

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

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Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
ANNEX
337 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

THOMAS J. TOOMA, JR.
CHIEF



MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2018

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Tom Tooma, Somers Volunteer Fire Department 1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey, Chief Fire Inspector William Premuroso, Deputy Chief Robert Russell, and Deputy Chief Al Vigliotti.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Russell to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting as submitted. Deputy Chief Vigliotti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

North County Homes – Cardinal Way – The Bureau reviewed and discussed an updated preliminary subdivision for North County Homes on Cardinal Way. There were no objections. A memo will be sent to Planning and Engineering.

OLD BUSINESS

AvalonBay Somers – Somers Volunteer Fire Department Chief Paul Jockimo would like some additional striping at AvalonBay Somers. Ex-Fire Chief Leverich suggested that the curbs in front of the hydrants be painted yellow. He would also like markers added to the hydrants that are not marked. Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso will discuss this further with Adam Smith of the Water Department.

Somers Diner – After numerous attempts to work with the tenant on correcting potential code violations, Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso issued a violation for unsafe electrical wiring. The problems have been resolved, but in the meantime, there is now a new tenant who Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso has met with.

Paramount at Somers – On August 21, 2017, Former Bureau Chief Citarella and Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso visited Paramount at Somers as it was reported that interior changes had been made which may have required Building Permits. Three offices had been built and a dining room was turned into a rehab area. Last month, Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso spoke with one of their administrators Kerry DeSandre who said she would be sending him plans for the work that was done. In addition, Building Permits and electrical inspections may have been required for that work. The plans were never received. Another call was made to Ms. DeSandre earlier today. She extended her apologies as she forgot and assured Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso that she would take care of it immediately.

9, 11, 13 and 15 Butlerville Road – There has been some concern about the narrow, windy and bumpy condition of a long dirt/stone roadway that accesses 9, 11, 13 and 15 Butlerville Road, and how and/or if emergency apparatus could get up the roadway. In addition, the home numbering can use improvement at each dwelling as well as on Butlerville Road. Somers Volunteer Fire Department 1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey visited the site and confirmed that they would not be able to get a ladder truck up the roadway and an engine most likely couldn't get past the sharp turn halfway up the drive. Since repairing the roadway could be a costly venture, a letter was sent to each owner outlining the situation. The letter indicated that any questions or concerns should be directed to the Bureau Chief. All agreed that since there was no response from the first letter, a second letter requesting acknowledgement of the first should be sent to the owners, which was done and still there has been no response.

1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey reported that the Fire Department had a recent ambulance call to the last house at the end of this roadway and they had to back the ambulance back down the driveway to the main road in order to exit.

Generators in Heritage Hills – At least two of the Condos in Heritage Hills have approved the installation of generators. Two condos have natural gas and Con Edison doesn't allow underground piping so some of the gas piping is 18" above ground. Bureau Chief Tooma suggested that the piping be marked with something like white vinyl fencing so that it is not a tripping hazard especially at night or if there were emergency personnel on the property. Although the Bureau understands the policy that Con Edison has about not burying the pipes, they don't agree with it as it is a safety hazard. A letter was sent to Con Edison to see what they might recommend to prevent tripping issues with pipes that are above ground. In addition, a letter was sent to all the Condo Presidents of those with natural gas with regard to this situation.

As an update, Bureau Chief Tooma reported that Heritage Hills is currently placing bright yellow/orange vertical stanchions by the above ground gas piping. In addition, a certification class will be offered at the end of November for plumbers qualifying them to bury the pipes.

1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey asked if permits are required for portable generators. They are not, but an electrical inspection is needed for the transfer switch. All agreed that a flyer on portable generator safety should be created and given to the Heritage Hills Society, Condo Presidents and Security. Mrs. Schirmer will work on this project.

Attic Accesses in Heritage Hills

As inspections are being conducted, Bureau Chief Tooma is still finding attic accesses through garage ceilings in units in Heritage Hills. As these are not permitted, moving forward a Notice of Violation will be issued for any that are noticed. A letter was sent to the Condo Presidents reiterating the same. On November 28th Mr. Tooma will be meeting with the Council of Condominiums in Heritage Hills at the request of their President in his role as Building Inspector to discuss this and other topics.

9 Anita Drive – On October 2nd there was a fully involved structure fire at 9 Anita Drive that started in the basement. An architect is working on plans to do a rebuild. Arrangements are in the process of being made for partial demolition and reconstruction.

43 Watergate Drive – Last month the Fire Department responded to a call for a water leak at 43 Watergate Drive. The insurance company released some funds and repairs are in the process of being made.

247 Route 100 – Deputy Chief Russell spoke with the manager of 247 Route 100. They will install gray x pavers, be moving the conex boxes and testing the well.

Testing of Pressure Reducing Valves in Heritage Hills – The testing of the pressure reducing valves in Heritage Hills has begun.

Hydrants at DeCicco & Sons – It has been determined that the approved Planning Board site plan for DeCicco & Sons indicated a total of one hydrant. A hydrant was installed in the location requested. Fire Chief Premuroso spoke to the engineer as it looks too low and needs to be turned around.

2 Old Tomahawk Street – There are two buildings on this lot with apartments on the 2nd floor of each. A fire alarm call was responded to at the apartment above Keller Williams and they don't have a Fire Alarm Permit. A letter and application were sent to the owner. John Zattola of Somers Security will follow up.

339 Route 202 – There is a fire department connection and pump in one of the buildings that feeds both buildings. Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso will ask the owner to post a sign indicating so. He will also speak to the contractor.

SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S REPORT

1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey reported on the following:

15 Plum Brook Road – There was a chimney fire at 15 Plum Brook Road caused by a

build up of creosote.

Paramount at Somers – The administration has been conducting fire drills without notifying the Fire Department and in turn the staff is calling 911. Fire Chief Inspector Premuroso will speak to the administrators regarding this serious situation. If this situation occurs again, a violation will be issued for false alarms.

In addition, there is an issue with internal parking at Paramount at Somers. Staff are parking on both sides of the parking lot entryways preventing emergency vehicles from getting through. Fire Chief Inspector Premuroso will address this concern with the administrators as well.

606E Heritage Hills – There was a situation at 606E Heritage Hills with regard to a storage concern.

Knox Box Applications – Knox boxes have to be applied for electronically now. Paper applications will no longer be accepted.

Chili's – The Fire Department responded to a call at Chili's in the middle of the night. The keys in the Knox box didn't work and no one answered the phone number that was listed. Fire Chief Inspector Premuroso will follow up.

Out of Service Rings – Out of service rings were placed on the hydrants at Blackberry Hill Road, Moore Drive, Sunderland Lane and Todd Lane. Mrs. Schirmer asked 1st Assistant Chief Mackey to double check on Todd Lane, as it should have been Titus Court.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Deputy Chief Russell didn't have a report this evening.

Deputy Chief Vigliotti reported on the following:

Paul Green of the Water Department tried to read a water meter in the utility room of Once Upon A Child at 80 Route 6, but he couldn't access the meter as the room was being used for storage. Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso will follow up.

CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso reported the following:

Lincoln Hall – Renovations are being made to two cottages (Cedar and Fallahey) in Lincoln Hall. Building permits have not been issued and an inspection for electrical work has not been received. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up in writing.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12th at 4:30 p.m. in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Bureau of Fire Prevention

cc: Bureau of Fire Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning Board
Principal Engineering Technician
Somers Fire District