

**VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK**  
P.O. BOX 31  
TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK 10987

Mary Jo Guinchard  
Mayor

August 18, 2015

Dear Residents and Neighbors:

This is the second Mayor's newsletter to the Village since I took office on July 6, 2015. Previous versions of these newsletters can be found on the Village website at [www.tuxedopark-ny.gov](http://www.tuxedopark-ny.gov) under the heading "Mayor's Newsletter".

Donations to Village

At the Village Board of Trustees ("BOT") meeting on July 28, 2015, the Village received a donation for \$200,000 presented by Chris and Sally Sonne from the Vincent Mulford Foundation for the establishment of a Trail Maintenance Fund. This gift is for the exclusive purpose of establishing and maintaining the old bridle paths that are owned by the Village of Tuxedo Park and would also include the purchase and installation of picnic furniture in designated places. The thank you letter on behalf of the Village and an explanation of the donation from the Sonne's is posted on the Village website. Again, thank you to Chris and Sally (through the Vincent Mulford Foundation) for such a generous donation. Residents will enjoy these trails for generations to come.

Thanks to Kevin and Sue Niblo for their donation of a wooden desk and leather chair for the Mayor's office and also to Claudio and Julia Guazzoni for their donation of two leather chairs for the Mayor's office.

The new BOT has been hard at work between July 14<sup>th</sup> (the date of my last Mayor newsletter) and today, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Various BOT meetings have taken place during that time. The date and type of each meeting was as follows (the agendas for these BOT meetings can be found on the Village website at [www.tuxedopark-ny.gov](http://www.tuxedopark-ny.gov) under the heading "BOT Meeting Agendas"):

July 23, 2015	Special BOT Meeting with Executive Session
July 28, 2015	Reorg and Monthly BOT Meeting(s) with Executive Session
August 7, 2015	Special BOT Meeting with Executive Session
August 10, 2015	Emergency BOT Meeting with Executive Session

For those residents who are not already aware, three or more members (a "quorum") of the Village Board of Trustees (and all other Village Boards) may only meet as a board in public meetings. Per "Sunshine" laws, communications outside of public Village BOT meetings are limited to any two members of the BOT. This rule also applies to conference calls, email and all other forms of electronic communication. There are a few exceptions to this rule such as "client-attorney" meetings (when an attorney for the Village is present and legal matters are discussed).

Reorg Meeting

The "reorg" meeting usually occurs during the first standard monthly meeting (usually in July) of the newly elected Village Board of Trustees. Any new appointments to Village boards, definition of Village employee roles, defining of initial roles of the Trustees and formation of initial committees occurs at this meeting. The full

reorg summary can be found on the Village website at [www.tuxedopark-ny.gov](http://www.tuxedopark-ny.gov) under the heading “Reorg Meeting Detail”. I will point out that we will change the format of the reorg summary from the format that was used for our Reorg meeting (and for prior boards). The prior format only included new appointees to the various Village boards in the Reorg summary, and did not show/include existing appointees. Going forward we will include all of the appointees to the various Village boards with their respective remaining terms. For purposes of this letter, I will highlight the initial roles of the Trustees, which are as follows:

Organization	Liaison(s)
Board of Zoning Appeals	Trustee Kilduff
Planning Board	Trustee Guazzoni
Board of Architectural Review	Trustee McHugh
Town of Tuxedo	Deputy Mayor Gluck, Trustee Kilduff
Village Court	Trustee McHugh
Village Boat Club	Deputy Mayor Gluck
Wee Wah Beach Club	Trustee Kilduff
Wee Wah Fishing Club	Trustee McHugh

Role	Responsibility
Administration (Village Office)	Mayor Guinchard, Trustee Guazzoni
Budget, Finance, Insurance, & Risk Management	Mayor Guinchard, Trustee McHugh
Code Book (Village)	Deputy Mayor Gluck, Trustee Guazzoni
DPW	Trustee Guazzoni, Trustee McHugh
Emergency Services	Trustee Kilduff
Infrastructure Management	Trustee Guazzoni
Lakes & Environmental Risk Management	Trustee McHugh, Trustee Guazzoni
Police Management	Mayor Guinchard, Trustee McHugh
Tech, IT & Data Mgmt., PR, Marketing, Branding & Communications	Trustee Guazzoni
Water Utility	Deputy Mayor Gluck, Trustee Guazzoni

