



# Village of Southampton

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## **Board of Trustees**

### **MINUTES**

February 8, 2022 - 5:00 PM

### **Call to Order:**

Meeting Start Time : 5:08 PM

### **Present:**

Mayor Jesse Warren, Trustee Gina Arresta, Trustee Joseph McLoughlin, Trustee Roy Stevenson, Village Administrator Charlene Kagel-Betts, Village Attorney Kenneth Gray, Village Clerk Cathy Sweeney, Assistant to the Mayor Miranda Weber and A/V Coordinator Katherine Styler

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Led by Mayor Warren

### **Public Comment:**

1. The Village of Southampton Board of Trustees Special Session Meeting will be taking place via ZOOM. The meeting will be live-streamed and a transcript will be provided at a later date.

To join the Board Meeting via ZOOM, you must register in advance to:  
[mweber@southamptonvillage.org](mailto:mweber@southamptonvillage.org) prior to 12:00PM on the meeting date.

To view the meeting LIVE, go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwDidTdhkHXbspR0hkoxH4g>

Note: This is due to public and health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 and in accordance with Governor Hochol's approved legislation (Ch. 1 of the Laws of 2022 amends Sections 1 and 2 of Part # of Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 which amended Article 7 of the Public Officers Law) extending virtual access to public meetings under New York State's Open Meetings Law.

The Village of Southampton Board of Trustees Meetings will take place remotely and without in-person access during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency.

There is no Public Comment during Work Sessions.

### **Public Hearing:**

1. Public Hearing regarding Local Law 4-2022, a proposal to amend Chapter 116 of the Village Code re: Special Exception Uses.

Attorney Ken Gray ~

Recap of what progress has been made since the last Public Hearing regarding the special exception use of the old

## Ambulance Bay for Heart Of The Hamptons

Presentation by John Ellsworth, Senior Associate - Nelson, Pope and Vorhees ~

Reporting on land use planning and environmental analysis study conducted in regards to amending the current code so as to allow a food pantry as such a use.

Stephen Jones ~

The definition of Food Pantry is too broadly defined, making it overly inclusive.

Mike Lieberman ~

In Favor, as a resident. As Chief of Ocean Rescue. This is a First Responder building. Obviously, this is not to the zoning, but hopefully, this will be an opportunity to draw attention to this need and hope in the future Ocean Rescue is able to have a location like this as well. I look forward to meeting the needs of all our community members.

Father Patrick Edwards~

In Favor. This site has been utilized for various areas in the past: Ambulance Bay and, most recently, a Drive-Up COVID 19 testing center, which saw a steady stream of businesses. It gives an opportunity to see how it would function as a drive-up environment.

Rev. Sarah ~ Pastor at First Presbyterian Church ~

In Favor. This kind of organization is necessary for our community. Expressed support for The Heart Of The Hamptons and the idea that in Southampton we have this kind of commitment to our neighbors.

Joseph Soufer ~

Concerns are not about the value of the Food Pantry for the community. It's about the impact it has on the residential life surrounding it.

Judith Maysles ~

Does not understand why anybody would want a Food Pantry at the busiest intersection in our village. Believes in feeding the people but feels there are many other locations where this can be done, without adding to the congestion.

Jim McFarland ~

The site of the former Ambulance Barn in the densely populated Meeting House neighborhood is not the optimal site. It's not big enough to handle the uses they want to offer. There are no current restraints stating the building could eventually be used for a drug rehab facility. The current lease with Heart Of The Hamptons violates the New York State Constitution,

Anton Borovina ~

Representing neighboring home owners in the area of the proposed Food Pantry, that will be affected by the local law. Appropriate environmental impact measures were not taken into account before the Board proceeded, as is required by state law. Nelson, Pope and Voohees report did not consider other conforming parcels. The Board's definition of Food Pantry is too broad.

Linda Riley ~

This is a type 1 action, and a hard look was taken by the Board in order to make a valid determination. The Law does allow and provide for these uses in commercial districts and residential districts to be considered. The Heart of the Hamptons or any other charitable organization would still have to get a special permit and go through the process of Public Hearing, Planning Board and comply with conditions which will be site - specific. \

Father Patrick ~

Answers Anton Borovina's question as to why Heart of The Hampton is losing space at the Church.

Molly Bishop ~ Executive Director of Heart Of The Hamptons

In Favor. Details all the work they do to provide for those in need. Is disheartened by the fear-mongering and investment in blocking our existence in the community. The only thing that would alter the character of this community would be if Southampton Village was no longer a place that cares about those with needs.

Sean Hattrick ~ Trustee for Heart Of The Hanptons

In Favor - Heart of The Hamptons has been operating just west of this location for years. Operating hours are during the day , and not on weekends. Our mission is to be great neighbors. When something new moves into your neighborhood , you understandably have questions and concerns. At the current location at Sacred Hearts we have never had any complaints from neighbors. The character of our Village depends on having Heart of the Hamptons and the character of Meeting House Lane will be improved.

Matthew Hale ~ (On behalf of Joann Hale) ~

It feels the church is a better choice for serving the community with respect to the Food Pantry. Would like the Village to look at other options.

Kimberly Allan ~

It feels that the Meeting House Lane Neighborhood is already densely populated. Asking the board to conduct the right due diligence and be transparent in its approach.

Helene Fagan ~

Agree with Kimberly, we certainly support a Food Pantry. Although the impact on neighbors is not a good idea, there has to be a more commercial area to put the Food Pantry. This proposed change to the 12.5 zoning code causes concerns about the future. The process is being rushed and hushed and will forever change the character of our quiet community.

Mark Underberg ~

Recognizes the need for a food pantry but is open to the Board to consider a better location.

Mark Chiffert ~

It is good to hear this discussion , it is very helpful. As part of the Planing Commission we would like to provide any help we can.

Lane Brettschneider ~

A lot of people realized that they should be in favor of the Food Pantry, but they don't want it in their backyard. Lets stop causing the Village to waste money on defending this.

### **Suggested Resolutions:**

1. RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees (Board) of the Incorporated Village of Southampton (Village) approves the Local Law 4-2022, a proposal to amend Chapter 116 of the Village Code re: Special Exception Uses.

Motion to Approve (Aye) was initiated by Jesse Warren and seconded by Gina Arresta.

Yes: Jesse Warren, Gina Arresta, Joseph McLoughlin, Roy Stevenson

No: None

Abstain: None

### **Comments from Board Members:**

Trustee McLoughlin ~

- The neighbors of the proposed location have their concerns. This public discussion has more to do with the code than the location. The Board should be encouraged to expand the scope to allow these venues in other areas as well as this location. As to not single out one location.

Mayer Warren ~

- Referred further clarification to Mr Ellesworth for comment

Trustee Steveson ~

- A question directed at Mr. Ellesworth : To clarify,we are not approving the Heart of The Hamptons location application for 44 Meeting House Lane. This law makes it possible for a stand-alone Food Pantry to be at that location or any of the other 5 locations that meet the requirements in the business district.

Trustee Arresta~

- The sole purpose of the building at 44 Meeting House Lane has always been to serve the community. Heart of the Hamptons are committed to and care about our community and they are willing to work with the people in the neighborhood and to be good neighbors.

Mayor Warren ~

- In conclusion. Everything was within New York State Law and the public was notified properly. It's a long process and it's far from over.. The job of the Board is to make decisions as to what we think is best for the village. Providing a special exception permit here would be the best foot forward for the Village.

**Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing contractual, litigation and specific Village personnel matters.

**Return to Public Session:**

7:11 PM

**Resolutions, if any:**

None noted.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

End Meeting Time :7:11 PM