting Village Manager Zambrano explained the CDBG process and history. Village Engineer O'Connor did an overview of the three projects for which applications are being made. Trustee Gallelli stated that all of the grants the Village has received have been very valuable and these projects are very worthwhile.

3a.1) Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing for the Farrington Road CDBG project.

Acting Village Manager Zambrano stated that he received an email from a resident of 45 Farrington Rd. in support of the Village application. There being no other comments, Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing.

On motion of Trustee OLVER, seconded by Trustee GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

Resolution Endorsing the CDBG Application for the Farrington Road Infrastructure Improvement Project – Priority 1 – Year 2 (2010)

WHEREAS, the Village of Croton-on-Hudson is seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for Farrington Road Infrastructure Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, funding will be for replacement of existing sanitary sewer main, installation of 10 manholes, replacement of existing sidewalk and curb including 100 feet on Hunter Place, and installation of water valves on Farrington Road; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is estimated at \$700,000; and

WHEREAS, the Village pledges a \$350,000 local share with a grant request of \$350,000,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby endorses this Community Development Block Grant application being submitted for the FY 2009-2011 Funding Cycle.

3a.2) Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing for the Hunter Place CDBG project:

Acting Village Manager Zambrano stated that he received two letters from residents of 13 Hunter Place and 19 Hunter Place who were in support of the project. There being no further comments, Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing.

On motion of Trustee GALLELLI, seconded by Trustee OLVER, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

Resolution Endorsing the CDBG Application for the Hunter Place Infrastructure Improvement Project – Priority 2 – Year 3 (2011)

WHEREAS, the Village of Croton-on-Hudson is seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Hunter Place Infrastructure Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, funding will be for extension of the water main to eliminate a dead end in the system, replacing the existing curb to minimize drainage problems, installation of sanitary sewer manholes, and lining of the sanitary sewer main; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is estimated at \$480,000; and

WHEREAS, the Village pledges a \$240,000 local share with a grant request of \$240,000,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby endorses this Community Development Block Grant application being submitted for the FY 2009-2011 Funding Cycle.

- 3a.3) Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing for the Stevenson Place CDBG project: There being no public comments, Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing.

On motion of Trustee GALLELLI, seconded by Trustee OLVER, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

Resolution Endorsing the CDBG Application for the Stevenson Place Infrastructure Improvement Project – Priority 3 – Year 2 (2010)

WHEREAS, the Village of Croton-on-Hudson is seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Stevenson Place Infrastructure Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, funding will be for installation of sidewalk and curb on Stevenson Place and connecting to the existing sidewalks on North Riverside Avenue and Old Post Road, and installation of storm water system improvements on Old Post Road North and Stevenson Place; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is estimated at \$352,000; and

WHEREAS, the Village pledges a \$176,000 local share with a grant request of \$176,000,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby endorses this Community Development Block Grant application being submitted for the FY 2009-2011 Funding Cycle.

- b) Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing for a Steep Slopes Hardship application for a parcel on Franklin Avenue. Ron Wegner, Cronin Engineering, representing the Nikic applicants, gave an overview of the application and the property, site and potential use. Mr. Wegner stated that they have been before the WAC and the Planning Board; the Boards' comments have been included as part of the plan; they will be installing yard drains and dry wells to mitigate potential increase in run off after the structure is built; they have done ground probes which went just four feet and they anticipate having some rock; blasting will be prohibited and will limit duration of rock removal. Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments offered. Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing. Trustee Konig stated that the WAC had blasting concerns, but after hearing Mr. Wegner's assurance, she is confident it will be okay.

On motion of TRUSTEE Gallelli, seconded by TRUSTEE Konig, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, John and Donna Nikic have applied for a special hardship permit for one family lot pursuant to Section 195-9 of the Village Steep Slopes Law; and

WHEREAS, the property is located at Franklin Avenue and designated on the Tax Maps as Section 79.13, Block 4, Lot 8.01; and

WHEREAS, this matter was referred to the Planning Board and Waterfront Advisory Committee for their recommendation and review; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board recommended granting the Steep Slopes Hardship exemption subject to conditions outlined in a memo from Chris Kehoe dated April 15, 2008 and revised on April 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Waterfront Advisory Committee found the project consistent with the relevant LWRP policies subject to the same conditions outlined by the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has modified its application to incorporate all of the recommendations submitted to the Village Board by the Planning Board and the Waterfront Advisory Committee,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that pursuant to SEQRA, the Village Board hereby declares the application an unlisted action, adopts the Full Environmental Assessment Form and based on the modified application, the board determines that there will be no significant adverse environmental impacts and therefore issues a Negative Declaration,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees grants the Steep Slopes Hardship Permit in accordance with the Cronin Engineering Plans dated April 24, 2008.

c) Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing to amend Chapters 108 and 168 of the Village Code allowing dog owners to walk their leashed dogs on the paved trail of the Riverwalk Trail at Croton Landing.

