

VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
80 LORILLARD ROAD
P.O. BOX 31
TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK 10987

Mary Jo Guinchard
Mayor

July 14, 2015

Dear Residents and Neighbors:

This is the first Mayor's newsletter to the Village since I took office at 12:01 p.m. on July 6, 2015. I look forward to serving all of you.

I want to thank Mayor Lili Neuhauser and Trustee Susan Goodfellow for their hard work during the previous term on the Board of Trustees. I also want to welcome our newly elected Trustees Claudio Guazzoni (TrusteeClaudio10987@gmail.com) and Alan McHugh (TrusteeAlan10987@gmail.com) and to welcome back Trustees Paul Gluck (TrusteePaul10987@gmail.com) and John Kilduff (TrusteeJohn10987@gmail.com). Many thanks, as well, to Village employees (Village Office, DPW, and Police) who have been available to me during this transition time.

I have selected Trustee Paul Gluck as Deputy Mayor and I want to thank Trustee John Kilduff for his service as Deputy Mayor under Mayor Neuhauser.

The format of this letter will evolve over time based on feedback from you. Please feel free to offer suggestions about how to improve it. I have also asked our Trustees to provide me with anything that they would like to be included in the newsletter and I look forward to their participation. Open communication and transparency is essential. The Mayor's letter is a key part of this. Now let's dive into some of the major issues concerning the Park.

Board of Trustees meeting, roles and responsibilities of our Trustees and establishment of committees and Agenda

Our first Board of Trustees meeting will take place at the Village Office at 7:00 p.m. on July 28, 2015. Roles and responsibilities will be assigned to the Trustees and various resident committees will be established (this is historically referred to as the "re-org" meeting). At this meeting we will also have a brief ceremonial "swearing in" of the members of the Board of Trustees at the beginning of the re-org meeting. Just afterward, the regular Board of Trustees meeting will take place. A preliminary agenda will be posted, at least 5 days prior to the regular meeting on the Village website and at the Village Office (the preliminary agenda will be updated until the day of the meeting). Please contact us with any requests/comments with respect to this upcoming Board of Trustees meeting agenda. Also, please contact me if you are interested in becoming a part of a committee.

Lakes

Copper sulfate. On July 9, 2015, a copper sulfate treatment was applied to Tuxedo Lake. The purpose of this treatment is to control algae growth. Copper sulfate is typically applied for this purpose in many lakes and has been done so for many years with approval by the NYDEC. Recently, many residents expressed concern that the lake was beginning to turn to an opaque bluish-green color (as we have seen before) and we immediately tested the lake and applied the copper sulfate treatment. Copper sulfate can be applied by spraying a liquid version on the surface of the lake from the back of a boat or by dragging a burlap bag filled with copper sulfate behind a boat. The Village employs the spray version currently.

Eurasian Milfoil. Beginning on July 6th through July 8th, 2015, a team of divers engaged by the Village was at work pulling Eurasian Milfoil (an extremely invasive weed that grows in lakes) in Tuxedo Lake despite the lack of visibility in the water. The divers usually work 4 days in a week, but we cancelled the last day (with refund) in favor of the application of the copper sulfate. The focus of the Board of Trustees will be to employ best available practices with respect to controlling the spread of the Eurasian Milfoil.

Wee Wah Dam

The repair of the Wee Wah Lake Dam was funded with an issuance of Village municipal bonds in 2008. For various reasons, the originally slated repair work has not been completed. Repairing the dam as soon as possible in accordance with NYDEC standards and within the original budget will be a key priority of the Board of Trustees. It should be noted, however, the Wee Wah Lake Dam status may change from a Type B to a Type C Hazard dam. Type C Hazard dam requirements are more robust than Type B Hazard dam requirements. Our engineers and/or consultants will present their findings to the NYDEC to arrive at the appropriate Hazard designation. These designations are based to a large extent on the impact a breach of such dam would have on populations and railroads downstream of the dam. Engineering work has been performed (and paid for with some of these municipal bond monies) on the dam during the last 7 years but the monies available for the original repair may no longer be sufficient to cover even the original repairs as quoted. Deputy Mayor Paul Gluck, resident Alan Yassky and I recently had a conference call with our designated contact for the NYDEC Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety in Albany, NY. Deputy Mayor Gluck and I will be updating the Village as we receive further information.

Pilgrim Pipeline

For those of you that are not aware, there is a dual pipeline being proposed that would potentially impact the Town of Tuxedo and the Village of Tuxedo Park. The dual pipeline would run 178 miles from Albany, NY to Linden, NJ. One pipeline would transport up to 200,000 barrels per day of crude oil southbound from Albany, NY to a refinery in Linden, NJ and the other pipeline would transport up to 200,000 barrels per day northbound from Linden, NJ to Albany, NY with spurs to Newburgh, NY and New Windsor, NY. Refined products, such as gasoline and heating oil, travel via barge up (mostly) and down the Hudson River, while the crude oil travels down along the Hudson River shoreline via rail cars. The primary purpose of these pipelines is to supplant the rail car and barge transportation methods currently being utilized on and alongside the Hudson River.

