
VILLAGE OF CHESTNUT RIDGE
CONTINUED BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Spring Valley High School

Tuesday

July 24, 2018

7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS:

ROSARIO PRESTI, JR., MAYOR OF CHESTNUT RIDGE

JOAN BROCK, DEPUTY MAYOR

HOWARD COHEN, TRUSTEE

GRANT VALENTINE, TRUSTEE

APPEARANCES:

WALTER SEVASTIAN, ESQ., VILLAGE ATTORNEY

JONATHAN LOCKMAN, PLANNER

MAXIMILLIAN STACH, PLANNER

ROCKLAND & ORANGE REPORTING

2 Congers Road

New City, New York 10956

(845) 634-4200

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

MAYOR PRESTI: Good evening all, and welcome to the continued public hearing on the house of worship draft legislation pending before the Board of Trustees for the Village of Chestnut Ridge. And for those who may not have been here in June this is really more of a listening tour and it's really not looking to get into a a dialogue back and forth. Also, because our time is limited, we do have to be out of here by 10:00, we will again be abiding be a five-minute time limit. Again, the attorneys that are representing individuals, attorneys will have ten minutes and I will be doing -- I will be picking up from my list from the last meeting. If you're not here, that's fine, if you are here you've been able to preserve your spot on the list. We have a new list for those who feel as though they would also like to speak. Again, if either you're too shy or you felt as though you haven't given us the full benefit of your comments or suggestions you

1 Proceedings

2 are again welcome to submit any comments in
3 writing. I really can't hear you.

4 A VOICE: Do you have to be a resident
5 of Chestnut Ridge to speak?

6 MAYOR PRESTI: Okay. That was going to
7 be my next comment. I am giving preference
8 with regard to the list of Chestnut Ridge
9 residents first, at the end of the evening
10 if there are those folks who wish to speak
11 that are not residents of Chestnut Ridge you
12 will have an opportunity to speak, but the
13 priority is going to be Chestnut Ridge
14 residents and Chestnut Ridge residents who
15 haven't spoken as of yet. So if you want to
16 speak a second time, again, you're welcome
17 to sign the list, but your comments -- the
18 list is to my left, your right.

19 Now, folks, again, by way of quick
20 background, the purpose of this meeting and
21 the purpose of the draft law was to address
22 that the Village Board has discussed as
23 making sure that the Village will be
24 compliant with regard to Federal Law in so
25 far as it addresses houses of worship,

1 Proceedings
2 houses of assembly. The current zoning law
3 is five acres or more, and from a
4 Constitutional standpoint we feel that we
5 want to make sure we were legally compliant.
6 Not doing anything is not an option. We
7 will draft the law that we hope will be able
8 to not only provide new compliance to those
9 potential uses, but will provide guidance,
10 clarity and the necessary parameters for
11 those applicants that are entitled to
12 utilize that type of use. In addition to
13 the clarity for the applicants, it will
14 provide clarity for the Village to enforce
15 the law. As it stands right now if you've
16 got folks that are worshipping not within
17 the confines of the law we don't know what's
18 going on and I believe they also want to
19 make sure they know what's going on. So we
20 are going to hopefully have a law that,
21 while it's not going to be perfect, it's
22 going to be a law that hopefully will
23 provide the clarity that we need, and
24 because it's a law, it's a big thing, and if
25 we find that as we progress things need to

1 Proceedings

2 be tweaked some more or changed we will do
3 just that so, we will then have at least
4 some parameters involved.

5 In addition, as far as this evening is
6 concerned, I know this is a very passionate
7 subject for many people and I respect that
8 and everyone has an opportunity and everyone
9 has an ability and a Constitutional right to
10 speak, to speak your peace and to give the
11 benefit of what you're thinking. No
12 objection to that. I would only ask that
13 you provide the courtesy and decorum that
14 we'll need here so that everyone gets a
15 chance to speak uninterrupted. The calling
16 out of questions from the audience can't be
17 done, we can't hear you and it's not really
18 going to work out. So we just ask that you
19 be respectful of the speakers and just as I
20 presume you're not going to want to have
21 people yelling behind you and I would ask
22 that you do the same thing. My hope is that
23 we're going to be able to get everyone who
24 wants to speak an opportunity to speak, but
25 as I said, if you're not going to be able to

1 Proceedings
2 speak tonight and the statement are written
3 statement you'll willing to. At this
4 juncture we have some brief comments that
5 the Trustees would like to make now I guess
6 would be the time to do that. Howard?

7 MR. COHEN: Good evening, I'm Howard
8 Cohen, Trustee of Chestnut Ridge. I'd like
9 to give you a brief addition to what the
10 Mayor has said. Joan Brock and I, and I
11 know a number of faces that I see here
12 tonight, were there when the Village was
13 formed. When we formed Chestnut Ridge we
14 inherited the zoning code from the Town of
15 Ramapo and at that point there were a number
16 -- the five acre regulation was adequate.
17 Most of us who live in this area were able
18 to drive to a synagogue, whether it be in
19 Chestnut Ridge or somewhere in Rockland
20 County or nearby New Jersey. As the current
21 population has included many people who do
22 not have that opportunity, our law is no
23 longer compliant with Federal regulations,
24 New York State regulations and Court cases.
25 In not adopting a law we hold ourselves up

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

to a lot of legal penalties, and for what?
Everybody who lives in Chestnut Ridge now
moved here for the openness that we have,
the large properties that we have. Now, our
proposed law does not change one iota of
that. We are not downsizing the zoning of
Chestnut Ridge. We are making it easier for
people who need to have local synagogues and
worship.

As we heard at the last meeting a lot of
people came here for different reasons, it
doesn't matter. The fact is we're all in it
together and we have to live and get along
with each other and not to have -- we also
thought that because we did not prohibit
synagogues in houses at the time our Village
was formed that it would be adequate. Over
the last few years we realized that it's far
from adequate. People have been able to put
synagogues in their houses and invite people
in to pray with them without any Village or
zoning oversight and that's what this law
that we're here to propose, we're proposing,
and need your comments on is all about.

1 Proceedings

2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. BROCK: I'm Joan Brock. I lived
4 here for 51 years. I moved here like
5 everybody else moved here and I have to
6 (inaudible) and I will tell you the one
7 thing that the audience must be aware of is
8 that Federal Law supersedes any law that we
9 can draft. So when we draft the law it's
10 for safety, it's for protection, it's to
11 make sure that if something is happening on
12 a property next to you your property will be
13 protected. That's the purpose of this law.

14 MAYOR PRESTI: I believe Trustee
15 Valentine also wants to speak.

16 MR. VALENTINE: Good evening, my name is
17 Grant Valentine. I'm a Trustee here of
18 Chestnut Ridge and I as look across the
19 audience here I see what democracy looks
20 like, I see what America looks like sitting
21 shoulder to shoulder trying to work through
22 some challenges that we all have as
23 Americans here in Chestnut Ridge. Now I
24 applaud your passion, I applaud your
25 engagement, I applaud your enthusiasm, but I

1 Proceedings
2 have to say to you that we could agree to
3 disagree without being disagreeable here
4 tonight, that we should all have the
5 opportunity to speak about what's going on.
6 Again, as I look across there I see the
7 rainbow here from Chestnut Ridge. I applaud
8 you for coming out tonight and I applaud
9 your passion and let's get started. Thank
10 you.

11 MAYOR PRESTI: I would like to thank the
12 Trustees who all had great words to say and
13 I appreciate it. It's truly a pleasure to
14 serve with them all. Now, are there any
15 attorneys that are here that are
16 representing an organizations that wish to
17 speak? If an attorney ends up coming in
18 after we begin just direct them over to the
19 Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk and the table
20 we'll take care of that. So what I'm going
21 to do now is I'm going to pick up from my
22 list from Reggie Manning, are you here
23 Reggie? All right. Joseph Wilder. Name
24 and address for the record, Mr. Wilder, if
25 you still wish to speak. Again, folks just

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

remember five minutes.

MR. WILDER: The last few weeks I experienced something and like everybody we go back -- thank you, sir. I'm very sensitive to religious freedom. I am all in favor of following the laws of this nation and the State of New York. In addition to saying that, I have had experienced where I feel certain things are imposed on me which don't conform where people taking advantage. So for instance there's a stairway in the building behind me which is going to be used as a synagogue, they put a stairway up not six inches from my property so could people leave a schul, come through my property and go to the street in the front of my house from the back of my house. The case of the building on Eastborn Drive that has been worked on for at least two years as far as I know. I don't see why a stairway was put up right to my property line in order that for any other reason that people can cut right through my yard in order to go to synagogue and back from synagogue. And so I feel that

1 Proceedings

2 is an imposition which goes against reason.

3 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Wilder. I
4 do understand that there's an attorney
5 that's here that wishes to speak so Mr. Barr
6 if you're here you can come up and just name
7 and address for the record and who you are
8 representing please.

9 MR. BARR: Good evening, Mr. Mayor and
10 the Board. My name is Harvey Barr, I live
11 or at 664 Chestnut Ridge road for 67 years.
12 I'm what one would call an old timer and
13 I've watched our Village grow and I've
14 watched it change. I was very happy to hear
15 what the Board said tonight because as an
16 attorney and as a complex commercial
17 litigator I know how expensive litigation
18 can be. I put my comments in writing, I'm
19 not going to spend much time, I just want to
20 say that those of us that have been invested
21 in the Village for so many years place our
22 confidence in the Board that you're going to
23 do the right thing and the right thing is to
24 adopt a law that is reasonable and can work
25 for everyone. Chestnut Ridge has been an

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

accepting community. I graduated from this school 60 years ago last month. I attended this school with people from the New York City who lived at Lakeside School, with people from Three Fold Farm and there were many many various communities that we all managed to get along and live well and enjoy the community. Based upon some of the comments I've, and I understand where people are coming from cause I live in Rockland County almost my entire life, and I understand the concerns and comments and I'm confident based on what you've said you're going to do the right thing. When the zoning in Chestnut Ridge changed my father was concerned because they were going to allow 20,000-square foot lots so when I moved here my neighbors were chickens, goats and cabbage farms so those of that have been there, what I would like to call the silent majority, support the Board, we encourage you to adopt a law that's going to work and save us money in litigation and put that money to use for the betterment of our

1 Proceedings

2 community. Thank you.

3 MR. PRESTI: Next up will be Ed
4 Sheridan. Mr. Sheridan, are you here? Ed
5 Sheridan. Again, name and address for the
6 record, sorry to be repetitive but it's for
7 the transcript.

8 MR. SHERIDAN: Ed Sheridan, 46 Pascack.
9 Before I start my comments, like a lot of
10 you we moved here from somewhere else for a
11 more suburban, how many people moved away
12 from somewhere that was overcrowded to come
13 here?

14 (Crowd applauds.)

15 MR. SHERIDAN: How many people moved
16 from some place overcrowded in Rockland to
17 come here, how many people stood up to make
18 sure the community they came from didn't get
19 overcrowded? This is about the law.
20 Specifically this new law would allow our
21 zoning code so let's start here, how did
22 this all come to be? A minority group of
23 citizens got together, they addressed the
24 Board, expressed their concerns, now we had
25 the (inaudible) project on Red Schoolhouse

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

Road where everyone was invited to sit at the table. Not this time. We don't even know who these people are or who represents them. Well, we know (inaudible) Israel represents them and they're willing to sue us if we don't pass this law. That's a problem right off the bat in the Constitution. The Constitution says that you should make a law preventing a religion or encouraging a religious to be based on so to have one community have this conversation with our local government, I have a problem with. Walter, are religious uses permitted in this Village?

MAYOR PRESTI: Mr. Sheridan, you're not here to ask questions.

MR. SHERIDAN: I need some clarification, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR PRESTI: You're wasting your time, Mr. Sheridan.

MR. SHERIDAN: They are. There's lots of religious houses of worship in this community and they're legal. We have a synagogue, but it's converted. It's a

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

process. If you want to do something, you file a permit, you send a building plan in, you go to the board, you get your proper variances, you file a permit, it's allowed. We have these properties we have the /KAPBLG owe Church and their plan has been approved, we have Foster Church on South Pascack Road, they actual bought extra land to meet the five acre minimum. I don't see them complaining.