Carl Grimm stated that he is in favor of this leash law; however, a 6 ft. leash law is proposed and because of the open space he feels that there is no reason to have a dog on a 6 ft. leash. Mayor Schmidt replied that the 6 ft. leash law goes along with the County regulations; they have worked with dog owners and they were okay with that regulation. Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing.

On motion of Trustee KONIG, seconded by Trustee GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village Board is considering allowing dog owners to walk their leashed dogs on the Riverwalk Trail at Croton Landing; and

WHEREAS, Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2008 Amending Chapters 108 and 168 has been drafted; and

WHEREAS, this Introductory Local Law has been reviewed by the Superintendent of Recreation & Parks and the Village Attorney and has been discussed at a Board of Trustees Work Session; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2008 the Board of Trustees called for a Public Hearing to be held on this date to consider Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2008; and

WHEREAS, a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees does hereby determine, based on the Environmental Assessment Form submitted to and reviewed by the Board, that this is an unlisted action and issues a Negative Declaration,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees adopts Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2008 amending Chapters 108 and 168.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

Acting Village Manager Zambrano read the following correspondence (full text available at the Village Office):

- a) A letter from the NYS Board of Real Property Services advising that the Tentative Equalization Rate for 2008 is 3.18; a drop of 7.8% from the prior year. Trustee Gallelli added that the taxes will go up as the equalization rate goes down.
- b) A letter from Susan Snyder, Recreation & Parks Dept. Superintendent, asking for permission to close the streets in the Upper Village on Sunday, June 1st for the annual Summerfest. Trustee Konig made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Trustee Gallelli, approved unanimously.
- c) A letter from Tara Sullivan, Exec. Director Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, announcing that 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Hudson and Champlain voyages along the river and asking if any projects or events should be listed on their www.exploreny400.com website. Mayor Schmidt stated that this would be a good project for the Historical Society, the schools and also the Scouts.
- d) An email from Jenn Latham, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, regarding a prior request to hold a 5k race on Saturday, May 31st, which is Summerfest weekend; and asking now for the race to be held on June 14th. Trustee Gallelli stated that it is not necessary to bring this to a work session if it is acceptable with Police Dept.
- e) f) & g) Three letters in opposition to using Black Rock Park for a dog park. Mayor Schmidt stated that this is only a proposal and needs to go through the Recreation Advisory for comments back to the Board; there will be no discussion on illuminating a dog park. Trustee Olver added that these are valid concerns and should be passed on to

the group, the Rec. Dept. and dog owners; their charge is to deal with such issues in a way that will be cost neutral and meet the needs of the dog owners.

- f) A memo from Village Engineer O'Connor requesting an additional six month extension be granted to Andy Dickey for his building permit. Mr. O'Connor stated that Mr. Dickey was working on it himself and most of work left is to be done inside; there is no disruption to the neighborhood; he is just finishing up interior work. Trustee Gallelli asked what are some of the negatives for continuing open building permits, not necessarily this one. Mr. O'Connor replied that there may be code changes and then some of the work would have to conform to the new code; also, outside construction taking a long time is disruptive to neighbors. Trustee Olver made a motion to approve this request, second by Trustee Gallelli, approved unanimously.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: (agenda items)

Susan Snyder, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Dept., regarding the request for a 5K race, has a slight concern with that date; her office is open that Saturday and is concerned what streets would be closed and what the time of the race would be; she would like more details as it may impact the residents coming in for ID cards and registering for Silver Lake; this may be a potential problem. Mayor Schmidt asked Ms. Snyder to meet with the Police Chief and speak with Ms. Latham to work out details.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

- a) On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE OLVER, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Harmon Commercial Development Committee was appointed on August 27, 2007; and