Committees	Liaison(s)	Committee Chair
Forum for Long-term Strategic Planning	Trustee Guazzoni, Trustee McHugh	
Budget, Finance, Insurance & Risk Management Committee	Mayor Guinchard, Trustee McHugh	Maureen Coen
Advisory Team	Mayor Guinchard, Trustee Kilduff	Gary Pompan
Financial Stewardship & Planned Giving Committee	Mayor Guinchard	Amra Sabic-El-Rayess
On-boarding & Welcoming Committee	Mayor Guinchard	Jean Marie Hitchen Thompson
Trails Committee (resolution pending)	Deputy Mayor Gluck	(TBD)

Note: Trustee appointments, liaison roles and terms (all currently 1 year) can be modified throughout the year by a majority vote of the Trustees. New committees are also being formed.

Formation of a Trails Committee will be the subject of a resolution in the upcoming August BOT monthly meeting. Trustee Gluck has volunteered to be the Liaison for this committee. If you are interested in participating, please email Trustee Gluck at [TrusteePaul10987@gmail.com](mailto:TrusteePaul10987@gmail.com).

In future Mayor Newsletters, you will hear from members of the various Village boards and from members of the various Committees.

### Wee Wah Dam

The Wee Wah Dam is a top priority. Between the time the Village issued a municipal bond in 2008 (in the amount of \$875,000 of which we have spent to date \$136,857.88 mostly on engineering work) to make necessary repairs to the Wee Wah Dam and now, the Wee Wah Dam is likely to be reclassified as a Hazard Type C Dam (instead of a Hazard Type B Dam) based on NYDEC requirements. According to the NYDEC, the potential change in classification is due primarily to the impact a breach of the Wee Wah Dam would have on the railroad downstream of the dam. The required repairs (and upgrades) to the Wee Wah Dam based on this potential re-classification are likely to be more expensive than originally planned. I have had various meetings with the NYDEC, Village resident Alan Yassky, Deputy Mayor Gluck and our Village engineers (in addition to discussions during various BOT Executive Sessions) to look at all of our options with respect to this matter. Alan Yassky (with help from Tom Salierno) has put forth solutions that we are currently evaluating. The BOT is

reviewing all of the work that has been done to date with respect to the Wee Wah Dam restoration and will work to identify and execute the best path forward for the Village. If additional funds are needed, the Village Finance Committee will be tasked with recommending various financing options to the BOT, including but not limited to, raising additional money through a new municipal bond issuance or obtaining a grant, if possible.

### Grants

The BOT and the Financial Committee have been interviewing grant writers. There are grants available for many different purposes. These grants range from infrastructure to historic preservation, emergency responders, lakes, environment, and trees. These grants can be obtained from federal, state or private sources. Between the BOT and the Finance Committee, we have interviewed experienced grant writers who have successfully obtained many grants for many different purposes on behalf of various towns and villages in New York and New Jersey. The BOT is carefully analyzing, with guidance from our Village attorney, the purposes and types of grants that would be available to the Village. What many residents may not know is that the Village Clerk and Assistant Clerk have applied for and successfully obtained a few small grants for the Village under previous administrations. Grant writing is a time consuming and complex process and grants can be very impactful, for example, the Village of Suffern obtained various grants totaling several millions of dollars last year. The Village cannot rely on the Village Clerks to apply for all of the grants available to the Village. The work involved pre- and post- awarding of grants requires much experience and the Village will benefit from working with a professional in this area.

### Village Attorney

After interviewing various law firms and after much discussion in various BOT meetings, the BOT voted to replace Richard B. Golden, of Burke, Miele & Golden, LLP, with Feerick Lynch MacCartney PLLC as our Village legal counsel for the BOT, BAR and Planning Board (Brian D. Nugent, Esq. will be the BOT legal counsel, Stephan Honan, Esq. will be legal counsel for the BAR and Planning Board). Mike Donnelly of Dickover, Donnelly & Donovan, LLP, will continue as our legal counsel for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Thanks to Rick Golden for his many years of service for the Village.

### Lakes

The BOT is aware of the significant Eurasian Milfoil growth in all of our lakes. Trustee McHugh has confirmed with Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC (“AIM”) for a late September “pull” of the Eurasian Milfoil by the AIM diving team. We have requested an earlier date if the diving team should become available. Trustee McHugh is also researching other methods for controlling or eliminating Eurasian Milfoil and will update you as further information becomes available.

