

**The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was May 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Village Board and members of the public in person at 49 State St, Village Court, and remote location through Zoom.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Margaret Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Annette Crane, Trustee Katherine Kristansen, Trustee John LaPierre, Trustee Shawn Halquist, Manager/Clerk Erica Linden, Recorder Susan Smith

**ALSO PRESENT:** Fred Webster, Libby Caruso, Ann Lee Walker

**VIA ZOOM:** Joan Hamlin, Chris Hamlin, Kevin Jenkins

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE:** Mayor Blackman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** to honor those who serve our Country, enforce our laws, & respond to emergencies

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments/questions Policy for Public Comment: 5 min/per person/ state name and address for record / clearly address the Board / submit copy of remarks to Clerk the following day for the record will be accepted during the meeting at this time. Virtual participants can raise their hands and will be called on to speak.

- Libby Caruso, 18 Brooke Terrace – commented regarding the mulching business at 180 South Ave, stating that she has it appears as if the business is in full operation before the Planning Board Public Hearing has been held and finds the process confusing.
- Ann Lee Walker, 20 Brook Terrace – commented regarding the mulching business at 180 South Ave, stating that she agreed with Ms. Caruso. She expressed concern that the process with the Zoning Board of Appeals should have been tabled and more time taken before making their decision.
- Kevin Jenkins, 153 West Ave – commented on events, transparency, spending, kayak launch, infrastructure.

**CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

- Minutes: 03/27/2023 and 04/03/2023

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Halquist seconded, to approve the 03/27/2023 Workshop Session and 04/03/2023 Public Budget Hearing and Reg Meeting Village Board minutes.  
Motion carried 5-0.

- Bills Abstract 04/24/2023
  - A (General Fund) \$96,604.10
  - F (Water Fund) \$7,647.03
  - G (Sewer Fund) \$364.26
  - **TOTAL \$104,615.39**

→ Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to approve the 04/24/2023 Bills Abstract.  
Motion carried 5-0.

**MANAGER/CLERK REPORT:**

Manager/Clerk – Erica L. Linden

- Tourism in the Village of Brockport
  - Two key elements of tourism:
    1. Economic development
    2. Creating a community identity and positive spirit

NYCOM recently had an article that explained this well and I'd like to highlight major points that apply to our village. (Vol 5, No 3, Author Tami Reist, pg 22)

- There is low startup cost. No new infrastructure is needed.
- Tourism supports local jobs, purchases made by tourists support local businesses and their employees.
- Tourism dollars create “new” money in a community because these visitors spend their money and depart and are in addition to local resident dollars being spent but no new burden on the infrastructure for that community.
- Tourism is more than a money generator. It can serve as a unifying project to help develop community spirit.
- Tourism can also ensure the continuation of your local heritage.

Dr. Rehnuma Karim, faculty at SUNY Brockport was quoted in Brockport Today as noting “*academic research supports the fact that festivities play a large role in building a positive spirit and establishing meaningful community relationships.*”

As an aside, Manager Linden commented that the main reason she moved to Brockport was to live in a place that would allow for the fostering of meaningful community relationships, which is a key indicator of a vibrant community.

The Village offers celebrations and community events for these reasons, economic development and creating a positive community identity. We believe bringing tourism dollars to our community is good for our residents, and so is fostering a community spirit and building meaningful relationships.

Celebrations hosted by the village that bring people to our streets include Low Bridge, High Water, Arts Festival, On the Canals Excursions, and, thanks to the Stetson Club, the Holiday of Lights Parade, thanks to the Stetson Club, and, thanks to the Serenade Committee, Serenade Concert Series. The Brockport Merchants Association hosts the Sidewalk Sale, Midnight Madness, and Brockstock. All of these festivals, no matter how big or small, add to our sense of place, and provide positive benefits to the community.

Lastly, I'd like to note that cultural heritage is one of the fastest growing specialty markets in the tourism industry today. This includes experiencing the charm of a local community and its traditions, folklore, history, spaces, and values. Brockport has a lot to offer, and we are working with the greater community to share what is wonderful about our village and support our community's health through these celebrations.

