


Mayor's Report, 25 February 2025

Welcome to February's commission meeting – we have a packed agenda this evening, so I hope you stick around to hear what's happening regarding ongoing projects and future plans.


As you can see, the playground is finally installed, but has not passed inspection by our Building Official. Minor issues, but the safety of our children is our first and foremost priority. The current plan is to have the grand reopening on Saturday March 1st at 10am.

By the time I read this report, I am hopeful that the septic systems for HWCH and the PWs garage are completed. Even though ASAP visited the site multiple times over the past year, they encountered what they viewed as unexpected challenges with trees, tree roots and connecting the two systems. I will be very glad when this project is complete, and we have a nicely sodded area that compliments the beautiful landscaping recently completed in front.



An issue that comes across my desk time and time again is work being done in the village without permits. As a result, I have given Public Works a directive to observe and note any tree work or construction being done in Town and verify permit status. Non-permitted construction will be noted and forwarded to the Building Official, most likely resulting in a work stoppage. Tree removal without a permit or a letter from an ISA certified arborist will be documented and sent to Code Enforcement. Contractor debris found to be in the ROW after a job will also be documented and sent to Code Enforcement. Homeowners are responsible for obtaining permits and ensuring the debris is removed by the contractor(s). Fees for any permits submitted after work has begun will be doubled and the Homeowners may be subject to fines if found to be non-compliant with our codes.

Also dealing with residential codes, letters were sent to 2 homeowners regarding unsafe structures. One is working with the Building Official to come into compliance. The other property owner has not responded, and the Town will work with our Attorney and Building Official with all due expediency to move forward making the structure safe and possibly starting foreclosure proceedings.



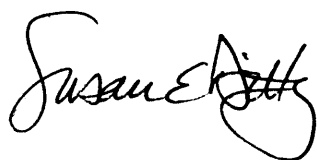
A brief update on our efforts to secure funding for non-budgeted infrastructure projects: With help from our lobbyist, the Town prepared and submitted the appropriate legislative forms for road paving (DOT project) and a comprehensive stormwater study (DEP project) to maximize our chances utilizing 2 avenues of appropriations. However, after discussions with our legislative delegates, they decided to support only the effort for the stormwater study funding at 80% (180K). The Town subsequently completed additional forms, and everything was filed in both the House and Senate, and we should be able to proceed pursuit of the funding. As our lobbyist explained - in any normal year, provided an appropriations request is justifiable and reasonable, our own local Representative and Senator would file and pursue the requests with us to bring back to the district. This year, for the first time in his career, we are in a unique position where neither our local Representative nor Senator will serve for the duration of

session. This presents a unique challenge as Representative Mayfield will only file appropriations requests that have a Senate companion, and Senator Fine was not filing any requests because he is leaving before the budget will be built. Jon, our lobbyist, was able to overcome this by getting Senator Gruters, from Sarasota, to submit the request for us and allow us to be in play to pursue funding. So, Rep. Mayfield has our project in the House, and in the Senate, Sen. Gruters is our sponsor. Not having local representation serving during the period of time when the budget is being built will provide challenges, but with our requests being officially filed in each chamber we are at least, in the game. We will keep you updated as we learn more. My thanks to Town Clerk Roberts and Vice Mayor Foster for their assistance on this effort.

To learn more about this topic or other projects, or to bring concerns and questions to my attention, I encourage you to attend the informal but informative Mayor's Open House meetings, held quarterly. The next one is Saturday, March 15th in the Town Hall. Start time is normally 10am but we will start immediately after the AHF Annual Meeting if it runs later than 10 o'clock.

On a lighter note, we have started preparations for Founders' Day and have already booked a new band, Blue Moon Rising, for the event. We are always looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen, setting up the games, activities, and booths and many other tasks. If you are interested, please contact Vice Mayor Foster. I'm looking forward to another great day feasting and celebrating our wonderful Town and residents.

Thank you for the privilege to serve. Let's keep the conversation going.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan E. Ditty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being the most prominent.

Mayor Sue Ditty