WHEREAS, at a work session on January 14, 2008 the Harmon Commercial Development Committee gave a presentation to the Village Board of Trustees regarding their initial recommendations; and

WHEREAS, at that work session the committee was authorized to prepare request for proposals for a planning review of their recommendations and a retail study of the Harmon areas; and

WHEREAS, two marketing consultants have made proposals for the retail review, one from Jeff Green Partners, located in California, in the amount of \$14,000, plus travel expenses, and Danth, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000; and

WHEREAS, the Harmon Commercial Development Committee has reviewed the two proposals and recommends that the Village Board of Trustees enter into an agreement with Danth, Inc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Acting Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the proposal from Danth, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000 for a retail study of the Harmon area.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli stated that this is the second of two small studies this committee recommended to the Board; this is the retail feasibility study and is an important step in moving Harmon redevelopment forward. Mayor Schmidt stated that it is good to look at how to revitalize this area; the state of the economy at present does not help; he is looking forward to seeing what this consultant has to suggest.

b) On motion of TRUSTEE KONIG, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the agreement with Bennett, Kielson, Storch, DeSantis, the Government Services Division of O'Connor, Davies, Munns & Dobbins, LLP will expire on May 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Bennett, Kielson has provided the Village with a new agreement for the years June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the agreement will cover the basic audit including the conversion of fund level to government wide GASB No. 34, and a risk assessment statement of auditing standards; and

WHEREAS, the Village has an on-going relationship with Bennett, Kielson, Storch, DeSantis and they have provided the Village with excellent financial auditing services over the years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Acting Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the retainer agreement dated March 27, 2008 with Bennett, Kielson, Storch, DeSantis, the Government Services Division of O'Connor, Davies, Munns & Dobbins, LLP for the years June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2012 in the amounts as follows:

2008 - \$37,600

2009 - \$39,000

2010 - \$40,400

2011 - \$42,900

2012 - \$43,500

Discussion: Treasurer/Acting Manager Zambrano stated that this firm has been doing auditing for the Village for many years and has provided very professional services at reasonable rates.

c) On motion of TRUSTEE KONIG, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Department of Emergency Services (DES) in Westchester County is the representative to the NY State Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Task Force in Albany for Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the DES will be providing specialized WMD equipment to all First Responders in order to provide protection to them during WMD emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the IMA previously executed with the County in 2003 has expired,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the intermunicipal agreement with Westchester County in order to receive personal protective equipment to better respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli stated that he Village is not paying for any of this equipment; it is distributed by the County.

d) On motion of TRUSTEE KONIG, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village and the New York State DOT have entered into a snow and ice agreement which will expire in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Village has received an amendment to this contract reflecting the severity of the winter and the high cost of fuel for the 2007/08 period; and

WHEREAS, under this amendment the estimated expenditure has been increased from \$15,623.60 to \$25,660.86;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign Amendment B of the Indexed Lump Sum snow and ice agreement with New York State Department of Transportation expiring in 2010.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli stated that she did not think it was that severe a winter, but realizes fuel and salt have gone up, if they hadn't would the cost have gone down? Acting Village Manager/Treasurer Zambrano replied that it would not; it would stay at the contracted price.

e) On motion of TRUSTEE KONIG, seconded by TRUSTEE OLVER, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Simone Development Company, LLC has challenged its 2007 assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Village has agreed to reduce the 2007 assessed value to the newly revised 2008 assessed value; and

WHEREAS, under this agreement the 2007 assessed value will be reduced to \$85,800 and the refund to the petitioner will be \$19,171.58,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Attorney to execute the consent judgment between the Simone Development Company and the Village.

6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:(non-agenda items)

Paul Rolnick, 1 Alexander Lane, speaking on behalf of Democratic Committee, stated that he felt Mayor Schmidt made inappropriate comments at the April 21st Village Board meeting regarding inclusion of citizen participation at board meetings and stated that he felt Mayor Schmidt owed Mr. Davis an apology. Mayor Schmidt replied that he does retract the statement inadvertently said by him about barring anyone from speaking; his objection is with the Croton blog and it's affect on the community which is his opinion; everyone has a right to free speech.