This law is a blanket, as our lawyer put it, is a giveaway, to one specific group, one part of the community, why are we doing that, why isn't the law equitable for everyone? This new law will bypass certain parts of our boards, why would we do that? Our boards are here to protect us. They have been doing it for 30 plus years. There cumulative knowledge goes back, we have board members who have been here since the beginning of the Village. Their recommendations alone would give me cause on passing this law. Why wouldn't you listen to your own boards, your neighbors, your

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

friends? These uses are permitted and we have very good zoning boards, planning boards and people with these rules in place. If you take out some safeguards you get 3 Swallow, you get 27 El Dorado, you get 1 Tara, places there are granted permits that should never have been granted. You're gonna take the safeties off, you think you an have enforcement problem now, wait till you see that mess.

Like you said, some of you guys were here from the beginning, you formed this Village and to protect it, you're also elected officials and you swore an oath to protect this Village. If you're going to do this do this the right way, take the recommendations of two very good attorneys and a planner who said you need a comprehensive plan, you need the framework to support this, otherwise you're going to be in Court. All they're going to be is simple words. If you do it right, great, if you can't uphold your oath to this Village we will find people who will.

1 Proceedings

2 (Crowd applauds.)

3 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Sheridan
4 and I believe the words you were searching
5 for, "Congress shall make no law respecting
6 the establishing of religion or prohibiting
7 the free exercise thereof," those are the
8 exact words. Next would be Louis, I guess
9 it's Louis Grable, Mr. Grable, are you here?
10 Okay. Next would be Monty Braun. Okay. I
11 guess next one is Mr. Markowitz, is it Shia
12 Markowitz?

13 A VOICE: They spoke last time.

14 MAYOR PRESTI: I didn't have them
15 checked off. No problem. Joel Sylvester?
16 Mr. Sylvester, name and address for the
17 record, please.

18 MR. SYLVESTER: Good evening, Joel
19 Sylvester, 46 Krable Terrace. It's going to
20 be impossible for me to point everything out
21 people are going to points to Board, but,
22 you know, several things have been brought
23 up. Establishing laws have been up, not
24 going to touch that at this point, but it
25 seems a lot of what we're talking about is

1 Proceedings
2 because of your RLUIPA and one of the things
3 is -- there are three conditions to RLUIPA
4 -- several conditions to RLUIPA; all right?
5 That there should be a substantial burden
6 which I believe the you guys are addressing.
7 There's supposed to be returns which I
8 haven't heard right now because there
9 another part of it and there's
10 nondiscrimination. That's how I understand
11 it and I'm gonna have to read off this cause
12 the clock's ticking.

13 My issue with how you're approaching the
14 is that the zoning laws were established
15 (inaudible) origin of the zoning laws, but
16 when they were established in applying
17 RLUIPA discriminatory in the way the codes
18 and laws are written and I don't think so.
19 I don't see any law that says that it's
20 discriminating against any particular
21 religion. The other thing is that with
22 RLUIPA what happens in Courts the Courts
23 upheld that the substantial burden must
24 place more than an inconvenience on
25 religious exercise. From what I am seeing,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

this is the letter that the consultant wrote for basically what you're referring to here, it seems like a combination. Proximity is something that you're arguing and quite frankly even that is not a substantial burden so I just want you to pay attention that, to be aware of that, you know, when you're trying to create this law.

The other thing I want to say in applying our existing zoning laws requiring house of worships to maintain minimum acreage we are treating religious assembly as nonreligious assembly. So, the way I understand it you can't have a pizza parlor next door to it. If you're telling me that's the case I'm moving out. If you're saying that the, you know, we're going to be treating nonreligious assembly institutions the same as religious assembly institutions then you've gotta have to both ways. So I'm assuming now you're going to be writing laws to allow gas stations and pizza parlors and beauty parlors to open up next door to us cause that's where in reality you have to

1 Proceedings

2 take this.

3 The other thing, substantial burdens.

4 One of the things that you're not mentioning
5 is that the substantial burden can be argued
6 by citing compelling government interest.

7 There is a compelling government interest
8 and namely to preserve the character and
9 quality of our single family based community
10 to protect the public health and safety of
11 our residents. That's a compelling
12 government interest. I don't understand why
13 you're not arguing that and why you're not
14 using that to stop an RLUIPA case from being
15 brought against our Village. I'm sorry, you
16 need to take that into consideration.

17 With February 9th, Ed had mentioned
18 this, you only took into consideration the
19 needs of one religious group, and I know
20 that I asked a question at one of our board
21 meetings, can you mention or can you tell me
22 how many religions are there in the world.
23 I went on the internet and I just researched
24 there was somewhere in the area of 4200
25 known religions so I'm going to ask you a

1 Proceedings
2 question again, have you taken into
3 consideration the other 4,199 religions,
4 have you taken that into consideration?
5 Then -- I only have 52 seconds so I just
6 want to read something to you. This is from
7 the Kiryas Joel case in Supreme Court
8 struck down in creation of that school
9 district. This is the majority of Justice
10 Souter says that the, "acts that benefits
11 the preferences of a particular religious
12 group clearly violates the principle that
13 enshrouded us." Remember that.

14 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Sylvester.
15 Again, this isn't really a back and forth,
16 but if you're really going off the rails I
17 have to kind of comment. Substantial burden
18 isn't the fact that someone has to walk to
19 their house of worship. Substantial burden
20 is the definition of what is the process of
21 to get the application shepherded through
22 the various boards within the community,
23 whether it be Chestnut Ridge, whether it be
24 any other village in Rockland County or the
25 United States for that matter. So

1 Proceedings

2 substantial burden is not the fact that
3 we're trying to make it easier people to --
4 to --

5 (Crowd yells out.)

6 MAYOR PRESTI: Again, so substantial
7 burden is the process and having to go to
8 board after board and back to board after
9 board that goes to the possibility of that
10 being a substantial burden so I assure you
11 that the Constitution perspective of that
12 draft law was taken into account and will be
13 followed. In addition, you talked about
14 other groups. The whole idea and I guess
15 maybe for those folks -- folks, my meeting.
16 It's my meeting.

17 (Crowd yells out.)

18 MAYOR PRESTI: So the fact that
19 Mr. Sylvester asked about other groups. The
20 whole idea with having this hearing was to
21 also open it up to other groups and we have.
22 I haven't gotten responses from 460 or 4,682
23 religions, but we have received comments
24 from comments from some of the locals houses
25 of worships, non Jewish in the Village so we

1 Proceedings
2 have had folks weigh in, but the Foster
3 Church in particular, it is a public
4 document, so we have had people weighing in
5 so thank you.

6 Next would be Mr. Brecher. Mr. Brecher.
7 And Mr. Green I think spoke Mr. Green spoke
8 already that was an attorney. Mr.
9 Ballinger? Mr. Ballinger? That's a good
10 suggestion. All right. As Mr. Ballinger is
11 working his way down, next on the list would
12 be Norman Cohen, Jonathan Corbin and Barbara
13 Kleinman and Brenden Quinn so that would be
14 the next four so you're welcome to take --
15 if you want to wait on either side of the
16 microphone. Norman Cohen, Jonathan Corbin,
17 excuse me, Mrs. Kleinman isn't a resident so
18 So Ms. Kleinman you have to wait till the
19 end. Mr. Ballinger. Just be careful with
20 the microphone cause that's what seems to
21 give feedback. Go ahead, Mr. Ballinger.

22 MR. BALLINGER: Good evening, my name's
23 William Ballinger, I live at 3 Boundwood
24 Drive, Chestnut Ridge, New York. Now I
25 wrote some comments back when we had the

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

first meeting and some of these may or may not work tonight. Now I'm here against the zoning changes without Zoning Board hearings from the people, from my neighbors. We have laws on the books that are not regularly enforced. One of my pet peeves is line of site at corners so vehicles can see around the corner without having an accident, that's a safety issue and we're here talking about safety issues. I also heard about a stairway being placed next to a person's property line so I have an issue about placing fences or trees on property lines that impedes emergency personnel.

Now, current Zoning Board laws were made for the safety of the residents. Any change must consider safety first. When people buy homes they should be aware of the laws of the town or the village laws. These laws were not made up on a whim.

We're meeting here tonight because the Village Hall is too small for everyone to be heard or seen. At the last meeting there was some talk about parking because I heard

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

some stories that people wanted to park on people's driveways and I'm assuming that still may be in effect. And one of the issues now in the wintertime you don't want cars parked on the street because of emergency personnel problems or safety reasons. Everyone wants to be able to drive after a snowstorm.

Now, I have an idea for all these extra people that want to come in to pray, why can't we use the park and ride lots so that way there won't be an issue with parking on people's property line or limited to it. There's also an issue maybe people might want to use public transportation for that. You know, there is one bus line I'm aware of that does come into Chestnut Ridge, you are able to walk. This bus line starts at Spring Valley and goes along the main streets, Route 45, so I'm going to give this to the Board so they could look at it to see if that might help alleviate some of the traffic problems. There's also another bus line that comes up here. There's a 45 bus

1 Proceedings

2 and that does stop on Route 45 which maybe
3 you're familiar with the Assembly of God
4 parking lot, people could go there and maybe
5 get picked up or ask for a cab to pick them
6 up.

7 Now, as for these houses of worship that
8 they want to put in I'm thinking about my
9 house. My house the doors open inward. If
10 there's an emergency, things may happen
11 where people try to come out and the doors
12 open inward. I hope they consider changing
13 how the doors open so that if there's a
14 stampede the doors open outward. You don't
15 want to get crushed at the door as has
16 happened before as some restaurants. That's
17 all I want to say. Thank you for listening
18 to me and I hope some of my ideas are used.

19 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you Mr. Ballinger.
20 You can give that to the clerk. Mr. Cohen,
21 name and address for the record, please.
22 And again, after Mr. Cohen, Mr. Corbin and
23 Ms. Blinn.

24 MR. COHEN: Thank you everybody.
25 Welcome. This is an extremely important

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

meeting indeed and I just want to make one comment before I present my (inaudible) and the comment is that under the law it does not state specifically that you have to have 90 percent occupancy. It doesn't state that. It has to be -- what is required is that access for houses of worship have to be within a reasonable distance, how do you determine that 90 percent household for religious purposes is reasonable under RLUIPA laws? That's the question.

Now, no religious organization shall restrict the tranquility and freedom of movement of others. That brings up the issue of the suggestion that it does that. Yet, this Mayor and the Board of Trustees have usurped their will in favor of one particular group. This pervasive amendment permitting 90 percent of single-family houses utilized for religious purposes is not in the interest of the community. Freedom of worship must apply to the fairness doctrine and is not a take over of one community. Why are you here, Mayor and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

the Board of Trustees, not addressing the fracturing of our community. After all, Chestnut ridge has always been proud of its diversity. Building codes and occupancies must be enforced, a reasonable density plan for single-family houses for worship must be revised, safety codes must be enforced for the safety of the congregants, for the safety of the congregants. Let us not become a renegade Village serving but one group. Thank you.

MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Cohen. Jonathan Corbin. Mr. Corbin, name and address for the record.

MR. CORBIN: Jonathan Corbin, 6 Aberdeen Avenue, Chestnut Ridge. My family has lived in Chestnut Ridge for 27 years. We've enjoyed the beauty of our neighborhood, we would like to stay there, but we wonder what the future will bring. Recently we may have gotten a preview. We live around the corner from a house on 315 Highland Avenue, a schul which is being used by a very large number of Orthodox worshippers without a required

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

certificate of occupancy. In the process of several weeks morning and night it is not uncommon to see as many as 45 vehicles parked bumper to bumper and both Perth and Aberdeen Avenues, and I have counted them. Recently on July 8th the situation boiled over when homeowners could not back their cars out of their driveways. An altercation occurred when one of the attendees at North Highland asked a woman if she were was German and another one asked whether we tolerated diversity.

This unfortunate incident made me reflect with apprehension on the larger problem, that residents of Chestnut Ridge who are subject to zoning amendments drafted without our participation in the process, where, I ask, are the public workshops? Where is the opportunity for both sides to sit down and find common ground, where is the moratorium that common sense says we should enact until new building and land use laws are drafted. These important questions take a great deal of thought and planning,

1 Proceedings
2 but the Mayor and the Board of Trustees I
3 don't think have provided much clear
4 direction about this. I haven't heard any.
5 The Mayor and the Board need to take the
6 bull by the horns, reject the proposed
7 zoning changes and start over.

