

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF THOMASTON
July 27, 2023**

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at the Village Hall, 100 East Shore Road, Great Neck, New York at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steven Weinberg, Trustee Jay W. Chagrin, Trustee Aaron Halpern, Trustee Nancy Sherman; Village Attorney A. Thomas Levin (by Zoom).

Absent: Deputy Mayor Burton S. Weston

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Weinberg made the following announcement:

“The purpose of the meeting is for the Board (a) to meet in executive session to get legal advice with respect to the 15 Barstow Road application pending in Great Neck Plaza, received by letter from the Village of Great Neck Plaza, and (b) after the conclusion of the executive session, to discuss the Village’s response, if any, to Great Neck Plaza.

During the executive session portion of the meeting, the public is not permitted to view, hear, or participate in the discussion. The Board will return to public session after the executive session, and at that time Thomaston residents may express their comments and concerns. Residents who have comments or concerns are strongly encouraged and should express their comments or concerns directly to the Village of Great Neck Plaza in writing or at public hearings of the Village of Great Neck Plaza Board of Trustees and/or the Village of Great Neck Plaza Zoning Board of Appeals.”

Executive Session

RESOLUTION 23-58

At 7:03 p.m., on motion by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Halpern, and unanimously approved, the Board entered into executive session to get legal advice with respect to the 15 Barstow Road application pending in Great Neck Plaza.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Absent
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

RESOLUTION 23-59

At 7:30 p.m., on motion by Trustee Halpern, seconded by Trustee Chagrin, and unanimously approved, the Board returned to public session.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Absent
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

The Board invited Thomaston residents to express their comments or concerns with respect to the pending application in the Village of Great Neck Plaza regarding the 15 Barstow Road site. .

Several members of the public expressed several comments and concerns, including: Impacts on the Great Neck school district; Long Island Railroad service; traffic; water, sewer, fire and ambulance services; Lack of benefit to the

Village and Great Neck as a whole; preservation of the historic nature of the existing building (former car dealership); and concerns about overdevelopment in the Great Neck community.

The Board members indicated that the Village would be communicating various concerns to the Village of Great Neck Plaza. Interested members of the community were urged to express their own comments directly to the Village of Great Neck Plaza Board of Trustees and Board of Appeals.

Tree Inventory

The Mayor announced that he received a phone call from Town of North Hempstead Councilmember Veronica Lurvey to see if the Village of Thomaston would be interested in a tree assessment and inventory for Thomaston via a future intermunicipal agreement (IMA) with the Town. In furtherance of this proposed project, the Town is seeking to apply for funding for a Local Government Efficiency Projects Grant (LGE) entitled “North Hempstead Joint Tree Assessment and Community Forestry Management Plan”. The Town has asked the Village to provide a letter in support of the LGE and provided the Village with a template for the letter in support.

The Board discussed this matter. The Village Attorney commented that the letter in support is solely in support of the grant application, and that the Village does not yet have any details regarding the Town’s possible use of the grant funds if the grant is approved.

RESOLUTION 23-60

Upon motion of Trustee Halpern, seconded by Trustee Sherman, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign the proposed letter on behalf of the Village, in support of the Town of North Hempstead’s Local Government Efficiency Projects Application for a grant in support of North Hempstead’s Joint Tree Assessment and Community Forestry Management Plan, subject to revision of last sentence to read: “The Village of Thomaston supports the Town of North Hempstead’s application for Local Government Efficiency Project funding and looks forward to reviewing the benefits for the Village in a proposal from the Town.”

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Absent
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

A copy if the letter is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment

At 8:43 p.m., there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Halpern, seconded by Trustee Sherman, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowland
Village Administrator

**VILLAGE OF THOMASTON
100 EAST SHORE ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11023
(516) 482-3110
FAX (516) 504-3768**

July 27, 2023

Veronica Lurvey
Councilmember, District 4
Town of North Hempstead
220 Plandome Road
Manhasset, 11030

Re: Town of North Hempstead's Local Government Efficiency Projects Application

Dear Councilmember Lurvey:


I write on behalf of the Village of Thomaston to offer my support for the Town of North Hempstead's Local Government Efficiency Projects grant application to support a "North Hempstead Joint Tree Assessment and Community Forestry Management Plan." This project will enhance the urban forest ecosystem in the Town using effective assessment and management strategies that will foster sustainable development, improve environmental quality, and help to transform the community into a greener, healthier, and more vibrant place to live, work, and play.

The Village of Thomaston seeks to preserve and protect trees, and by so doing, aid in the stabilization of soil by the prevention of erosion and sedimentation; reduce stormwater runoff and the costs associated therewith and replenish groundwater supplies; aid in the removal of carbon dioxide and in the generation of oxygen in the atmosphere; provide a buffer and screen against noise pollution; provide protection against severe weather; aid in the control of drainage and restoration of denuded soil subsequent to construction or grading; provide a haven for birds, which in turn assists in the control of insects; protect and increase property values; conserve and enhance the physical and aesthetic environment of the Village of Thomaston; and generally protect and enhance the quality of life and the general welfare of the village. The Village hereby finds that such purposes are consistent with and vital to the general health, safety and welfare of the Village of Thomaston and its inhabitants. The Village of Thomaston supports the implementation of a North Hempstead Joint Tree Assessment and Community Forestry Management Plan because: it will improve tree health and species diversity within the Town; it will establish clear policies and guidelines that prioritize the preservation of trees and improve forest health; it will enhance the resilience of the urban forest to the impacts of climate change; it will enhance the quality of life and environmental quality through improvements to air and water quality as well as shade provision and energy conservation.

This project will be essential to strengthening the Town's resilience, improving environmental health, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and visitors. The Town of North Hempstead needs Local Government Efficiency Project funds to establish a clear plan of action to enhance the health, condition, and function of its forest ecosystem and help to achieve its community forest management goals. The Village of Thomaston supports the Town of North Hempstead's application for Local Government Efficiency Project funding and looks forward to reviewing the benefits for the Village in a proposal from the Town.

Thank you for your consideration and review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Weinberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steven Weinberg
Mayor