Bruce Carter, 6 Georgia Lane, stated that the last two elections show high tax burden is most important on residents' minds; there are a lot of reasons for this, especially the lack of convertible revenues. Mr. Carter made several suggestions regarding the golf course which was a good deal and the Village should try to build on this. He added that there were a number of things they wanted and were not given; the Village should revisit a swimming pool & tennis courts if they will pay the village for them. Mr. Carter suggested reinvestigating their request for high-end dwellings which they did not get. He added that the golf course also wanted to hold tournaments, if there are parking problems, they could be solved; the money spent in the Village would be good infusion for merchants and good publicity. Mr. Carter added that two Gateway properties are owned by the Village and he suggested perhaps putting out an RFP for the former skate park property for purchase for an office building. The second property is the land above the Croton Auto Park; the Village should consider selling it and getting the property back on the tax rolls. He added the Village should also give consideration of S. Riverside Ave. for potential tax revenues any businesses would bring in; there are very few opportunities to add more commercial rateables. Mayor Schmidt replied that some of this has been discussed with the Board, except for the golf course. Trustee Gallelli stated that these were very interesting suggestions; however, regarding the redevelopment in Harmon, the Village does not own any property there but is trying to look at current zoning to see where it could be modified to help those already there and also to help them market the area. Mr. Carter replied that if the Village is thinking about rezoning, it should consider tax implications and what should go there.

Cornelia Cotton, 209 Hessian Hills Road, stated that the Village has an award winning train station without a clock; the Village does need a clock in the middle of the Village and she gave information to the Board. Ms. Cotton added that the Village also needs a fountain; Croton is famous for its water and there should be a fountain not only to drink from, but to also fill water bottles and also advertise our wonderful water; the Croton Aqueduct was built

to bring Croton water to NYC. Ms. Cotton brought literature about other municipalities that have water fountains. Ms. Cotton commented on the sorry state of the Gateway; Croton Point Ave. is dismal and is a major gateway; sidewalks are miserable, there are puddles, litter, mud, ugly weeds; she would like to see an improvement; state or federal funds may be available, but consider citizen volunteers to at least pick up litter and do plantings. Mayor Schmidt replied that Marco Gennarelli is taking a look at this along with other issues and agrees that it needs to be taken care of ; he complimented the owners of Caruso's Deli and the Exxon station who have done a wonderful job improving their property. He added that the NYS Dept. of Transportation needs to take care of their road; everyone should call and request them to clean up their highway. Cornelia Cotton stated that there are many small things we can do; 30,000 people come to Van Cortlandt Manor every year and then leave, some should come into the Village. Ms. Cotton stated that a lot of seasoned department heads have left and it makes her uneasy that these terrific people have left. Ms. Cotton noted that in Greenburgh people on fixed incomes or those having trouble paying their taxes can work part-time for the Village; all sorts of jobs need to be done. Ms. Cotton stated that restrictions on home sizes should be thought about; this also has something to do with historic preservation of neighborhoods.

Matt Oust, a sophomore at Croton-Harmon HS, stated that he went to the Teen Recreation Center on opening day and there were only two people there; he gets the idea this did not get more publicity; he appreciates the amount of effort the Village has put into this; Croton has a few hang out spots, but there are no places to go after 10 pm. He asked the Board to look for an alternate hang-out spot such as a record store that is open past 10 pm and to look for an alternate for teens.

Joanne Minnett, 5 Van Cortlandt Place, stated that she hopes the Brook St. flooding issue has been addressed in the CDBG application. Mayor Schmidt replied not in this round; they have been tackling one area at a time. Village Engineer O'Connor explained how money was spent to help Brook St. by reducing flow via Kaplan's Pond; they are looking at a concept plan for storm drain improvements and to put a check dam in to keep sediment from going downstream. Ms. Minnett stated that she was happy to hear Mr. Olver is committed to never allowing a waste transfer facility and would like to take it one step further; she would like to see the elected officials take control of the property and take it out of the hands of Greentree; a business who purchases may continue to violate Village laws. Ms. Minnett stated that the gateways by Municipal Place are clean and look good, but the bus stop needs some cleaning and planting and is requesting permission to do some work in that area. Ms. Minnett added that the Van Cortlandt, Olcott, Radnor sidewalks and traffic flow were to be reviewed with the police to change and make the area safer for children to walk. Ms. Minnett added that she has heard different comments about the Teen Center; some kids are using it and love it. Ms. Minnett stated that she is not sure about more work being done at golf course would be a good idea because of possible additional storm water run off.