### **Pilgrim Pipeline Update from Gary Pompan (Chair – Advisory Team)**

While definitive information is still not available (due to the lack of current official government filings by the Pilgrim Pipeline in either NY or NJ), we know the proposal by Pilgrim Pipeline is to build two 178-mile parallel pipelines from Albany NY to Linden NJ. One pipeline will transport primarily Bakken shale crude oil southward for processing at the Linden refinery and the other parallel pipeline will re-transport liquid petroleum products such as gasoline and diesel back to Albany. Currently, Bakken shale crude oil is shipped by train from North Dakota to Albany, NY then transported to Linden, NJ either in barges on the Hudson River or by train along the Hudson River.

The risk associated with pipelines is well documented, as is the use of barges or trains to transport such products. The construction of a pipeline additionally will not only be extremely disruptive but based on current information will be directly routed through a number of communities throughout NY and NJ.

The proposed pipeline is routed from Albany down the NY Thruway, cuts westward from the NY Thruway at Warwick Brook Road in the Town of Tuxedo, then southward just inside the entrance to Tuxedo Park and

through two of the Tuxedo Farms (originally Tuxedo Reserve) tracts in the Town of Tuxedo.

The Pilgrim Pipeline Advisory Committee has been focused on obtaining information from the various coalitions opposing the pipeline as well as from neighboring communities, suggesting to the Village Board the passing of a Resolution in opposition to the pipeline and proposing the strengthening of our current Zoning laws prohibiting pipeline installation/construction in the Village. Additionally, the Committee and Mayor are working closely with the Town of Tuxedo. The BOT passed such a Resolution banning crude and liquid petroleum products pipelines in the Village on August 10, 2015 at the Emergency BOT meeting. The BOT has begun the process to strengthen our zoning laws to prohibit such pipelines.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed.

Any residents contacted by Pilgrim Pipeline regarding land surveys, easements, or threats of eminent domain action should contact the Mayor. Thanks to residents that have already been in contact with and have shared this type of information with the Village.

**From Trustee Guazzoni, [TrusteeClaudio10987@gmail.com](mailto:TrusteeClaudio10987@gmail.com)**

DPW – Department of Public Works

Tuxedo Park is the proud owner of 25 miles of paved roads. The DPW has been very busy this past month filling potholes and patching the pavement on over 40% of our roads. Areas that are next on our list are the South End, Eagle Mountain, and West Lake Road. We are looking forward to having 100% of the roads filled and patched by late autumn. If you are aware of any extremely large potholes or areas that desperately need our attention, please contact me directly on my e-mail listed above. All issues will be addressed accordingly.

DOT – Road signs, street lights, safety barriers

Stop, Yield, No Right Turn...! We have over 100 road signs in Tuxedo Park. Each year that number seems to grow. It seems that each year we become more and more suburban in look and feel. Where do we stop...? I am currently studying which road signs are absolutely necessary... and which ones are not-all-that-necessary. Road signs costs taxpayers real money each year to maintain and eventually replace. It's a scenario of need-to-have versus nice-to-have. If you are aware of a less-than-necessary road sign, please contact me directly on my e-mail listed above. All questions will be answered.

Infrastructure – Long term planning

We are drawing together a committee of Village residents concerned with the long-term health of our Village infrastructure. You will participate in putting together a 5-year and a 10-year plan. Requisite skills include planning, construction, analysis, and foresight. Any and all interested residents please contact me on my e-mail above. The Committee will meet once a month.

**Update from Jean Marie Hitchen Thompson (Chair – Onboarding and Welcoming Committee), [jmhthompson2005@gmail.com](mailto:jmhthompson2005@gmail.com)**

At the upcoming August BOT meeting we will be introducing the "Community Spotlight" program aimed to raise awareness of the many organizations and associations that serve our community. Each month, a representative from a different community group will give a five-minute update and share their latest news. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or recommendations regarding this program.

Come meet and learn about the benefits these groups bring to our community. This month the spotlight shines on the Tuxedo Farmer's market.

There is, as always, much more to discuss. As your Mayor, I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you since my election. I am always available to discuss anything and at any time. I look forward to hearing from you and to work together to resolve any issues. Also, please reach out to all of the Trustees in their various liaison roles and to the Committee members.

### 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](mailto: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

### Reminder

Check the website for updates and dates of various Village board meetings.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

August 25, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Village Office  
80 Lorillard Road  
Tuxedo Park, NY 10987

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, 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](mailto: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.

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's from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Regards,



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