

**VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**

October 25, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico (7:15 pm, via Zoom), Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni (via Zoom), Trustee Erik Samarija

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (via Zoom) and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis

PUBLIC: 10 (all via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Castleton-on-Hudson was held at Castleton Village Hall, 85 South Main Street on October 25, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. No public comment. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

BUSINESS:

1. Urban Forestry Grant Tree Inventory and Management Plan Presentation: Trustee Martin gave a brief overview of the Village's effort leading up to receiving the Urban Forestry Grant: Mike Martin helped to start the Tree Board in 2019 leading to the Village becoming a certified Tree City through the Arbor Day Foundation; the Tree Board cleaned up and planted at 2 Green Avenue with money from a grant from AARP; Trustee Giuliano applied for the Urban Forestry Grant and the Village was awarded \$21,250.00 earlier this year. Chris Peiffer, of Plan-It Geo, the company that the Village had contracted to inventory the trees and create the management plan introduced Alex Hancock, also of Plan-It Geo, to present the slideshow. Ms. Hancock asked those attending to enter their names and favorite type of tree into the chat bar. The Urban Forestry grant provided funds to inventory trees and vegetation on public roadways and park land, including Mountainview Cemetery, in the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson. Once completed a management plan will be created to help the Village maintain and enhance the tree coverage while calculating the financial benefits to the Village. Financial benefits include better air quality due to trees removing pollutants and lower energy bills for residents due to trees providing shade. Plan-It Geo has calculated that these benefits add up to around \$60,000.00 in savings to the Village and its' residents. The inventory was completed in August and the management plan, which is currently being drafted, will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for

approval in December. The inventory found that the Village has 492 trees, including 340 street trees. 46% of the total surveyed trees are some form of maple trees. The management plan will determine which older trees are in need of being removed first and which will be in need of trimming. The plan has determined 94 potential planning sites including the Castleton Fire House. Ms. Hancock then ask the public to answer a few questions about what they would like to see from the management plan via the chat bar to be collected and used as the management plan is completed. The Board thanked Mr. Peiffer and Ms. Hancock for the presentation and asked that the slideshow be sent to the Board so that it may be shared on the Village website.

2. Volunteer Appreciation Day and Holidays on the Hudson Update: The Castleton Ambulance Garage has been booked for the Volunteer Appreciation Day on Friday, December 10th. Holidays on the Hudson will take place from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm on Sunday, December 5th.

2. River Access Update: Trustee D'Aquanni reported that she had no news to report on access to Riverfront Park. Mayor Keegan stated that he had spoken to the New York State Department of Transportation regarding designs other than those that incorporate elevators. The Department of Transportation could send a representative the Village's river access meeting on January 24, 2022.

3. APPROPRIATIONS: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 7 – Vouchers # 236 - # 239 in the amount of \$ 3,453.17.

General Fund: \$ 1,468.14

Water Fund: \$ 1,559.75

Sewer Fund: \$ 425.28

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Cecala, of the Main Street Association, asked that Scenic Hudson and the New York State Department of State be invited to the river access meeting on January 24, 2022. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:52 pm Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer