Governance Committee Report

For Overseers Meeting 2/13/2022

The Governance Committee met on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 9:30. The participants were Dan Webster, Elaine Moss, Beverly Crofoot, and Jeffrey Wilt. Chris Maseychik also shared input.

Action Items for Overseers:

* **Remote Participation Policy:** The Governance Committee reviewed the revision of the Remote Participation Policy which arose from the public comments at the public hearing on 1/16. That policy was amended to reinforce that whether or not the Overseers meeting remotely, a remote access option will be made available to the public. **Recommend that the Overseers adopt as amended. (Copy attached)**
* **Public Access Policy:** the revised Public Access Policy is in order for adoption. No changes in the draft have been made as a result of the public hearing, where no comments were made on the policy. **Recommend that the Overseers adopt as drafted. (Copy Attached).**

Other Business:

* Fireworks Ordinance. The display arranged by private citizens on Village property on New Years Eve was enjoyable and appeared safe. It was also a violation of the absolute prohibition against such use. The Committee will be incorporating recommended language to allow some limited fireworks only in “off season” circumstances (1) with prior notice and approval from the Overseers; (2) only on the public beach or causeway; and (3) with a specific description of the type of fireworks to be used. Notice to the Fire Department will be a precondition of the permission.

Under the state law which permitted limited use of consumer fireworks and municipal control of same, only the municipality can adopt or amend the ordinance. The town worked with the Village to do that in 2012. Recommended language will be developed for next Governance Committee meeting (3/5) and presented to Overseers and Town. A public hearing will be required.

* Public Lands, Parks, and Paths –Discrete signs will be developed and recommended for all identified public pathways to remind all of their existence and remind all to be use respectfully. The sense of the committee that a Policy Statement should be developed whereby publicly owned land (see partial map attached hereto) will remain forever the property of the Village. It was the sense of the committee that short term “gain” by disposing of such greenspace through sale or otherwise would place undue burden on the Village infrastructure through potential development. Elaine volunteered to draft first draft for committee review.

The Committee reinforced that the Board of Overseers should continue its enforcement and removal of personal property installed on village property, including within the full width of village streets and ways.

* Zoning Ordinance review and revision: Goals were identified for review:
  + Clarity and cross-referencing of provisions so that provisions are not overlooked (examples: accessory structure set back; lot coverage)
  + Better management of and prevention of loss of pervious surface by using shoreland zone ordinance as guide; look at roof run off and storm water run off issues; driveway building.
  + Better management of parking by considering and preserving off street parking as part all permitted renovation;
  + Consistency in lot coverage provisions in varying districts;
  + Clearer mapping;
  + Evaluate impact on community of rental use of property
  + Clarify provisions for Board of Appeals proceedings and variances (as noted by community members as necessary and requested by Board of Appeals members in 2021)
  + As part of “donuts and dialogue” discussions assure community shares its interests in aesthetic elements of ordinance
  + Confer and cooperation with town re: all the above.

New Business to consider at next meeting:

Bylaws revisions?

As may be necessitated to consider revision of quorum requirements.

Next meeting: Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 9:30 via Zoom.

Members of the public who are interested in joining or sharing ideas should contact me at metcalf442@myfairpoint.net

Judy Metcalf