

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

March 17, 2021

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following were in attendance: Somers Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Greg Lucia, Deputy Chief Rob Russell, Bureau Chief Tom Tooma, and Deputy Chief Al Vigliotti.

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Vigliotti to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting as submitted. Deputy Chief Russell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Driveway Gates – The Town Clerk continues to work with the State about the driveway gate requirements legislation that was approved by the Town Board, but has still not been added to the e-code.

Named Roads in Heritage Hills – There are named roads in Heritage Hills that residents are using as their address when calling 911 which is leading to much confusion as those roads are not in the 911 cad system and were never approved by the Town. This item has been placed on hold for the time being.

Crossroads at Baldwin Place – Mr. Tooma spoke with a representative of the owner

of Crossroads at Baldwin Place about placing identification signs on the back doors of the retail spaces. There were no objections and the signs have been received. Mr. Russell conducted a site visit and the identification signs have still not been placed on the back doors of the retail spaces. Mr. Tooma will follow up.

Identification Memo – Mr. Russell drafted a memo to the Town Board with regard to adopting a policy that moving forward the back doors of retail spaces must be identified in case of the need for emergency access. The memo was finalized and emailed to the Town Board on March 9th.

SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S REPORT

The following was reported by Assistant Chief Lucia:

Chief Mackey reported that there have been ongoing problems with Heritage Hills Security. The residents are being told if their carbon monoxide or smoke detectors are going off, they are to call Heritage Hills Security and if they think the situation requires the Fire Department, they will call 911. Since Security doesn't have the equipment and training to determine if there is in fact a problem, they should not be making that decision. The residents should be told to call 911, then Security. If Security determines everything is okay, then they can call 911 back. Assistant Chief Lucia believes that Chief Mackey has met with the security folks in an effort to resolve this issue. An update will be requested at the April meeting.

There was a chimney fire in South Somers. In addition, the fire truck couldn't make it up the long driveway because it was snow covered. Mr. Tooma sent a letter on February 23rd to the owners requiring that the chimney be cleaned, inspected documented and provided before it is used again. There has not been a response. Another letter will be sent.

It was reported that a call was responded to at Opengate and upon arrival the Chief's car could barely get through the roadway because of a garbage dumpster blocking part of the roadway. A fire truck would definitely not be able to get through. Mr. Tooma will call them.

On February 22nd a call was responded to in Heritage Hills as a result of a fire in a toaster.

There was a fairly large brush fire caused by an electrical line off of Route 116.

Security gates now exist at Somers High, Intermediate and Middle Schools. A meeting will be scheduled with the Somers Central School District to determine how the Somers Fire Department can open those gates if access is needed.

The 911 numbering at the Heritage Hills Activities Center and maintenance yard need to be corrected as what is posted on the buildings is not in the 911 system. They should also be posting these numbers at the roadway. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up.

BUREAU CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Tooma had nothing new to report this evening.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

After a recent significant snowfall, Deputy Chief Russell was at Crossroads at Baldwin Place and noticed that snow had been plowed up against the fire hydrants which could prove to be a dangerous situation. In the fall, Mrs. Schirmer will contact the owner in an attempt to be sure that this doesn't happen again next winter.

Deputy Chief Vigliotti is concerned about the chain gate at The Mews being blocked with snow, blocking access for Fire Department access. Signs should be posted that read "Emergency Access Drive – Keep Clear". Mrs. Schirmer will reach out to the property owner.

CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso was not present at the meeting however he will be asked for an update on the following:

2 Old Tomahawk Road – separate fire alarms in each building – they do not have to separate alarms, only two zones.

Heritage Hills Hydrant Flushing – update on flushing the hydrants – Assistant Building Inspector Rich Servello did follow up.

Artis Senior Living – inspection of fire alarm system – Mr. Premuroso will contact them.

NEW BUSINESS

Outdoor Dining – Hopefully at the April Town Board meeting there will be a discussion about permitting outdoor dining again. An update will be given at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

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