8 (Crowd applauds.)

9 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Corbin.
10 Okay. Johnny Marcelli? No. Okay. All
11 right. Let's see. Okay. Next on the list
12 would be Shia Reynolds, Winston Jacobs,
13 Harry Rodderick and Edwin Ocampo those would
14 be the next four. Reynolds? Jacobs?
15 Rodderick? Ocampo? Okay. Stephen Dykstra.
16 In the mezzanine in the back. After Mr.
17 Dykstra we have Joanne Florio, Daniel Daley,
18 Pat Kendrick, and the Robert Cole. So after
19 there we have Florio, Daley, and Kendrick
20 and Cole if you are here. And, again,
21 Mr. Dykstra, name and the address for the
22 record.

23 MR. DYKSTRA: Stephen Dykstra,
24 1003 Chestnut Ridge Road, Chestnut Ridge. I
25 apologize if some of my words tonight seem

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

harsh, but they're true and to the point.
Let me begin, you, Mr. Mayor, and we as the
people will be making a very important life
altering choices in the near future. All of
you as a governing body on this Board you
all sit in stone and (inaudible) a new
precedent for the entire Country to have
bear witness to, for us all to ignore the
aftermath of your actions and policies you
put in place for years to come. For decades
we have all been witness to the increasing
problem the have fell into this Country due
to the association to the overwhelming
influx of a particular group nonsecular
people who host communities -- into host
such as the one here in Chestnut Ridge, New
York. We have all been paying close
attention to these unwanted changes. We
have surely noticed the huge spiking
increase in litigation in our Courts from
corrupt politicians, self serving private
school officials, nonprofit organization
directors, silent partners hiding behind LLC
corporations and the voter fraud criminals

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

who have been prosecuted and sent to prison.
There is an even -- ever increasing spike in
FBI readings and lawsuits that have also
been filed in Federal and State Prosecuting
Attorneys and Department of Justice Attorney
Generals because of the religious land uses
and civil rights uses. These departures
from healthy coexisting religious and
secular communities throughout our Country
are the result of domestic problems that our
Federal, State and local Governments are
fully aware of and understand, but some
unfortunately, often kowtow to the votes
when politicians jump like a dog for a treat
when political and religious lobbyists
dangle block vote or campaign contributions
in their face.

(Crowd applauds.)

MR. DYKSTRA: It's also unfortunate and
scarring to our community when our own town
supervisor has cow-towed along these same
paths to an all time National low of
integrity and self worth.

My home here is in Chestnut Ridge. It

1 Proceedings
2 is my sanctuary, comfort, peace and security
3 and, like most of us here tonight, our
4 largest physical investment. Freely
5 speaking on behalf of most homeowners' in
6 this community, to interfere with my home,
7 my property and my community in anyway will
8 naturally cause me to feel threatened and I
9 will react accordingly. For a long time now
10 I have been witness to the unwanted and
11 undeserved ever increasing set of problems
12 that have been steadily diminishing and
13 robbing my fellow residents of their
14 principle and foremost right to pursue
15 happiness without having to gather at these
16 meetings to defend a once enjoyable we so
17 called Chestnut Ridge, New York. I've lived
18 here in Chestnut Ridge my whole life, 56
19 years, blissfully and content and never once
20 thinking that my hometown would be subject
21 to oppression and severely burdened by this
22 subversive religious group intent on
23 systematically replacing the host community
24 where I live with their own kind of what we
25 thought to believe are of a good and godly

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

intent. How wrong we are as a community to naively believe this for so long, this fairy tale.

(Crowd applauds.)

MR. DYKSTRA: The problems will not end on your terms alone, Mr. Mayor, a blind and deaf man can see the oppression is wrong and ungodly. And when the people in these numbers bringing their grievances to your table with all its indignities, do you not see the pain in their hearts? Do the oppressors not understand their selfish and arrogant behavior is an abomination bringing never before seen conflict to this community and others like it they wish to assimilate with? Allowing agents of their religious background employed in real estate to repeatedly harass and torment homeowners to sell their properties to them, thereby involving the State of New York to establish laws to prevent this aggression. Developers are now overwhelming unsuspecting long established towns and villages not equipped to handle the legal battles and huge changes

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

they unanimously oppose where the infrastructure and natural environment can not accommodate the massive resource demands in that area. The oppressors trespass on private properties, not on their own, yet expect the host community to respect their private properties many of which are not to code and needily constructed.

MAYOR PRESTI: Please wrap up, Mr. Dykstra.

MR. DYKSTRA: This seems to establish there's gonna be more tax exempt houses of worship, far more in quantity to other religious communities, thereby shifting the tax burden in their favor. They overwhelm the Federal Government, State Government, social welfare services, healthcare services and supplemental and fiscal assistance programs.

(Crowd applauds.)

MR. DYKSTRA: The oppressors (inaudible) local school boards to circumvent school policy, fire public teachers and bus drivers, dismantle the public school

1 Proceedings

2 programs and create excessive --

3 (Crowd applauds.)

4 MR. DYKSTRA: Eliminating the required
5 building maintenance and all in an effort to
6 downgrade the public ratings to a poor level
7 of two to three from their former level of
8 nine which I graduated this school. That's
9 the end of it?

10 MAYOR PRESTI: You had five minutes. If
11 you'd like to submit your statement in
12 writing and we'll allow you to do that.

13 MR. DYKSTRA: I have one more. What god
14 fearing culture would do these things with
15 such arrogance and contempt of God to other
16 human beings then blame the people they are
17 victimizing for showing anger and animosity
18 towards them knowing full well the
19 oppressors bring the response upon
20 themselves, act like they are victims, then
21 use every trick in the book and cry
22 intolerance and Antisemite or haters or
23 racist. By now the people fully understand
24 the oppressors have a well and long
25 established agenda to fully remove existing

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

communities and homeowners to permanently establish themselves and only themselves both here and other places using every available resource possible for their own self-serving needs.

MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Dykstra.

MR. DYKSTRA: One page with your permission.

MAYOR PRESTI: Please.

(Crowd boos.)

MR. DYKSTRA: As we all witnessed, many of the oppressors choose to segregate themselves from the community as a whole because they choose not to assimilate with the host community and is the primary reason we are here tonight. And the details I spoke of tonight I believe this a domestic threat and not to be ignored any longer. St. Lawrence ignored the people, St. Lawrence was a self severing coward. Long after this meeting, Mr. Mayor, your children and your children of those around us here today may eventually continue to suffer the relentless oppression and in the long run

1 Proceedings

2 this too may eventually go to litigation and
3 should. It has become obvious from our very
4 presence here tonight that as we continue to
5 bear witness to this oppression many other
6 neighbors, communities, states and towns
7 will no longer ignore the suffering
8 consequence of this domestic abuse.

9 MAYOR PRESTI: You're using other
10 people's time. Mr. Dykstra, you're welcome
11 to submit your comments. Everybody has five
12 minutes. We're trying to be fair. Please,
13 sit down.

14 MR. DYKSTRA: Fair? All right. Thank
15 you.

16 MAYOR PRESTI: Joanne Floria. Daniel
17 Daley, Kendrick Tolts. All right. Next
18 would be Baruch Feder. Hollander, Moses
19 Hollander, Engel, Mrs. Duguy, Goodman.
20 Actually Ms. Goodman spoke already. If you
21 want to let her speak a second time she has
22 to wait till the end of the list. If you
23 don't want to speak right now we'll go to
24 the next person. Cynthia William. Next
25 after would be -- oh, Mr. Feder. I'm sorry.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

So Mr. Feder and then you and then Williams.

MR. FEDER: My name is Baruch Feder, I live at 33 Becker, Chestnut Ridge. I'm sorry, I want to apologize if I'm going to be a little harsh on the Board and on the Planning Board and on the Zoning Board, nothing personal, it just it's emotional about. I've live in the Village for 12 years and Gabbai of one of the illegal or one of the so called illegal schuls running in Chestnut Ridge for 50 years. It's open and I as the Gabbai for 12 years. Gabbai for those who doesn't know what it is I'm rabbi's right-hand man and I do it on a voluntary basis, I make sure that the neighbors parkings are not blocked, I make sure no garbage flies over to the neighbor's properties, the grass should be clean, that's what I'm doing. Also, I am a very open minded person, but a lot of people who are not religious in the Village are friends and I keep on conversations with them all the time and I'm very friendly we them. Now, I want Mr. Markowitz should apologize

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

to me because he is a very good friend of mine, but where was the Planning Board the last ten years when Rabbi Rosenbaum and Two Madeline Terrace was in front of all the boards, Planning, Zoning, Board of Trustees, Architectural Review Board, going in and out, when Doris Ullman was still the Village Attorney the first thing when the Rabbi walked into the Village was, we are not here to help you. That's -- thank God and we are very proud of the Village, what's happening now, things are changing, this letter from the Planning Board is long overdue. This zoning enactment should have been done years ago at the Planning Board when Rabbi Rosenbaum was throwing like a yo yo back and forth at that time they should recommend for the Village to change the zoning that the schuls should be able to build. Ten years for a schul, for a synagogue, is unacceptable in any village, let alone in a Village of the United States of America which I am a proud citizen.

(Crowd applauds.)

1 Proceedings

2 MR. FEDER: No, that's not acceptable.
3 The time has long been passed, the clock is
4 ticking right now. We are wanna -- we wanna
5 to be very good neighbors with everybody and
6 I inviting anyone including Mark Levan, who
7 I had many conversation with him, and I told
8 him that this is not a bad zoning law. You
9 look what happened in Wesley Hills, Wesley
10 Hills has 20 years such a zoning law and you
11 don't see ten schuls on one street, no, you
12 see as much as needed.

13 (Crowd applauds.)

14 MR. FEDER: You don't see thirty
15 restaurants in one mall strip, no, there's
16 one restaurant in each mall strip. Same
17 thing. You need ten people to have an
18 Orthodox schul running and you need more
19 people going away for holidays, you need at
20 least 30 people to have a schul running.
21 No, there will not be ten schuls on each
22 street, no. That's not true. Don't look
23 what Airmont is doing. Airmont was sued
24 twice by the federal Government and they
25 both times lost. Pomona was sued by the

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

Federal Government and they lost. Let's do what Wesley hills did 20 years ago. I want -- I invite anyone to come with me next Sunday, Monday, whenever, I'm open for everyone come with me to Wesley Hills when people are going to pray and I want that they should show me how many there are schuls in each street, how many clogged the parking spots are, no, they are not and I apologize for my harsh rhetoric, but I am very emotional about it as you can all understand. I still invite anyone who wants to sit down with me and yes, I am inviting the other side of anyone was not -- either side if there's no side we want to live in harmony with you, with my neighbors, with everybody.

(Crowd applauds.)

MR. FEDER: We have children, we have grandchildren, my mother-in-law who's a widow for 30 years she chose the Village of Chestnut Ridge recently from Brooklyn. That's the place where people want to be and we want to live in harmony with you. Thank

1 Proceedings

2 you.

3 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Feder. I
4 know there's another attorney here.
5 Counselor, I would just that you give me two
6 speakers and then we'll hear from you. Name
7 and address for the record, please.

8 MS. DUGUY: Maryann Duguy, Springhill
9 Terrace. I have been hearing from the last
10 speaker and also from (inaudible) Israel and
11 also from Robert Green, the lawyer for O-J-C
12 that they want to be good neighbors. Maybe
13 my definition of a good neighbor is very
14 different from what they think a good
15 neighbor is because in the same breath we
16 are being threatened with a lawsuit if we
17 don't give them what they want. That is not
18 being a good neighbor.

19 (Crowd applauds.)

