

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BARRINGTON
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD SEPTEMBER 3, 2013**

Approved

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake Barrington was held at the Village Municipal Center, 23860 Old Barrington Road, on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, and was called to order by President Richardson at 6:15 p.m. Village Clerk Peterson was appointed Recording Secretary.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon the roll being called, the following Trustees were physically present at said location: Trustees Burke, Daulton Lange, Mitchell, Raclaw, Schaller, Schofield, and President Richardson.

The following Trustees were allowed by a majority of the members of the President and Board of Trustees in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the President and Board of Trustees to attend the meeting by video or audio conference: None

No Trustee was denied the opportunity to attend the meeting by video or audio conference.

The following Trustees were absent and did not participate in the meeting in any manner or to any extent whatsoever: None

Staff Present: Village Administrator Martin and Village Clerk Peterson

Others Present: Assistant Village Attorney B. Bateman and Zoning Board Member F. Fortman

3. DISCUSSION: LAKE COUNTY DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION ROUNDABOUT AT ROBERT & RIVER ROADS

President Richardson announced at issue is whether or not the Village will participate in a connecting sidewalk for Twin Pond Farms subdivision that is related to a Lake County roundabout project. This topic was discussed at previous Board meetings. He introduced Lake County Board Member Nick Sauer, District 17.

Mr. Sauer provided background on the Lake County Division of Transportation River and Roberts Roads roundabout project. The County is willing to work at adding a sidewalk to connect the two subdivision cul de sacs if the Village desires. He showed on a project map the planned County portion of the sidewalk and the proposed connecting portion. The County project is being paid for with federal funding. The proposed connecting portion entails tree removal and construction of a retaining wall, and is outside the scope of the County project with an additional cost of \$44,000 to be paid for by the Village. Without the connection, a curb would end the County project sidewalk, and striped asphalt and 4 feet of gravel would be installed beyond that.

4. DISCUSSION: POTENTIAL VILLAGE PARTICIPATION FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ONGOING MAINTENANCE FOR SIDEWALK CONNECTION – TWIN POND FARMS

Mr. Mike Olberholzer, 25949 N. Oak Hills Road, President of the Twin Pond Farm HOA; and HOA Board Members, Mark Wrzeszcz, 27340 W. Hickory Ridge; Stephen Baeten, 25970 N. Meadow View Court; and Rob Hana, 25990 N. Oak Hills Road were in attendance. Mr. Oberholzer mentioned one HOA Board member could not attend. He reported 75% of the homeowners signed a petition through Change.org in favor of the connecting sidewalk including the three occupied homes along the proposed project area. The other home is vacant at this time. There is lots of activity at the intersection and residents would like to access the forest preserve trails.

President Richardson reviewed that the Village brought the LCDOT roundabout project to the attention of the subdivision a few years ago, because of the Village's concern with whether or not the residents would agree with the removal of trees. He summarized issues from past discussions at several recent Board meetings regarding the request for the connecting sidewalk including whether or not a precedent would be set if the Village agreed to participate, impact of tree removal, Village liability, resident safety, and funding. He felt more comfortable about the liability issue following a conversation with the Village Attorney. He indicated the Village had extensive discussions while deliberating the financial plan this year and funding of the connecting sidewalk is of concern. He communicated with the trustees individually regarding this request. There is a neighborhood beautification grant program where the Village offers a funding match, a concept which the Village would consider for funding of this project.

Board Discussion

Comments were made regarding sidewalks only existing in PUDs within the Village, apprehension with removing mature trees that will leave homes open without screening and the impact on general aesthetics, concern for safety with a pedestrian crossing near the roundabout, and further remarks regarding the LCDOT informational video not addressing pedestrian crossings at roundabouts. A request was made to have the LCDOT provide cross sections for further examination.

Mr. Hana commented on how the past installation of the traffic light and the upcoming roundabout project do not fit the Village's vision. He informed the Board a similar connecting sidewalk was installed in Tower Lakes for safer access, and he suggested looking at different material for the retaining wall such as boulders to improve the aesthetic. Upon inquiry, he shared his thoughts on access to Roberts Road after the roundabout is constructed.

Board comments continued. It was pointed out a wider shoulder was installed on Long Grove Road in Deer Park for cycling and pedestrian traffic. Appreciation was expressed to the HOA for being an active community and for reaching out to the County with their request. A comment was made about not being convinced a sidewalk was safer than not doing anything at all and that the sidewalk connection may not be in the best interest of the community and even Twin Pond Farms subdivision community. The proposal may not be the best use of Village funds when the Village is trying to find funding for roads and infrastructure for the whole community. It was questioned why set a precedent for sidewalks when 4 feet of asphalt and additional 4 feet of gravel that is part of the County plan would achieve the same objective. Access in and out of the Twin Ponds and Farm Trails subdivisions with the installation of the roundabout was raised.

Trustee Mitchell provided information about safety issues with New England's rotaries, the East Coast equivalent to a roundabout.

President Richardson indicated Mr. Bateman did not feel liability would be an issue. Assistant Village Attorney B. Bateman informed the Board that once a municipality installs a sidewalk it has to maintain it within certain safety standards. However, the proximity to the trail system and ability to connect to it arguably gives it a recreational purpose allowing the sidewalk to be subject to tort immunity and a recreational standard of care.

President Richardson reflected on comments related to funding and whether or not the request for the connecting sidewalk is the right use of scarce resources. He recognized the precedential issue that this is tied to a county project with federal funding. He suggested a 50/50 split to be established by a Special Service Area.

Mr. Oberholzer is convinced the sidewalk is necessary for safety and he addressed the comment regarding curbing. He will discuss the cost sharing with the HOA Board. The HOA had planned to replace the trees that would be removed for the proposed sidewalk connection and to apply for a Neighborhoods Beautification Initiative grant to restore the entryway following completion of the project.

President Richardson announced this item is included on the Board meeting agenda, that the Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole would be adjourned to enter the scheduled Board meeting, and that the discussion would be continued then.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Trustee Mitchell and seconded by Trustee Schofield to adjourn the meeting. The voice vote was unanimous, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Peterson
Village Clerk