Vito Divenere, 51 Farrington Rd., asked if sidewalk repair is being done on both sides of street and down the road. Village Engineer O'Connor replied that it will be done to the very bottom. Mr. Devanaire asked about the grassy area between the sidewalk and street and also if his apron will be repaired. Mr. O'Connor replied that they will be taken care of. Mr.

Devanaire added that he was concerned about the speed of cars on Farrington and appreciates the prompt responses he received from Mr. Zambrano, the police and Mr. Gennarelli.

Kevin Davis – 17 Wolf Rd., asked the Village Board to engage with him in civil discourse; elected Trustees must swear on the constitution which has free speech and a right to petition the government; dissent and the need to have views heard is essential in a democracy. He thanked Mr. Oust for speaking tonight; it is tough to get recreation programs started especially for teenagers; it is not a bad thing to admit something is not working; his opinion is very creditable for his age group. Mayor Schmidt stated that the Board has appointed a representative from the high school to serve on the Recreation Advisory Board.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Konig made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 21, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion. The corrected minutes were approved with Trustee Olver abstaining.

Trustee Olver made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to adopt the budget held on April 28, 2008. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

Trustee Konig made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on April 28, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Olver seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

9. REPORTS:

Acting Village Manager/Treasurer Zambrano reported that the Connect CTY system is scheduled for Friday, May 9th; an introductory call will be generated; call Janine King or Mr. Zambrano with questions. Mr. Zambrano reported that on Thursday he met with people from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Protection; they presented the scope of the project planned for Croton Dam and they were invited back on June 19th to take questions from the public and Trustees. Mr. Zambrano reported that the Water Department will be reading meters in the next couple of weeks and also that tax bills will be going out the end of May.

Trustee Konig reported that Earth Day was a great success; it was cold and wet but well attended; everyone had a good time and CAC did a great job. She added that it was a positive thing which gave organizers more ideas for next year and it was a nice community day.

Trustee Olver thanked all for organization of Earth Day; there was a larger turnout than in prior years despite weather; a feature was a Croton Earth Day pledge that a number of residents signed; it included easily doable points that can be followed to make the community “greener”. Trustee Olver reminded everyone that the tree planting events are this coming weekend at 2 locations; please join in. Mr. Olver reported that the School District’s annual budget vote will be held on May 20th and urged everyone to get out and vote. Trustee Olver added that we are entering that season of the year to honor our flag and our veterans both living and dead; he has become involved in the Wounded Warrior Project for those returning from battle. The project’s web site is www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Trustee Gallelli concurred that Earth Day was a great success; she enjoyed being there and seeing projects being worked on. *Trustee Gallelli* reported that this weekend's tree planting at Mayo's Landing is a joint effort of the Village, Town of Cortlandt, NYS DEC and NYS Dept. of Forestry, the latter two are providing the trees, the Village and Town are providing some of the manpower to dig the holes and prepare the property for the planting of the trees; a committee of volunteers will plant several hundred trees on Saturday; this is a good example of cooperation on several levels. *Ms. Gallelli* added that she just learned about the Cold War Exemption on property taxes which must be adopted by each municipality; the Town of Cortlandt has already adopted it; June 1st is the deadline to apply; qualified applicants can bring a copy of discharge papers and a copy of one's tour of duty into the Town and also the Village Office, so when the Village adopts the exemption, one will not have to reapply. *Trustee Gallelli* welcomed new Acting Judge Ann Minihan and she is sure she will be a big asset to court in Croton.

Mayor Schmidt reported that he and Mr. Zambrano attended the NYCOM Main Street Conference and learned how to revitalize downtowns; they heard several ideas; it means working with what you have and bringing interested parties to the table. *Mayor Schmidt* reported that he attended the meeting when DEP came regarding the Croton Dam; they will be raising the height of spillway by 4 feet to increase volume of the dam; they assure that this will not have any affect downstream on the Croton River; these are important things that will be followed up. *Mayor Schmidt* reported that they have started preliminary meetings with Verizon FIOS which is moving along; he thanked *Trustee Olver* for assisting with this. *Mayor Schmidt* added that the cell tower is moving along at Nextel's pace and they are being encouraged to move along. *Mayor Schmidt* asked as many as possible to get out this weekend and help plant trees which help the environment and erosion.

Trustee Konig made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a land issue in Croton. second by *Trustee Olver*, approved by all.

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to adjourn. *Trustee Konig* seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury

Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

Village Clerk