20 MS. DUGUY: I'm sorry. I have lived in
21 the Village of Chestnut Ridge 20 years ago.
22 I have had wonderful neighbors. If I needed
23 help they were right there. If they needed
24 help I was right there. Okay. This is the
25 way that I think a good neighbor is, but

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

Mr. Markowitz from A (inaudible) Israel said that the zoning house of worship that allows five acres it prohibits building of houses of worship and it seems like it says no Orthodox Jews welcome. Well let me ask you, I know I asked you this already, Mr. Mayor, the first time the law came up, when the mosque was being built, why wasn't this coming up as a change to a accommodate that particular faith? Okay. They went through the zoning process and accommodations were made and it worked out. Then the Forrester Church came in, yes, it took five years, they bought the lane to make sure they were able to follow the zoning law, they had their variances as they needed, but no such change in the law was proposed, why is that? Then you had Coptic Church as I said before to you that just got approval and it went through five years of zoning variances and accommodations, give and take, no such thing was proposed. And all of the sudden, that's my perception and I'm gonna tell you that, is secret one group was able to give their

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

ideas of what they need. Regardless of what others feel. I think this is very very wrong. Now even before the three-car garage at Chestnut Ridge was built I had given you pictures of the parking situation and I'm going to leave with you pictures, not all of the parking situation and the garbage situation that is found, some of it is being corrected, but not all of it.

Two months ago when I left the Village meeting, I was turning from 45 onto Springhill Terrace there is a sign at the corner that says do not park here from here to corner. There was a car that was parked right there, I slowed down to make my turn, there was car behind me, apparently I slowed down too much, but that car was at the corner, okay, and I tried to avoid it and I almost got hit from behind. I'm sorry, I got hit three times from behind before, I don't need a fourth time. I'm trying to avoid straining my back. I don't need this type of frustration. Again today I had to call the police the car again at 3 Spring

1 Proceedings

2 Hill parked at the edge. Now, if you are
3 not going to be able to enforce these laws,
4 what are you going to do when you are
5 allowing all of this to happen?

6 Another thing I want to ask you, has any
7 study ever been done for these tax exempt
8 properties that will come to life, how it
9 will effect the Village, how are you going
10 to study them?

11 MAYOR PRESTI: I don't want to take up
12 your time, but the tax exempt laws are
13 coming from --

14 MS. DUGUY: Go ahead. I was gonna say
15 stop the clock while you're talking. The
16 thing is if the taxes are not paid by
17 everybody the rest of us are going to have
18 to pay it and that is wrong. I came here
19 from a different country, I worked my tail
20 off to get to where I am, to enjoy, to find
21 the American dream, are you now telling me
22 that my -- my working has no value, my
23 chance of the American dream has no value
24 because I am not of a particular group, is
25 that what you're telling me?

1 Proceedings

2 (Crowd applauds.)

3 MS. DUGUY: Nobody else but one
4 particular group was at the table to propose
5 these laws. Okay. That's horrible. That's
6 not United States of America. I don't
7 understand why this is happening. Why? No
8 answer. Okay. Thank you.

9 MAYOR PRESTI: Ms. Williams, name and
10 address for the record.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening, my name is
12 Cynthia Williams. I am from 15 Nicole Way
13 in Chestnut Ridge. After that I just want
14 to say that I am not against religious
15 freedom, but I'm here tonight to voice my
16 concern about what the Mayor's plan is in
17 terms of making it such that every resident
18 can use their house for religious use if
19 they so choose. From where I stand that is
20 a hair brained scheme that is not properly
21 thought out for many reasons and one was
22 mentioned by the previous speaker about the
23 loss of income from those types of
24 properties and so the question is, how does
25 the Village plan to address the shortfall in

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

revenue that made derive from how many you approve for such purposes and how that will effect the services that the Village is expected to provide for the residents. So again, we come back to what we heard last week that what is required is a comprehensive plan for the Village so that all these things can be talked about, can be hashed out and things roll out in phases.

Now, we know many people have talked about different addresses where religious worship is being conducted. I want to draw your attention to a property that is located at One Regina Avenue right at the intersection of Saddle River Road and I will enter that into the record and I do have pictures to show what an eyesore that property has become. That is terrible. First of all, last time we heard that you have about 60 -- you're approved for about 60 residents or people that can be at a house of worship or residence for worship purposes and the parking should be provided on site. Now this particular property I

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

have never seen 60 people there and the parking has leveled that whole driving place to something that almost like a desert somewhere. So the question is, where is the enforcement? I had to be driving my daughter back and forth to RCC and I used that road, that's how I know that the traffic in the mornings between 8:20 and 8:40 is horrible. Cars backing in, cars backing out, that's right on the corner. So again, every property cannot be used because you're impeding the flow, you know, of citizens who are going about their normal business. We remember the Foster Church and I remember all the things that they had to take, traffic pattern, lighting, you know, grading, all those things that were put into place so we're talking about what needs to be done here in terms of if you're allowing any resident at all to be able to operate like that.

My other point is on Sabbath days where people walk to church the Village has expended a lot of money making sidewalks.

1 Proceedings

2 These people do not use the sidewalks on
3 sabbath days. They are in the middle of the
4 road. The entire sabbath everybody is
5 walking hand in hand. The traffic is
6 obstructed and so we are seeing the rights
7 of a few that have encroached on the
8 majority of us. So the lawyers in the house
9 need to pay attention to this and use these
10 arguments when we have to defend ourselves
11 in Court because while we are for religious
12 freedom you should not be able to take away
13 my rights of enjoying where I live. I
14 should not --

15 (Crowd applauds.)

16 MS. WILLIAMS: When I'm driving down the
17 street where my car is supposed to be on the
18 street when they are -- have abandoned the
19 sidewalk to walk in the street so those are
20 issues that need to be addressed. So again
21 we come back to the issue of enforcement and
22 if you're not enforcing now when all this is
23 at loose, what are we gonna do.

24 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you. If you'd like
25 to submit anything in writing give it to the

1 Proceedings

2 Clerk. Just so you know, Ms. Williams, One
3 Regina is Airmont, One Regina's not Chestnut
4 Ridge.

5 (Crows yells out.)

6 MAYOR PRESTI: Number two, with regard
7 to the tax exempt question that was brought
8 up twice, the tax exempt statutes are
9 obviously set by the State of New York. The
10 Village really has no control over who's --
11 the Village has no control over who applies
12 for tax exemption. Obviously, if we had to
13 deal with the tax exempt properties we would
14 deal with it. By the way, the tax exemption
15 list is available for you if you would like
16 to go look at it and if you were to look at
17 it today you will see that a good portion of
18 the tax exempt properties are not those
19 owned by religious organizations, they're
20 owned by nonreligious either secular
21 organizations, the Salvation Army is a very
22 large property owner that has tax exempt
23 status.

24 (Crowd boos.)

25 MAYOR PRESTI: So I'm just telling you

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

-- folks, you can't have it both ways here.
If you want me to answer some of the questions I'll answer them, but if you don't agree with the answer that's not my fault. I'm trying to give you the answer. The answer is, yes, there are tax exempt properties in the Village, yes, if we have to deal with tax exempt properties we'll deal with them just like we've done in the past. Yes, they are allowed by statute.

Now with regard to the comprehensive plan, I will again try to advise what I thought I've been trying to articulate in the past. To do an entire comprehensive plan of this Village would probably take close to do three or four years.

(Crowd boos.)

(Crowd applauds.)

MAYOR PRESTI: Now, if it's taken us approximately a year and a change to do the quarter study which we are close my hope is to finishing. Now we cannot put out a moratorium for four years. Not allowed by law. The law will not permit that. In

1 Proceedings
2 addition, folks, folks, listen to me,
3 please, all right. Just, please, listen if
4 you have a moratorium and we tell you that
5 you cannot do anything until you have a
6 comprehensive plan in place, that means if
7 you want to build a deck, if you want to
8 extend your home, if you want to do any type
9 of renovation that's gonna be more than
10 200 square feet you're not gonna be able to
11 do it; all right? It is not practical. I'm
12 just telling you what the law is. You may
13 not want to agree to it, you may not like
14 the answer I'm giving to you and you can go
15 look it up --

16 A VOICE: You never asked us.

17 MAYOR PRESTI: Mr. Liebelson, excuse me,
18 Mr. Liebelson, the last time I checked we're
19 trying to maintain some decorum. I have no
20 issues with people saying what's on their
21 minds and exercising their right of free
22 speech. However, to yell from the room is
23 not proper decorum so, please. Thank you.
24 Next on the list, thank you Ms. Williams
25 again, we have Jacobs, Moshe Jacobs. No.

1 Proceedings

2 Okay. Next we have Jacob Aaronpress. No?
3 All right. Oh, I'm so sorry Mr. Aaronpress.
4 Now after Mr. Aaronpress I have on deck
5 Jacob Kine, Richard Paley and Tony Averso.
6 Mr. Aaronpress, would you yield to the
7 attorney for five minutes, ten minutes?

8 MR. AARONPRESS: Yes.

9 MAYOR PRESTI: Mr. Jacobson, I
10 apologize, sir, is Mr. Jacobson still here
11 the attorney for -- no? I have a note that
12 he was here and wanted to speak. Name and
13 address for the record, sir, and the
14 organization you represent, please.

15 MR. JACOBSON: Good evening, my name is
16 Mayer Jacobson, I reside 32 East Coin Drive
17 in Chestnut Ridge and I speak on behalf of
18 the O-J-C the Orthodox Jewish Coalition of
19 Chestnut Ridge. Thank you Mayor Presti and
20 the Village Board of Trustees for the
21 opportunity to speak before you tonight.
22 Since elected the Mayor has put a lot of
23 effort into understanding the needs of the
24 culturally diverse residents of Chestnut
25 Ridge. As the Mayor discussed publicly

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

prior to the 2017 elections he understands full well that Chestnut Ridge is an evolving community with pressing needs that may not have been all that urgent just a few short years ago. Specifically, there is a need by a growing segment of the population to have places of worship in residential neighborhoods in the Village. Rather than starting from scratch, the Mayor opted for a more sensible approach in learning from the successes of the neighborhood that surround us such as Wesley Hills as well as the mistakes of other neighborhoods. The Wesley Hills concept has proven that houses of worship can be accommodated while still preserving the character of residential neighborhoods and avoiding Federal lawsuits. We appreciate that the Mayor has allowed this process to move forward in an efficient and streamlined manner. Mr. Mayor, the proposed law is one that members of the Village are very passionate about. In fact, well over 600 residents of Chestnut Ridge have submitted letters to the Village

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

expressing their support for amending the zoning laws and their comments. We don't intend to stand here and banter and act in an uncivil manner as others have been doing. (Crowd boos.)

MR. JACOBSON: We will not threaten or use fear mongering to get people on our side. Rather, we'll continue to be respectful, civil and the dignified. Are there legitimate concerns that some residents may have to the proposed zoning amendments. Of course there are and that is why there is a process in which all are afforded an opportunity to voice those concerns. It is understandable that -- it is understood that reasonable allowances for places of worship is the right of the every religious American and we appreciate that being addressed.

(Crowd applauds.)_

MR. JACOBSON: We feel that is this law will help everyone in the Village have safe neighborhoods and meet the religious needs of many while at the same time leaving the

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

character of the neighborhoods nearly intact.

(Crowd boos.)

MR. JACOBSON: There have many complaints during prior hearings regarding traffic and parking on the streets and we recognize that parking must be properly addressed for all places of worship. Do keep in mind that Orthodox Congregants do not drive to places of worship Saturday and holidays, only before or after the sabbath. However, either way, we believe that the additional development coverage proposed for places of worship is the best way to address this so that more parking will be available on site. Additionally, allowing the parking willing neighbor's driveways will further alleviate the concerns of on street parking. The number of schuls that can be realistically expected from the religious community is roughly one for fifty Orthodox households which translates into two or three per neighborhood. Not the dozens that we heard many speakers mention. Other

1 Proceedings

2 religions have their needs. By no one's
3 projections will there be thousands of
4 places of worship as stated by some.

5 There are well over 700 homeowners in
6 this Village and their families that support
7 the efforts of the Village to address the
8 needs of our religious liberty. We stand
9 united in our cause and respectfully support
10 and encourage the Village to adopt the
11 necessary changes to the Village laws. We
12 implore you to please continue to your
13 valuable efforts to address the needs and
14 rights of all members of this beautiful
15 Village. Thank you.