#### **OLD or NEW BUSINESS:**

- Approve Main St. Closure for Arts Festival, August 11-13
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to approve the Main St Closure for the Brockport Arts Festival, August 11-13, 2023.  
Motion carried 5-0.
- Update on Draft Municipal Code – Mayor Blackman reported that there have been 2 Public Hearings on the Municipal Code and 1 Public Hearing for the Zoning Code. The Draft Municipal Code and the Draft Zoning Code are online for public review, along with an online comment auto form. Public comments will be accepted for the next 30 days, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Manager Linden added that any new information will be posted, such as the press release that will be posted and sent out by the end of the week, which will address frequently asked questions.
  - Bridge Work Update: Pedestrian, Park Ave., Main St. – Mayor Blackman reported that the Park Ave Lift Bridge is tentatively scheduled to reopen on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Main St Lift Bridge is scheduled to close on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> for rehabilitation, the Pedestrian Bridge Project will be clearing land on the north side of the canal, for the next two weeks. The Canalway Trail will remain open. Regular updates will be provided to the village on the progress.
  - Auctions International bids / 2014 Ford Taurus Sedan/Police Interceptor
- Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to accept the highest bid of \$3,200 from Actions International Bid on the 2014 Ford Taurus Sedan/Police Interceptor.  
Motion carried 5-0.
- Main St Billboard on the south side of the railroad bridge – Trustee Halquist asked about the status of the billboard. Manager Linden reported that the Lions Club is planning to assess the repairs needed and submit an estimate to the village for supplies. The plan is to create a billboard that has signage that can be updated.

#### **VILLAGE BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Low Bridge, High Water Festival (LBHW) – Mayor Blackman commented that LBHW will be held on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Included in the festivities will be the celebration of Brockport's bicentennial on the Erie Canal. To mark the occasion, an interpretive panel will be installed by the Park Ave Lift Bridge, which details its particular history and gives the timeline of the two lift bridges in Brockport. There will be an interpretive panel installed by the Main St Lift Bridge, when the work has been completed. There will be a lot of activities happening along the waterfront, a bike rodeo, food, and music. State and Local dignitaries have been invited, including Brian Stratton, Director of NY Canal Corp.

Manager Linden added that on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Hart Gallery 27, 27 Market St, will be open 6-8 pm for the 4<sup>th</sup>

Grade Poster Contest artist showing. A presentation on Brockport's Bicentennial on the Erie Canal will be made by Dr. Bruce Leslie and Mayor Blackman. Additionally, Hart Gallery 27 will be open on Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm.

- Main St Lift Bridge Shelf Sitters and Adopt a Mule Fundraisers – Trustee Kristansen reported that the Bridging Brockport Sub-Committee: Marketing, Events & Fundraisers will be selling shelf sitters for \$20/each and stuffed mules for \$30/each at the Welcome Center, 11 Water St and during special events. The proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards events and marketing during the Main St Lift Bridge Rehabilitation.
- Beech Tree – Mayor Blackman commented that there are various pieces of wood art and coasters with the village logo imprinted. These pieces were made from the big Beech tree on South Ave that had to be taken down in the fall of 2021. These items are available for purchase at the Arts Festival and possibly other summer events.
- Brockport Arts Festival – Trustee Kristiansen commented that the 2022 festival was successful, with over 20,000 people attending those two days. As Manager Linden stated earlier, the businesses downtown really benefited from the festival. The Arts Festival committee collaborated with the local business community, making it a win-win for everybody. The 2023 Arts Festival will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August, the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The Arts Festival is a big undertaking and is totally self-supporting and profitable to support events in our village. The proceeds from the 2023 Arts Festival are designated toward Bridging Brockport Committee events to keep our village open and vibrant until after the bridge opens and beyond. To date, the 2023 Arts Festival has 10 sponsors, 123 vendors, 6 food trucks, 2 music stages, After Hours concert on Saturday, and so many community groups that are volunteering their time and talents to make this event possible. Go to Sign Up Genius to volunteer. Mayor Blackman commented that Lineage on State St has offered their parking lot to the Arts Festival for the event weekend.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Trustee LaPierre moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:28 pm.  
Motion carried 5-0.

**Upcoming Meetings:** May 15, Regular Mtg with Dept Heads