A formal application to the state of NY has not been submitted, but the Pilgrim Pipeline has been approaching residents and governments of the Town of Tuxedo and of the Village of Tuxedo Park to purchase rights of way through both the Town and Village for at least 1 year. The latest proposed route has the Pilgrim Pipeline travelling underground through property north of the Village and then crossing the entrance of Tuxedo Park (behind the gate) and then continuing to the south through the Tuxedo Farms (formerly Tuxedo Reserve) area. The latest proposed route and map for the Pilgrim Pipeline is posted on the Village website at www.tuxedopark-ny.gov.

The Board of Trustees is gathering further facts about this proposed dual pipeline. We will be forming a committee of residents who are professionals in various areas, to assist the Board of Trustees in dealing with the Pilgrim Pipeline and related issues.

From Deputy Mayor Paul Gluck, TrusteePaul10987@gmail.com

Tuxedo Farms Related Conveyances and Easements

The Village is nearing a closing on its acquisition of various land parcels and easements that were negotiated in 2005 in connection with the Tuxedo Farms development. Under the 2005 Agreement, the Developer is to gift to the Village an approximately 100 foot wide buffer largely surrounding the Village and separating the Village from the Development. The Developer is also to convey as a gift the approximately 186 acre “Fox Hill Tract” abutting the northeastern portion of the Village. These grants are to be subject to conservation easements ensuring the land will be maintained in its natural, unbuilt condition (except for certain very limited uses specified in the easements). The Agreement also contemplates the annexation into the Village of seven building lots on an additional 63 acres of land. These would be located in the Fox Hill Tract and on the current Village boundary near Brook Farm Road (will have on website and at Village Office as soon as a map is available showing the location of the various parcels). The Agreement provides for certain other easements and rights. Our gratitude to all those over the years who have been instrumental in securing the rights to these significant property interests.

From Trustee John Kilduff, TrusteeJohn10987@gmail.com

Wee Wah Beach Club

I have had several meetings with various members of the WWBC Executive Committee as the interim liaison. They received additional donations and memberships that will secure its operations through this season. Also, a new policy requires a carry-in/carry-out for all refuse, and the dumpster has been locked and is being removed.

The WWBC has confirmed that through direct support from St. Mary's Church and other donors, approximately 20 children in the community will benefit from memberships furnished to them at no cost, due to challenging financial circumstances in their household.

Wee Wah Beach Club membership has been declining. The main reason for the decline in membership is the low water level of the big Wee Wah Lake. The Village maintains the water at a low level to exert less pressure on the Wee Wah Lake Dam until much-needed repairs to the dam are completed. Historically, the main attraction of the Wee Wah Beach Club has been the deep-water high diving board and being able to swim in relatively deep water within the designated swimming area. Once the repair to the Wee Wah Lake Dam is completed, we will be able to restore the water level of the Wee Wah Lake back to its normal level. Without this solution, there is little impetus on the part of potential members to join. I encourage Village residents to support the Wee Wah Beach Club by joining and to help them get through this season while the Board focuses on completing the repairs to the Wee Wah Lake Dam. Information on the Wee Wah Beach Club and other important information can be found in the newly created Tuxedo Park “Welcome Packet” which can be obtained at the Village Office in hard copy, as well as on the Village website at www.tuxedopark-ny.gov, and at the Police Gate.

Suggestions

Your suggestions are always important. The Board of Trustees will be given all suggestions to review and, if warranted, discussed at the meeting following such suggestion.

E-mail to suggestions@tuxedopark-ny.gov, mail, drop off in person, or after hours slide under door to:
Village of Tuxedo Park
Attn.: Suggestions
80 Lorillard Road
P. O. Box 31
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

Open Houses

Mayor of the Village of Tuxedo Park

Open House

Come as you are and stop by to say hello or discuss anything on your mind

194 East Lake Road

Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 2, 2015

Sunday, October 11, 2015

Help us to be green and reduce our paper use and postage costs. You can elect to receive future editions of this newsletter via e-mail by sending your name(s) and e-mail addresses to suggestions@tuxedopark-ny.gov and requesting to be put on the newsletter email distribution list. Please state whether you will like only electronic, mail, both, or neither.

There are many more topics to discuss such as the status of Village road repairs, long and short term infrastructure projects, and various other Village matters. These will be addressed in the up-coming Board of Trustees meetings and in my future Mayor newsletters.

As always, please call, text, e-mail or come see me at your convenience. To accommodate your calendar, I am always available at the Village Office by appointment. I will also have scheduled hours on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Regards,



Mayor Mary Jo Guinchard

mayormaryjo@gmail.com

845-351-4745, ext. 5 (office)

713-501-9960 (c)