16 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you. Now, again
17 back to my list, Mr. Klein? Mr. Paley?
18 Mr. Averso. Name and address for the
19 record.

20 MR. PALEY: Richard Paley, 17 Lancaster,
21 Chestnut Ridge, about 20 years. What I'm
22 concerned about personally, and I think I
23 can speak for a lot of people here, would
24 Chestnut Ridge look like some of the
25 surrounding communities like, you know, if

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

you drive along Maple Avenue for example. When you get out of the neighborhood you see such high density. What was that like 20 years ago you might say before some of the very same powers that are talking now got a hold of zoning code and changed it at the behest of a small number of people at the expense of many of us.

(Crowd applauds.)

MR. PALEY: Some of the poorest communities in the Country are nearby here statistically, from Wikipedia you can look it up, Kiryas Joel if I didn't pronounce it correctly, parts of Monroe, yes, Kaser, places like that, that's a fear that we as people don't want our community to become that way. It's nothing against religion or Judaism or anything of that nature.

(Crowd applauds.)

MR. PALEY: You know, I feel for the Board of Trustees and the Mayor they're kind of in a rock and hard place because they want the votes, they want to be elected, there's a group that votes as a block, the

1 Proceedings

2 Mayor may want to run for assembly for all
3 we know and he needs those votes and that's
4 very typical of a lot of our politicians.
5 It's kowtow to big voting block whether
6 they're from corporate or whatever, but at
7 the expense of the people who have to live
8 there. Not a bad fellow.

9 A VOICE: How do you live with yourself,
10 Mr. Mayor.

11 MR. PALEY: If you have ambition, you
12 want the votes, what are you going to do,
13 you're gonna curry to the favors to the
14 people that vote as a block. But one way we
15 can do this, everybody, is if these things
16 pass and you see our Mayor running for
17 higher office let's remember this. Maybe
18 nothing forgotten; okay? And whoever
19 opposes him that's who we're gotta support.

20 The zoning codes. We don't think that
21 the Town has diligently or otherwise
22 enforced the codes. And by trying to use
23 the RLUIPA law that I understand it is that
24 you cannot change zoning laws to
25 discriminate against religious institutions.

1 Proceedings

2 However, it does not mandate laws be changed
3 to accommodate religious factors.

4 (Crowd applauds.)

5 MR. PALEY: When our Mayor ran for
6 reelection the Rockland County Journal of --
7 the Village laws and regulations apply to
8 all, while there are certain laws and
9 regulations that maybe specific to the
10 Village, the general practice should be to
11 follow the practice of Federal and State
12 authorities to permit the Village to and
13 enforce. The laws of the Village are in
14 place so there's an objective and fair
15 process in place. Asking forgiveness in
16 place of permission cannot be condoned.
17 Once any authority permits an exception to
18 the rule a precedent is set. In addition,
19 the Village will continue to diligently you
20 enforce its laws, this is I'm quoting the
21 Mayor, in Court exercising all remedies
22 available including but not limited to
23 financial penalties. We don't see that.

24 MAYOR PRESTI: Than you, Mr. Paley.
25 Mr. Averso, name and address for the record,

1 Proceedings

2 please.

3 MR. AVERSO: Tony Averso, 40 Wilshire
4 Drive. Each day you allow people to violate
5 the law which sanctioned those illegal
6 actions. As a government body, this is
7 unacceptable behavior. Further, as a
8 governing body you lack the legal
9 enforcement, in my opinion, is a violation
10 in and of itself. This lack of enforcement
11 sends an extremely poor message starting,
12 move to Chestnut Ridge, you can do whatever
13 you want to whenever you want to do it
14 without any repercussions and further, even
15 worse, if the law doesn't suit your needs
16 we'll change the law to accommodate your
17 needs. These accommodations are not made
18 for the Village as whole. They are made for
19 only one group of individuals. It is
20 crystal clear that the ordinance that you're
21 trying to put through is very biased. You
22 are falling to -- you are failing to
23 represent the entire community. You are
24 only representing one group at the detriment
25 of all the others. This is

1 Proceedings
2 unconstitutional, unfair and unjust behavior
3 on a governing body. You are elected to
4 represent an entire community. You should
5 be ashamed of yourselves and held
6 accountable for your actions and more
7 appropriately, you should be inactive to
8 represent the entire community.

9 Now the gentleman two gentlemen ago he
10 said there's roughly two houses of worship
11 per -- your law has no limits as I could see
12 it. If you could explain to me where it is
13 then maybe I could read it a little bit
14 better.

15 MAYOR PRESTI: You can't limit.

16 MR. AVERSO: You can't limit.

17 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Averso.
18 I'm sorry, Mr. Aaronpress I apologize.

19 MR. AARONPRESS: My name's Jacob
20 Aaronpress, 112 Rock Key Road. So I don't
21 want to say anything too major on the zoning
22 laws. I only moved here in October --

23 A VOICE: Use the mic.

24 MR. AARONPRESS: Oh, sorry. I just want
25 to say a couple of points. That it was

1 Proceedings

2 really incredible to see last hearing
3 afterwards when there was so much strife and
4 dissension to see afterwards people getting
5 together, speaking one to another I think
6 that's really really important to continue.

7 (Crowd applauds.)

8 MR. AARONPRESS: It's also nice to meet
9 so of my neighbors, but people I never had
10 the chance to meet in my short time here.

11 I just want to say that people look at
12 the Orthodox people as a block. I grew up
13 in Dayton, Ohio where I was not only the
14 only Jewish person but the only white person
15 on my block so I has tremendous experience
16 with growing up different people and getting
17 to know one another and I really think
18 that's really important aspect.

19 I also want to mention that I was --
20 that I was involved in a group called
21 Transportation Alternatives, I used to bike
22 ride, walk all over the place and I've been
23 hit many times and I strongly encourage and
24 my co-neighbors and co-synagogue people to
25 walk very very carefully on the side of the

1 Proceedings

2 road as they don't want to end up in a neck
3 brace a few times like I did over something
4 silly.

5 Having said that, I do want to say that
6 I was just reading The New York Times they
7 just before we came tonight Religious Jews
8 are only in specific neighborhoods, Memphis,
9 Tennessee they just went from one million to
10 three million people in a very very short
11 time period and they are exhibiting the same
12 amount of traffic problems and zoning laws
13 as we are. I do want to say that I used to
14 be involved in and still to some extent
15 environmental issues and Transportation
16 Alternatives in New York City they very
17 highly advocated for a one day a week no
18 car, truck rides, et cetera which we try to
19 abide by not driving on the sabbath. And I
20 just want to say that I invite whoever wants
21 to speak come by we'd love to have some warm
22 chocolate and cold beer and speak over the
23 issues.

24 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you,
25 Mr. Aaronpress. Okay. Next would be I

1 Proceedings
2 guess it's Mr. Urbach, Mr. Urbach are you
3 here? No? Tracy Purdue. Tracy Purdue.
4 Shannon Young. Okay. And all right. Next
5 we'll go with -- go with the current sign in
6 sheet in, again, this is for people that
7 live in the Village and if we run out of
8 residents then we're going to start going to
9 folks who are not in the Village. Name
10 address for the record.

11 MS. ALTKIN: I signed up last month so
12 you should have my name.

13 MAYOR PRESTI: Your name?

14 MS. ALTKIN: Susan Hope Altkin.

15 MAYOR PRESTI: And your address?

16 MS. ALTKIN: 8 Margest Road, Chestnut
17 Ridge, New York. It's where I am from.
18 Thank you. So, there's a lot of emotion in
19 the room tonight, a lot of energy, a lot of
20 unhappiness. I want to thank the public
21 servants sitting at the front desk for your
22 public service. It's a lot to hold. I'm
23 sure this cannot be easy.

24 (Crowd applauds.)

25 MS. ALTKIN: Okay. So, as I said, my

1 Proceedings
2 name is Susan Hope Altkin. I grew up on
3 8 Margest Road, Chestnut Ridge, New York.
4 My parents are Saul and Phyllis Altkin who
5 were born in Brooklyn. My grandparents on
6 my father's side are Abraham and Anna Altkin
7 from Bialystok, Poland. My grandparents on
8 my mother's side Max and Molly Salzman from
9 Vienna, Austria. My grandparents were
10 Orthodox Jews, my parents did not carry
11 forward that tradition and I myself am not a
12 religious Jew. However, I identify myself
13 as Jewish because of my ancestors and the
14 Holocaust to honor their memory.

15 (Crowd applauds.)

16 MS. ALTKIN: Thank you. So growing up
17 here the Orthodox community really was on
18 306 between Saddle River Road and Maple
19 Avenue and we all lived together. Some of
20 us knew each other, all good, and I am not
21 sure exactly when it started to change, but
22 it must've grown exponentially and at this
23 point it seems that the population of
24 Orthodox and religious Jewish community has
25 exploded and I think for that reason the

1 Proceedings

2 proposal that's on the table now, Mr. Mayor,
3 is not as you sustainable for any kind of
4 quality life of here.

5 I wasn't always going to speak. I stood
6 up to speak because the lawyer at the first
7 meeting spoke and he started about --
8 started talking about we could be sued and I
9 think that using a legal action to silence
10 people is beyond inappropriate.

11 (Crowd applauds.)

12 MS. ALTKIN: In a case such as this
13 everyone will have their particular
14 perspective and holes in their action. I
15 think it's so important to be aware of how
16 our actions may impact others. It seems to
17 me like the people who initiated this action
18 and who are supporting it are either not
19 aware or not concerned about how their
20 action may impact others and we've heard
21 many of examples about how that is has
22 already taken place. It's important not to
23 minimize our choices. We have a strong
24 impact.

25 Driving to -- through Main Street in

1 Proceedings
2 Monsey today it took me thirty minutes.
3 There were many cars honking, there were
4 many traffic lights and it really reminded
5 me of a small city, not a village. Very
6 unlike when I grew up. I went to this high
7 school, I went to the school that we had the
8 meeting last month in. I would be opposed
9 to any individual, group, organization, or
10 institutions who acted without concern for
11 all involved.

12 Now, all groups of people contain
13 positive and negative people, law abiding
14 people, non-law abiding people, honest
15 people, dishonest people. It's not possible
16 to look at groups and characterize them,
17 although, it's something that we human
18 beings like to do. I think it's very very
19 important that this Board and all of us pay
20 very close attention to our thoughts and to
21 our beliefs and to our actions especially
22 our actions in word through this process.
23 It's difficult when we have different belief
24 systems because we don't know each or
25 understand each other completely.

1 Proceedings

2 MAYOR PRESTI: Just wrap up.

3 MS. ALTKIN: I also was very heartened a
4 the end of last month's meeting when we were
5 talking to each other, people we would never
6 have met before. I'm a little bit less
7 confident today. As I was walking in I was
8 hearing murmurs of lawsuits. The legal
9 system may help us, but it should be in the
10 service of truth or justice and the American
11 way. Thank you.

12 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Ms. Altkin.
13 Okay. We're going off of the current list
14 from this evening, but again, we're going
15 for folks who haven't spoken yet. If you
16 signed up for a second time again if we have
17 time you'll be welcome to speak again. So
18 next would be Irene Mandel? No. Okay.
19 Mirna Falcon. Come on down, after
20 Ms. Falcon it's going to Mr. Grayson and
21 then Mr. Manning. Name and address for the
22 record.

23 MS. FALCON: Mirna Falcon, 45 Wilshire
24 Drive, Chestnut Ridge.

25 MAYOR PRESTI: Good evening.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

MS. FALCON: Good evening. There have been many individuals commenting during the last meeting about why and what attracted them to move to Chestnut Ridge and you know what's the common denominator? Two words, peaceful and quiet. What this Board is proposing on changing the current zoning codes will most certainly impact the very reason why people have moved here. It will no longer be peaceful and quiet. Chestnut Ridge is a Village, it's not a city or a town. To have residential houses of worship for up to sixty persons and cars parked in our quiet streets you don't have to look far to see the impact it will have. If you go to 315 North Highland and speak to the residents there. What if you have two, four, six residential houses of worship on the same street and around the block, how many hundreds of people is that and their cars and yet there is no mention of this impact coming from the engineering Brooker Engineering who was retained by the Jewish Coalition to represent their interests on

1 Proceedings
2 the proposal. Then the possibility of
3 residential homes being converted into
4 schools which is already a problem in
5 Ramapo, gatherings for social functions,
6 again, how does this not change the
7 character of our Village? Houses of worship
8 should be away from established residential
9 neighborhoods, preferably in different
10 zoning such as business where parking is not
11 an issue. We should be working in obtaining
12 businesses to bring in tax revenue instead
13 of finding ways to lose our tax revenue.

