

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – Special Meeting

June 28, 2023; -- 6:30pm

Meeting Location: Chatham Fire Department, 2 Hoffman Ave, Chatham, NY 12037

MINUTES

Call to Order: *by Mayor J. Howe at 6:40pm. Called to order later than the posted start time due to change of location. The Mayor wanted to be sure anyone that went to the original location at the Tracy had time to get to the new location for the meeting.*

Present: *Mayor J. Howe; Trustees K. Schassler, M. Spock, R. O'Mara-Garcia, P. Minahan; Village Clerk D. Kelleher; Deputy Clerk S. Davis, Jr.; A. Police Chief J. Alessi; Residents Elijah Armstrong, Brenda Gevertz, Jeff Braley, Thad Harshbarger, Kirsten Stoltmann, Rochelle Bartolo, Patricia McKeon, Victoria Cooper-Reeg, John Reeg, Allysann Serge, Janet Cozzolino, Winnie and Steven Legere, Georgia Gardener, Kyle Schermerhorn, Glennis Whiffen, Eileen O'Mara-Garcia, Jean Schermerhorn, Thad Harshbarger, Joann Mistler, Jeff Bailey, Gavin Preuss, Sergio Rico, Kevin Rico.*

Not present: *Attorney K. Dow; Others Mike West, Matt Wood.*

Special Meeting: For the purpose of continued discussion about the courts located at Jones Avenue.

- *Jones Avenue Courts (49 minutes) – Mayor Howe reviewed that at the May 2023 Board of Trustees meeting residents made a request to the Board that the Village add pickle board court lines to the Village Courts located at Jones Avenue. The Board was not opposed to the idea and agreed first to look into the cost. The Village was then contacted by line spraying company with newly obtained pickle ball line spraying equipment, who offered to spray the lines for the Village at a greatly reduced price. While Mayor Howe, Town of Ghent Supervisor Craig Simmons, and the painter were laying out the lines at the courts Mayor Howe learned that many other residents, including a tennis pro/instructor, are opposed to an addition of pickle ball lines, and that those residents would like to also have an opportunity to address the Board before a decision is made. Mayor Howe chose to pause the line spraying process until more research could be done, and more input from the public could be obtained. He advised the tennis players the tennis pro that they should put together a petition and that they, and the pickle ball players, would have an opportunity at the next Board meeting (June 12) to present their concerns. For the June 12 meeting, the Village received a petition/cover letter in support of the addition of*

pickle ball lines (approximately 83 signatures). The letter was read into the record. Mayor Howe asked for anyone from the Tennis players group. Resident, and Tennis Pro, E. Armstrong offered thoughts on why pickle ball lines should not be added to the court on Jones Avenue. He suggested that another court should be built specifically for pickle ball, and this Jones Avenue court should be for tennis only. E. Armstrong asked for another opportunity to provide a petition and for other members of the tennis community to express their concerns. Mayor Howe read for the record, a letter from Matt Wood regarding his position regarding the use of, and the addition of lines, to the Jones Avenue courts. The Mayor noted that he has been educating himself and has met with both Town Supervisors (Craig Simmons and Donal Collins), Matt Wood (Metz Wood – Village liability insurance), and Mike West (Recreation Director Town of Chatham). Town of Chatham is looking for grants to help fund projects at Crellin Park, including pickle ball courts. Residents mentioned the poor condition of many of the existing local courts, expense of building new courts and maintaining existing courts, increased noise on the street, pickleball activity is distracting to tennis players, wear on tennis court surface, traffic and parking on Jones Avenue, scheduling conflicts, how to (should we?) enforce time limits and/or who is using the courts, both sports are great opportunity for youth and all ages, neighbors should work together for everyone's benefit, sharing/compromise. K. Schermerhorn, Tennis and Pickleball Pro, does not think it is a "big deal" to have tennis and pickleball right next to each other. The Ghent courts are good because the pickleball lines are a more subtle lighter green shade than the court itself so they are not obtrusive at all. Youth are becoming more exposed and interested in pickleball.

It was decided to table again and put together a smaller group of people representing all sides in order to try and come to a compromised solution.

Adjournment: So moved by M. Spock, seconded by R. O'Mara-Garcia. Approved by all at 8:18pm.

Next regular meeting: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Desiree Kelleher
Village Clerk
July 8, 2023

TRACY MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL
77 MAIN STREET, VILLAGE OF CHATHAM, NEW YORK