14 The Village needs to first adopt a
15 comprehensive master plan. Transparency is
16 a must due to the fact that only one
17 religious organization's input was
18 considered when this proposal was drafted.
19 May I remind the Board that you are here to
20 serve and protect the quality of life of all
21 the residents of Chestnut Ridge and not just
22 that of the religious communities. Thank
23 you.

24 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Ms. Falcon.
25 Mr. Grayson. Then after Mr. Grayson will be

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

Mr. Manning. Just name and address for the record.

MR. GRAYSON: Lee March Grayson, 52 Wilshire Drive, Chestnut Ridge. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board. I am against the proposed zoning changes. The proposed changes were submitted by the political (inaudible) orthodox religious group without notice or input from the entire Chestnut Ridge community. Changes to the existing zoning laws require input from all segments of our communities and from all religious and secular backgrounds in our Village coupled with impartial objective studies done by qualified land use professionals. I don't think this is the case. This is not about religious worship which should be respected. Rather, it's about proposed laws that will eventually impose one set of religious beliefs and a way of life upon every resident in our Village whether they want it or not or agree with it or not and in the process trump any other lawful uses of our

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

land.

The proposed law simply makes no sense. The distinction between residential, neighborhood and community is unenforceable and will be blurred in the actual process. Enforcement of the proposed O-J-C, Orthodox Jewish Coalition, zoning laws will not just forever change our Village, it will destroy it. It will destroy the quality and the character and open spaces of our community. And here are some of the reasons why I believe that is so: First, is the environmental impact, the noise pollution, the light pollution at night when you drive through neighborhoods, plus their parking on streets and lawns, signage clutter, closed off streets, fire hazards, safety issues and increasing deforestation of properties, more illegal landfills with untested untreated soil, more houses would be torn down and larger homes will be built on existing smaller lots that are out of character with the surrounding neighborhood, illegal rental homes with illegal parking, overcrowding in

1 Proceedings
2 single-family homes which is a big concern.
3 Improperly maintaining properties with
4 unkept lawns and garbage tossed about,
5 unlicensed and illegal daycare going on more
6 and more in our Village, more --
7 unfortunately, more unsupervised children
8 playing in the street, believe it or not.
9 More speeding, noisy horn beeping religious
10 school buses at night and weekend more
11 illegal construction on nights and weekends
12 by unlicensed contractors that goes
13 unchecked because our Village lacks the
14 wherewithal to hire qualified code enforcers
15 to enforce the law. Our resources will be
16 strained such as water, sewer, police, fire,
17 ambulance, creating more safety risks.
18 There will be an explosion of new houses of
19 worship and one of the concerns I think
20 should be the question, how many religious
21 houses of worship would there be allowed in
22 a neighborhood, one, three, five, ten, every
23 other house? And will nonconforming uses be
24 grandfathered in and extended and will all
25 these houses of worship be seeking property

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

tax exemption? Will you be asking us to pay higher property taxes, will we be asked to subsidize people who because of their religious faith choose not to pay taxes? We cannot afford to pay more taxes and this really does have to stop. If this law is passed, the result will be drastic loss of Village tax base, loss of secular businesses that served everyone in the community and frankly, current residents will flee the Village (inaudible) deterioration of our taxes and it will enhance the fear of residents to complain that they'll be targeted later when they try to sell their homes.

Freedom of religion means that we should respect the religious beliefs of others. It does not mean trampling the rights of others who may oppose the proposed changes to the zoning laws. It does not mean using the fear of lawsuits to silence legitimate First Amendment rights of concerned citizens and Village Government Officials elected or otherwise. To question the wisdom and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

efficacy of enacting zoning laws based on particularized religious preference. I respectfully request that zoning law not be passed. Thank you.

MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you. Mr. Manning, name and address for the record.

MR. MANNING: My name is Ed Manning, I live at 5 Madison Court. I'd like to preface my comments just by saying I'm a bit of a hybrid, I'm a born-again Atheist, I married a Jewish woman, I raised my kids in the Jewish faith. And one of the things that I've come to appreciate about the Jewish faith is it's inclusiveness. It's certainly embracing me as a non-Jew and it certainly in the temple that I took part in it was embracing the communities of other faiths, not just our own. So, it's really hard to find middle ground here, it's hard to find middle ground in our current political environment where everyone seems to be polarized to one side or the other. So if I had three comments tonight I would say that those of us who are not Orthodox

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

the city -- the Village has already changed and we are going to need to make some accommodations. And to the Orthodox community I would ask that the community extend, not just with words, but with action beyond your immediate community and that means, I think seeing tonight how many people are having trouble with this particular plan which leads me to my third point which is, the plan seems flawed in process and flawed in it's current form. And what if, what if, the religious community and our own community on the other side decided like let's take another run at this. Let's sit down without any threats of lawsuits and just say let's try this again because where it is now it seems like there's lawsuits on one side and there's God knows what on the other so take another swing at it. I am opposed to it as it is. Thank you.

MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Manning. Mr. Shiner and then after Mr. Shiner we Sabrina Martin, Mr. Godwin and then

1 Proceedings

2 Mr. Weiser. So, Mr. Shiner, are you still
3 here? Okay. And Ms. Martin, Mr. Godwin and
4 then Alan Weiser. Talk into the mic, Mr.
5 Shiner.

6 MR. SHINER: One question, if you want
7 to walk to the synagogue, why should we have
8 to change anything? That's their decision.
9 They don't want a ride, they want to walk,
10 what's the big problem with that? In fact,
11 I don't think you've searched this.
12 Nowadays they have robot cars that are
13 driverless cars that can be programed to go
14 from one place to another. Driverless cars
15 starts at Orchard Court drives all the way
16 to up Old Nyack Turnpike, every other block
17 he stops, waits, people get on and off,
18 perfectly all right. No problem with doing
19 it on the sabbath, no problem with doing
20 that on the holidays. Car turns around,
21 comes back. All these automobile companies
22 and corporations, what's the problem with
23 getting one of them to give you a
24 demonstration of how you could do this kind
25 of thing, all right, without having houses

1 Proceedings
2 of worship two a block, one a mile, one two
3 miles, whatever it is. It's a perfectly
4 legitimate way to move people on a holiday.
5 Nothing wrong with it.

6 MAYOR PRESTI: Mr. Shiner, just please
7 to us.

8 MR. SHINER: One other thing, I've never
9 seen a copy of the old rules and regulations
10 as far as zoning goes and the new proposal
11 and the copy, has anybody mailed em to all
12 the residents? Why not? We're talking
13 about something I have no knowledge of as to
14 what the changes will be.

15 MAYOR PRESTI: They're available on the
16 website or at Village Hall. You can come to
17 Village Hall and request it if you'd like to
18 Village Hall and provide your address we'll
19 send it to your as a courtesy, we'll send it
20 to you. Sure. Thank you, Mr. Shiner.

21 Mrs. Martin, are you still here? As
22 Ms. Martin is approaching the microphone,
23 before I forget, I just wanted to thank the
24 East Ramapo School District and in
25 particular the crew as Spring Valley High

1 Proceedings

2 School for being such great hosts. We thank
3 you for hospitality. Ms. Martin, name and
4 address for the record.

5 MS. MARTIN: Sabrina Martin, 2 Roundwood
6 Road. Please excuse me if I read from
7 different documents, but that's what I would
8 like to do in order to bring to the Board's
9 attention certain issues that they need to
10 address. First just from my own words, I
11 heard a lot of statements about being
12 concerned about being sued and I do recall
13 at several meetings and I was impressed at
14 Mayor seemed to stand in confidence with his
15 position whenever he felt that statements
16 were made to threaten him or the Village and
17 he would make statements such as I'm not
18 going to respond to threats and I'm not
19 going to perpetuate it. So in that same
20 vain I would expect the Mayor and the Board
21 to not respond to threats or perpetuate any
22 comments that were made with regard to
23 potential suing the Village for not hearing
24 about the --

25 (Crowd applauds.)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

MS. MARTIN: When you walk with integrity and you stand on the side of right there's no need to be concerned about being threatened, feeling as if you're doing something that's wrong or feeling concerned about being sued. I've been in a position where on several occasion and I might potentially be sued by I know in my profession if I walk on the side of right and I do the right thing and I remain objective all intents and purposes and take care of my service anyone can say to me I'm going to sue you, that doesn't mean they're going to win. And I think it's important for this Village and I think it's important for this Board to remember that, understanding that they walk on the side of integrity, that they stand on the side of right and as long as they remain confident in that and take into conversation the 83 or 8400 hundred people in the Village you don't need to be concerned about being sued.

(Crowd applauds.)

MS. MARTIN: In response to the request

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

with regards to a building moratorium in several meetings that we had in the past couple of years, Mr. Mayor you said most recent in the October 2017 meeting the minutes that a building moratorium is issued because a village has not updated their zoning laws. You stated that that would be a reason to take into consideration the building moratorium because the Village has not updated their zoning laws, but now you have a document that was presented to us in February indicating the need to be concerned about updating the zoning laws. So, with that being said, based on that statement now is the time consider a building moratorium.

(Crowd applauds.)

This is a document for land use moratorium New York State. A land use moratorium is a local enactment which temporarily suspends the landowners' rights to obtain development approvals while that community considers and potentially adopts changes to its comprehensive plan and/or its

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

land use regulations law to address new circumstances not addressed by its current laws, which is what you're doing right now. The objective of municipal land use controls is to promote community planning values by properly regulating the land development. It follows, that land use controls work best when built upon a carefully considered plan. It takes time to put together or to update a good community plan. During this time the demand for a particular use of land of use (inaudible) inadequate or not exist in the controls. If the community allows development during this time ultimately things will not go as you would like for the community to move forward. For these reasons a moratorium is the answer to put controls on zoning and to allow for a freeze until a satisfactory plan or regulations are adopted.

I'm running out of time, but you have documents from our own Chestnut Ridge Village Planning Board that clearly states the plan that's presented to them will

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

change the character of our Village. Their strong recommendation is for a comprehensive plan to be put in place. You also have a private consultant planner you made the same recommendations. I'm sorry, I'm running out of time, but I would like to be able to finish my comments.

MAYOR PRESTI: You could wrap up.

MS. MARTIN: With that being said recommendations from our Planning Board, recommendations from a private planning consultant, looking at the laws that you're proposing, both stating that this would change the character of the Village, okay, with having an impact on the environment, with having impact on traffic, with all those being considered, to not adopt a comprehensive plan would violating New York State Law. If proposal new zoning law that changes the character of the neighborhood and it effects over 90 percent of the Village you have to come up with a comprehensive plan.

MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you.

1 Proceedings

2 MS. MARTIN: And to state that it will
3 take three or four years to not to do that
4 to me is not a valid reason to not move
5 forward. Airmont was able to do it in less
6 than two years. There were comments made
7 Airmont was sued, anybody can be sued, that
8 doesn't mean Airmont was wrong. They are
9 now resolving their issues, okay, they put a
10 moratorium in place, they came up with a
11 comprehensive plan and now they're ready to
12 move forward. So please take into
13 consideration the 83 to 8400 people that
14 live in this Village. Come up with a plan
15 that takes all of us, all of our concerns
16 into consideration to allow us all to live
17 as neighbors in peace.

18 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you. Just by way
19 of background, Ms. Martin, I was on the
20 Planning Board for ten years before I was
21 trustee, before I was Mayor and they were
22 talking about a comprehensive plan back then
23 and the challenge was, it's not just you,
24 Ms. Martin, and the fear was -- I shouldn't
25 say the fear. The logistics were that it

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

was too much to eat in one shot, that to do an entire comprehensive plan it would come and it would go and it would come and it would go. And for the nine or ten years I was on the Planning Board, while as it much it was discussed, it never happened. So with this current board, with this current Board of Trustees we decided to take the Village in sections and that's we did a quarter study which is a form of a comprehensive plan. And that comprehensive plan, that particular coroner study is about a year, a year and change in the making because of the hearings that are necessary and things of that nature.

Now, you mentioned about Airmont. Airmont is doing their entire zoning code. In fairness to your assessment as to the purpose of the building moratorium if we were to be literal in that it's purely for zoning changes that means every time we would have a zoning change, whether it has to do with a setback, whether it has to do with a side yard we would be triggering --

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

what you're saying is oh, you need -- to do you can't do that until you have a comprehensive plan, we would never ever ever be able to do anything in the Village. The whole idea with the building moratorium pending a comprehensive plan is if you really don't have any laws that you can sink you teeth into. This Village was very fortunate when it was established in 1986 and they established the zoning code that they did. And because it's a living animal, i.e. the Village, you have to progress, you have to move forward. So every time you do a zoning change you don't necessarily have to stop for a master plan to be completed.

Now, we are trying to do this on different levels we are always evolving in this Village whether it be in the setback change, whether it be with a subdivision revision, we are always trying to keep an eye out on staying ahead of the curve with regard to the needs of the Village all 8300 and change of you. So, that's why we're doing what we're doing and to stop

1 Proceedings
2 everything, as a moratorium were to stop
3 everything, until a master plan is completed
4 is not practical and it's never going to
5 happen because it's too much. And You're
6 right, Airmont was about maybe, and I don't
7 want to speak for Airmont whatever I read in
8 the newspaper is all I know about Airmont,
9 they've had to extend their moratorium at
10 least two or three times and they may have
11 to extend it again and it's going to go --
12 and if we did something like that I would
13 not feel comfortable with something like
14 that's. Now, that's the Village and that's
15 us five.

16 (Crowd yells out.)

17 MAYOR PRESTI: Just historically again,
18 folks, I'm just giving you the history.
19 Whether you believe or you don't agree with
20 where I am that's your opinion. I'm just
21 giving you the history. This way you know.
22 I'm telling you why we are where we're at
23 and why we are doing what we're doing. And
24 I know there's those on one side of the
25 spectrum that there's nothing this Board can

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

do to satisfy you and I'm sorry for that, I truly am, and those on the other side of the spectrum who have no issue with what we're doing and -- and then those are those in between. My hope is that knowing what the process is all about, knowing that we are trying to do the right thing for the Village and you're absolutely right, Ms. Martin, when you walk the right line, when you walk on the right side you have nothing to worry about and that's what we are trying to do. And that's what we are going to do.

(Crowd applauds.)

MAYOR PRESTI: Next, Mr. Godwin. Name and address for the record, sir.

MR. GODWIN: Robert Godwin, Saddle River, Monsey, New York. As I said this is about changes and everything else that goes on. Persecution and bigotry is against all race and religion and (inaudible), but we should be on the spectrum of everybody should be treated equally. Certain races and religions that I belong to if they need something within they're community for their

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

need they take the donation from their people who are there to worship. A lot of talk going around, a lot of people I talk to don't know what's going on in our Village or area of Rockland County. Safety issues should be one. We have over 4,000 non-profit schools within three towns which I don't know if most people know. That's on the internet, you can Google it all, just pick out your town. Two, safety issue is the other thing is, safety should be -- children who are the starting off out in life should be treated equally and protected. No matter how many times I call a school bus and I call the Board of Ed I'm told to mind my own business. When I see these children of every race and nationality playing leap frog over seats and calling which different area I saw them in, that should be a priority. Everybody's children in this room. Now our future, your future. The other thing is why I have to a travel to go pray in my church, why if everybody would know and give up their only synagogue within

1 Proceedings

2 the area cause they know that's the only
3 one. I have to travel a distance. That's a
4 choice we made to move into this area.

5 The other thing is there's a lot of talk
6 about going on, not just in our Village in a
7 lot of other villages, if everyone decided
8 not to pay their property taxes or
9 everyone's gonna pull their own money
10 together that's a reflection against our
11 community. It's a reflection against
12 everybody here. Everybody should be treated
13 equally down the line. Your safety, I don't
14 care what race or religion if you're hungry
15 I will feed you, if you need a place to stay
16 I will put a roof over your head, if you
17 have no clothes I don't care what you are.
18 I will fight for whoever you are whatever
19 nationality, race or religion you are if
20 somebody's going to harm you, but the
21 persecution and bigotry is against the law.
22 It's against everybody's First Amendment
23 because it has no right for anybody to force
24 -- there was a march in '68 for equal
25 rights. This State, this area is about

1 Proceedings

2 ready to go in another public civil rights
3 march of rights and that's not going to look
4 good for whoever's in office. I feel sorry
5 for anybody who is in office, but if
6 everybody doesn't pay their taxes where is
7 this whole community going to be and that's
8 in every town.

9 I respect everything that you're going
10 -- you have a tough nut to crack up there.
11 As I said, this is not against anybody in
12 this room. It's about everything equal for
13 everybody in this room. Did you all know
14 that there's over 4000 nonprofit schools
15 within three towns? Not too many of you
16 know. Village of Airmont -- I upheld you if
17 there's something that is going to go be
18 done you mail out things. Not everybody
19 goes on the computer, that's one thing.
20 Two, you've been helpful and asking
21 questions all around this Board, but also
22 your other citizens of this community have
23 also addressed a lot things, the safety of
24 those kids on the bus should be a priority
25 in any village, any town hall, and you as

1 Proceedings
2 parents in here should have that over
3 preference over places of worship. If
4 everybody decided to make their own home and
5 they're not paying taxes we're not going to
6 have a County no matter where we are at.
7 And Albany they're not aware of what goes on
8 down here because conversation goes up from
9 town to town to town. If everybody pulls
10 and we don't have no more money because
11 people don't pay their taxes and we're not
12 gonna money to go against all the lawsuits
13 and that's not a way to solve things. Civil
14 rights march that's going to another issue
15 which is going to be down here which is
16 gonna make everybody look bad on everybody
17 around. My family came over to America,
18 I've had relatives do two tours in World War
19 II give anybody a job of all faiths and
20 religion. To be told take your American
21 Flag off your porch, no, that's wrong but.
22 He same thing did not matter, we came over
23 here to live a better life, all race and
24 religion. No matter what Country
25 (inaudible) it should not be within our own

1 Proceedings
2 neighbors, not with you, not with you, not
3 with you, not with you, and not with our
4 Board who's supposed to uphold our law. And
5 I'm not trying to address anybody I'm just
6 trying to make a little bit more sense.

7 You're mailing thing, Mayor, everything
8 that came out was out. The school, the
9 synagogue that is on 45 there's over 4000
10 schools in here make that back into a
11 synagogue. I have to travel to go to my
12 church because the variance does not permit
13 grounds big enough to build.

14 MAYOR PRESTI: Mr. Godwin, wrap.

15 MR. GODWIN: Thank you very much.

16 MAYOR PRESTI: We got two more residents
17 that haven't spoken yet so we're going to
18 call those two folks and then we're probably
19 going to wrap up so next on the list would
20 be Ari Weiser. And then after Mr. Weiser
21 Mr. Chozinski.

22 MR. WEISER: Sorry, I'm from out of town
23 so I have an accent. I was reading my kid a
24 book -- what?

25 MAYOR PRESTI: He lives at 17 Anne.

1 Proceedings

2 MR. WEISER: 17 Anne. And he said, dad
3 what is a donkey, excuse my accent I'm from
4 out of town. First, before I start, I want
5 to say two things: The first thing is every
6 sabbath I walk home from synagogue, I see it
7 makes such an impression on me, the Mayor of
8 the City -- sometime a mayor you think
9 arrogant, you think he's passed everyone,
10 mowing his lawn, mowing his lawn saying hi
11 to everyone, Jew, no Jew, it makes a
12 difference.

13 (Crowd applauds.)

14 MR. WEISER: I love our Mayor and every
15 sabbath as my kids go by they say that's the
16 Mayor and I say that's the Mayor we have in
17 Chestnut Ridge. Not -- two things I want to
18 talk about tonight the first thing -- what?

19 MAYOR PRESTI: Excuse me, excuse me,
20 please show a little respect and a little
21 courtesy.

22 MR. WEISER: So the things like this I
23 moved from the City to Chestnut Ridge. I
24 want to tell you something, I have Friday
25 night walking home from synagogue three

1 Proceedings
2 bikes right in front of me and they pulled
3 out a gun on me, right against a chain link
4 fence and he said empty your pockets, I said
5 it's sabbath there's no money, they
6 obviously did not believe me, they went to
7 my pockets, they did not find any money and
8 they said turn around now I promise you
9 we're not going to shoot so obviously I
10 didn't want to turn around and I started to
11 and they started pushing me around and a car
12 went by going 90 miles per hour, loud with a
13 muffler and they got scared and they did
14 kill someone that night. At that point I
15 made a decision my car was gone through
16 every night, my kids think about a kid
17 walking in daylight forget about it, at that
18 point we made a decision that we're moving
19 to Chestnut Ridge cause we want a safe safe
20 environment. My neighbors which are not
21 Jewish they tell me how happy they are, they
22 don't have to lock their windows, kids are
23 happy, one guy told me the other week he's
24 never moving even if you offer him
25 \$5 million, I'm not a real estate, I said

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

why, he said because my kids they're coming home alive every night, I don't lock my car and I have no problem with you Jews because I've living a life I would not be able to live anywhere else. And it's unbelievable. When kids go out, gentile, Jewish, makes no difference, last sabbath someone offered ices, he wasn't Jewish, he was in a car ices to Jewish kids, honey cakes are delivered before Rosh Hashanah to gentile neighbors, to Jewish. We don't want multifamily houses, we want to live with the grass away from the City, we're running from the City. A friend of mine called me last year, one of em, and I said you know why I'm moving, because my kids don't know what grass is and I'm sick of the City life and I'm going to Chestnut Ridge where it's never going to change. And obviously we're all together, yeah, we are all together that we want our children to know what a swimming pool is, what grass is, what are those things that come out everyday when you open the garbage? Raccoons. Raccoons. I love the raccoons

1 Proceedings

2 and deer, but when you wake up three in the
3 morning from them they eat into my car, eat
4 the whole thing. It's a different point.

5 Last thing and I'm outta here. We pray,
6 I'm telling you now as I live, every
7 synagogue, why do we go, we are ready to
8 make a deal, let 75 families put in a
9 synagogue, put it in writing with parking in
10 the back, but we pray for our neighbors
11 every sabbath. Every sabbath we're praying
12 I don't care if you're a Jew or not. Check
13 it off, the same people who checked off
14 everything on Wikipedia on the internet. I
15 do not have internet, but they were coming
16 with all the stats so I challenge you guys,
17 let's come up with this stat, in a Jewish
18 prayer we pray for the Muslim, people really
19 dying of cancer in this world, people have
20 so many problems, children, people have car
21 crashes.

22 MAYOR PRESTI: Please wrap up.

23 MR. WEISER: My friend just got killed
24 in a car crash, nine children, we need to
25 pray and that's what we're doing we're

1 Proceedings
2 praying for you, we're praying for everyone.
3 We need a synagogue that's all we ask for.
4 We don't want pizza parlors. Just let us
5 pray for you. Jews are good. It's good to
6 be with Jews because you have prayers which
7 everyone needs.

8 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you.
9 Mr. Chizinski, name and address for the
10 record.

11 MR. CHIZINSKI: Darius Chizinski, 9
12 (inaudible) Road, Chestnut Ridge. First of
13 all, thank you Mr. Mayor and the Board for
14 all your work. I don't know why you do what
15 you do, for the money or whatever you have
16 to go through, I don't want your job and I'm
17 probably not as colorful as my predecessor
18 so very hard shoes to fill. I moved into
19 Chestnut Ridge in 1995 when my daughter was
20 four and she just graduated college at the
21 age of 23. We are always always happy in
22 Chestnut Ridge. We love the place. I
23 should say that I always love the place
24 until -- regardless of religious community
25 moving in, I still love the place. I even

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

like the quiet on the sabbath, less traffic. That's what I experience, less traffic than more traffic to tell you the truth. Except for last meeting that was at the middle school in Chestnut Ridge I almost doubted Chestnut Ridge by the behavior of folks, all the shouting and screaming and so I'm just telling myself that's not the in Chestnut Ridge that I know, that's not the Chestnut Ridge that I want to live in. So, if you want to solve the problem, we don't have that many in Chestnut Ridge, but if you want to solve the problem it would be with cool head and acting -- basing -- we aren't acting on your emotions and speaking on your emotion it will, from my experience, it will never reach to solving an objective solution to any involved. I think that the only way that we can resolve the problem here is by sitting -- well, I should go back a little bit. I said that I wasn't happy with the whole meeting. Last meeting was my first attendance at the public hearing in Chestnut Ridge and I came here and I should say that

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

we already improved, we improved a lot, there were some small glitches. That's nothing, that's nothing. I think that that shows us the way. That the only way to come and viable solution is to sit at the table, I mean, everybody. I hate to call it sides because it just doesn't sound good, but well we have two sides in Chestnut Ridge right now. Well I think we should sit at a table, maybe we should form groups, have a moderator, like an independent moderator, maybe with some professionals, planning professionals, whatever, and maybe we can come up to a certain solution.

Now, let me just state the facts and my observations. We have 12 houses and my religious neighbor just a couple days ago approached me when I was working in my front yard, yes, front yard garden, this is what we have in Chestnut Ridge, and he said, could you believe it's been five years since we moved in, time flies. So five years of the 12 houses we got one, two, third Orthodox family just moved last week, the

1 Proceedings

2 house across the street is for sale so we
3 gonna have four in five years; right?
4 Forward five years of the 12 we gonna have
5 eight. Eight. Majority is gonna be
6 minority. I think that the time for
7 screaming and shouting should end and we
8 should all start talking. What else?

9 If I was last house for sale it was
10 Sunday I was working in my front yard I
11 spent couple hours so it was open house,
12 seven cars came, there were all Orthodox
13 families so this is telling you where the
14 Town is going in the next five years. So
15 that's about it. Thank you very much.

16 MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you. Mr. Weber
17 you're going to be the one to end it just
18 before we send everybody home. Ari Weber,
19 just name and address for the record. All
20 right. I'll give courtesy to a neighboring
21 community, sure, I was going with residents
22 first. We need to be outta here by 10:00.
23 Mr. Weber?

24 MR. WEBER: Thank you very much, Mayor
25 and the Trustees and everyone here tonight.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

I won't take more than three minutes of your time. I grew up in a Village not too far from here called New Hempstead which many of you may know. Small suburban Village, single-family homes and 30 years ago my parents were the third Orthodox religious family there. We grew up with the deer and the turkey on a little one acre property. As many -- over the years as many Orthodox families moved in we had many -- the diversity was very similar to what it is here in Chestnut Ridge. We enjoyed it very very much.

If you look at the Village of New Hempstead today, although gradually, the population may have changed, but the character of the neighborhood that I grew up in has not changed one iota. I take my kids back to the block I grew up on and it looks the same. The Orthodox community has come in by the (inaudible), no multifamily homes, no major humongous schuls, no parking issues, and everybody seems to be living very happily together in a very similar type

1 Proceedings
2 of residential neighborhood that I live in
3 currently at 35 Balmoral Drive. We enjoy
4 the diversity it's working very fine. I
5 think that some people may be overwhelmed by
6 a vision that we actually don't have. The
7 vision is, as some of you before said, to
8 live in peace and harmony with all of you
9 and to just practice our religion freely in
10 a house of worship that's not too far away
11 from our houses. As Mr. Grant knows, he
12 walks past my house everyday, we try to keep
13 it neat, we try to keep the grass mowed, to
14 keep toys away, everybody's happy, we try to
15 be very neighborly and I think you know that
16 Balmoral Drive is an awesome block and we
17 really all do try.

18 I do think that we can successfully
19 implement some of the changes that were
20 mentioned in the draft and that no one will
21 feel like we're taking over. I really feel
22 that. If you look at New Hempstead today in
23 the neighborhood I grew in with maybe now
24 hundreds of Orthodox residents there is one
25 house of worship on Bridal Road. It is in

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

the back of the hi-ranch which was down
beautifully. There's onsite parking and
there are no issues with the neighbors.
Let's try -- let's try, let's see if we
could do something similar. I saved up all
my life savings to buy a house here in
Chestnut Ridge five years and I followed my
parents -- I followed my parents' footsteps
area. We were the third Orthodox family in
the neighborhood. We didn't come rah rah or
(inaudible) or because there were anything
was setup. We came to start a life for
ourselves. We had two young children, we
have wonderful neighbors, April and Anthony,
Eric and Lisa I'm sure we're here, we get
along just fine with them, we're not
planning to build a house of worship in our
house and we just want to see everybody
hopefully get along and try to make this as
successful a community as possible. Thank
you very much.

MAYOR PRESTI: Thank you, Mr. Weber. I
understand we have a representative from
Upper Saddle River here, Ms. Burringess, and

1 Proceedings

2 that will be it. After Ms. Burgess speak
3 I'll explain to what you what's going to
4 happen after this.

5 MS. BURGESS: Mr. Mayor, Board of
6 Trustees, can you hear me?

7 A VOICE: No.

8 MS. BURGESS: Can you hear me now?
9 Okay. I apologize for giving my back to
10 many of the residents here. As I said, my
11 name is Beatrice Burgess, I work at Burgess
12 Associates, we're a planning firm located at
13 225 Westwood Avenue in Westwood, New Jersey.
14 Our firm represents close to forty
15 municipalities in New Jersey. We've also
16 worked with other municipalities in New York
17 such as Sloatsburg, Tuxedo, a number in
18 Westchester. The reason why I'm here
19 tonight is because we're the borough
20 planners for Saddle River, Upper Saddle
21 River, Ramsey, Allendale, Ho-Ho-Kus, and we
22 are always monitoring what happens north of
23 us because we're interested impact of
24 development and how it effects our
25 community. Things do not happen in a

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

vacuum. I had the opportunity to review this ordinance and I have to say I found part of it problematic. I was heartened to see the comments by your Planning Board as I agree with many of them and it saves me the time of going through some of the issues that I had had. But the most important part that I wanted to bring up is that it would seem that the objective in the ordinance predetermine the conclusion and it really reinforces the notion that a master plan, a comprehensive master plan, is needed. My firm has done dozens of these and you say it takes three years or four years. We've done communities much larger than yours in less than half that time and we have worked with all the residents. I was listening to one of the comments someone just recently made about having community meetings and with the planners and with a Zoning Board. These are called charrettes in my business. They're basically focus groups where people come together and they have the opportunity before something like this comes before the

1 Proceedings

2 public.

3 (Crowd applauds.)

4 MS. BURGESS: I would like to say to the
5 Trustees that I'm not stating this is as
6 criticism, but just as an observation. I
7 should also note that I was also in your
8 shoes, I was once a Councilwoman in a New
9 Jersey in Edgewater and politics sometimes
10 is a contact sport as well. I have to
11 admit. But here you have a group of
12 residents that are incredibly engaged. Most
13 times you go to a hearings, and I go to a
14 lot of them, people don't show up. So I
15 would take advantage of the fervor of all
16 the residents here.

17 Mr. Mayor, at the beginning of the
18 hearing you brought up, and I'm misquoting
19 you so forgive me, that this is a Federal
20 issue, a Federal law, that basically we to
21 comply with this or else. And my
22 understanding from your comments is that
23 this the ordinance that would allow us to
24 comply with this Federal issue, does this
25 mean the every municipality in this Country

1 Proceedings

2 that does not have a similar ordinance would
3 not being complying with this Federal issue?

4 MAYOR PRESTI: Ms. Burgess, you know the
5 answer to that question.

6 MS. BURGESS: I do. And I should've
7 also said that I understand that this is not
8 a back and take. So I guess I should've
9 started by asking, how do all the residents
10 get answer to their questions?

11 Also, you're definition of substantial
12 burden is I would tweak that a little bit.
13 Substantial burden is, you know, when you
14 have something that restricted and in this
15 case, you would be restricting places of
16 worship. Now when you allow for places of
17 worship practically anywhere this is not
18 restrictive so there's no burden that needs
19 to be dealt with. You're actually allowing
20 for it anywhere in the municipality or the
21 in the Village rather, excuse me.

22 One concept that we talk about as
23 planners constantly is, and the
24 professionals here will understand this, is
25 the carrying capacity of the land. Your

1 Proceedings

2 land can only carry a certain amount of
3 people, certain amount of utilities, certain
4 amount of pipes, certain amount of sewage
5 which I know is not the sexiest thing, but
6 it is very important cause it tends to
7 bubble up. And I would like to know --

8 MAYOR PRESTI: If you could wrap up.

9 MS. BURGESS: I would like to know how I
10 could get the answers to, how this ordinance
11 that was proposed is reconciled with New
12 York State Laws dealing with issues like
13 sewers, like lighting, like nuisance laws,
14 recreation, you know. According to this
15 ordinance recreation is allowed anywhere on
16 a property. Anywhere.

17 MAYOR PRESTI: Please wrap up.

18 MS. BURGESS: We as residents in this
19 area and as a resident in Bergen County are
20 also effected by what happens in a
21 community. This is not a Chestnut Ridge
22 issue. As you have stated this is a Federal
23 issue --

24 MAYOR PRESTI: Please, wrap up.

25 MS. BURGESS: And there will be

1 Proceedings
2 consequences on every side. Thank you all
3 for your time.

4 MAYOR PRESTI: Nice to see you again.
5 Okay. At this point -- just an editorial
6 comment, Ms. Burgess actually applied for
7 the planner's position here at the Village
8 not too long ago so nice to see you back
9 again. Thank you for coming back. What
10 we're going to do next is we're going to go
11 take a little time now to assess the
12 constructive comments that we've been able
13 to take from this hearing and the hearing
14 before. Logistically what we're gonna do is
15 I'm gonna ask for a motion for adjourn this
16 hearing without -- to continue it without a
17 date because I don't know yet how long it's
18 going to take for us to really assess this
19 and then to get our planner involved in
20 tweaking the draft or revising the draft at
21 so that we can incorporate the comments that
22 we heard. So what's going to happen my
23 thinking is we're probably not going to come
24 back for a period such as this again I'm
25 thinking in the fall, but again, once we

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

know for sure what the planner has to -- the advice he gives us, we may have to send out a revised law to the agencies, again, i.e. the County, the neighboring communities and villages and things of that nature so that may take some time, but our hope is that by the fall we'll be able to come back here and you'll have time, we're not going to spring it upon you. You will have adequate time to see the revised law so that if you need to comment you can comments and again if there's anything else that we need to talk we'll talk about.

A VOICE: How do you decide on the planners?

MAYOR PRESTI: The planner is here. That's Mr. Stach on the end and Mr. Lockman. That's our Village planner. That's the gentlemen -- those are the gentlemen who we requested provide the draft law and now they are the gentlemen who are going to provide us with council based upon the constructive criticisms and constructive suggestions that we received as to what the Village can or

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

can't do with regard to those suggestions because some the suggestion, while some people may think they're okay, they're area not will not hold legal water so to speak. The planner does not decide what the law is. The planner is the entity, is the professional for the Village that's going to listen to what the Trustees have to say in addition to combing through all of the submissions and all of the comments that we've had the past two meetings and they're going to provide another draft. And then the Trustees we look at that draft, we'll also have the Village Attorney weigh in on that and then we'll continue the process just like we've done now.

So at this point I will ask for a motion to continue the meeting without a date and then we'll have a new date. When we come back we're gonna have a revised law and you'll have an opportunity to speak on it again.

DEPUTY MAYOR BROCK: So moved.

MAYOR PRESTI: Deputy Mayor Brock for

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

the motion and second?

MR. COHEN: Second.

MAYOR PRESTI: Mr. Cohen seconded. All those in favor?

(Aye.)

MAYOR PRESTI: Opposed? None. You will get just -- just keep posted with regard to the website and the Village Hall with regard to the next hearing. Thank you.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Proceedings

THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED to be
a true and correct transcription of the
original stenographic minutes to the best
of my ability.

Melissa Pezzullo

Melissa Pezzullo

