

Happy New Year!
2018



Road Four • Winter 2017

Road Four

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDENS BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Winter
2017

Members of our community were invited to meet and mingle with the local Town Board and County Legislator candidates over wine and cheese at the Barn on Thursday, November 2.

This was a great opportunity to ask questions of our government officials and hopefuls in an intimate setting. Members were encouraged to bring friends.

People in the audience had a chance to ask the candidates questions. The candidates were asked about their positions on various subjects such as diversity, affordable housing, environment, roads, traffic congestion, especially around the area of the North County Shopping Center at certain times in the morning, and other issues affecting the quality of life in our Town.

The candidates covered such subjects as environment, property values, and how to generate revenue as well as fair and affordable housing.



(Top Left) Kitley S. Covill* (D, WF, WE), Running for Westchester County Legislator District 2. (Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers) *Incumbent Francis Corcoran Jr. (R, C, I, REF) was defeated by challenger Kitley S. Covill. Covill received 8,212 votes to Corcoran's 6,614 votes.

Seated L to R: Peter Parsons (D, WF, IN) Incumbent, Supervisor, Town of Lewisboro, Challenger Jason M. Krellenstein (R, C, REF). Candidates for Town of Lewisboro Councilmember, Jane M. Crimmins (D, WF) and Tony J. Concalves (D, WF).

Lewisboro Town Council candidates Jane Crimmins (D, WF) and Tony Goncalves, D, WF received more votes than incumbents Frank Kelly (R, C, I, REF) and Peter DeLucia (R, C, I, REF) for the two open seats.

Rules For The Use Of The Barn

1. The barn and property is available for private parties to members who are in good standing and whose dues have been paid for the current year. However, if dues were not paid within sixty days of the due date for two out of the last three years, a one thousand dollar deposit in the form of a money order or bank check must be submitted to the head of the barn committee of the Goldens Bridge Community Assn. executive board in escrow to cover any damages that may occur to the barn and/or property for the day(s) the member uses the facilities. That check will be returned in full to the member if no damages are assessed.
2. The barn and property will not be available for private parties from the start up of the Goldens Bridge Day Camp until after the Banquet, usually the last week in June through Labor Day.
3. All food, drink, paper goods etc. and trash bags will be supplied by the member and removed, including all trash, from the barn and property on the day(s) of use.
4. The member agrees to clean the barn and property and leave it in the same state they found it in.
5. The member agrees to pay in full for any damages to anything in the barn and on the property and will be held liable for failure to do so.
6. Renters must have a member (see paragraph 1.) take responsibility for use of the barn and/or premises.
7. The Goldens Bridge Community Assn. executive board reserves the right to refuse a request for the use of the barn and/or property.

Cars are permitted to parallel park on either side of the road in front of the barn only as long as they leave a clear path for emergency vehicles (ie. fire truck) to pass and NOT in front of any other property. The parking facilities at the lake are also available.

Contact Mike Brown to reserve at phone: 232-9081 or mbrownmw@aol.com

Remembrances, by Mollie Arons

The 90th Golden Bridge anniversary celebration, for me, unleashed a flood of precious memories. Remembrances spilling forth in a stream of consciousness .



Street View, Golden Bridge, N.Y.

From Mike Brown's collection of vintage post cards.

his antique tools rendered artistically by Judy Fast and Eric Stand is mounted on the back wall—his treasures decorating the other walls.

Where am I going? Walks to the village; en route some locals calling us “dirty Jews” “commies” (budding alt-righters?). A one street village with bars lining both sides and a purported house of ill repute above one; an A&P; Sloat's drugstore for sodas; a post office building across the railroad tracks; the train bringing weary fathers on Wednesday and Friday evenings to visit their families; campfires at danger rock; skinny dipping at the lake. And Saturday night entertainment—Howard da Silva, Paul Robeson, Zero Mostel, Pete Seeger. Birnbaum grocery by the ball field; the milkman's truck with his cargo of glass milk bottles; rancorous colony meetings; causes pledged for in \$1, \$2 denominations.

All this for \$1000 an acre to live in a worker's Eden (no bosses allowed), Mac's mother, Sonia, prescient (but not envisioning the ugly McCarthy era) put down a deposit to build a house with 2 tiny bedrooms, a sliver of a living room, a screened-in porch kitchen with an icebox that the iceman filled for 25 cents, and the ubiquitous outhouse. It wasn't until 1945 when Mac returned from the war, that the acre was paid for with his winnings from crap games.

My rosebud runners are not so shiny anymore and my Madeleine's crumbs lodged in my DNA entreat you new members of the community to make your own memories and unearth them at the 100th. I'll be watching. Here's to the remembrances of the past and to the memories of the future.

My parents, Lena and Max Feldman, held the tenet that their children should not languish in the summer heat in the environs of the Bronx. A colleague of my father had a rental unit in his house in Golden Bridge. So there at the age of 16, I went.

It was a teenager's paradise. Older men, (19 years old), throwing hormonal youngsters into one another's orbit; Friday night dances at the Barn; Maxie Arons asking me to dance—my refusal—asked again—my acceptance which led to a pas de deux of 52 years ending with his death in 1999. Mac Arons, a name interchangeable with Barn—a name spelled out with



The “Store Crossing” next to Green Bros. store on Route 138 in the 1950s.
(Reprinted from the Lewisboro Ledger, March 26, 2015.)

“Turning East” by Billy Yalowitz

As a young man I tried to renounce the secular left-wing Jewish world where I grew up. This world seemed to be fading, and my survival seemed to depend on assimilating into some other America. So, like many young Jewish men of my generation, I tried to follow Woody Guthrie’s trail, hitchhiking across the county with a guitar on my back. Got lost along the way.

This poem, an excerpt from my play “East Towards Home,” is an account of turning back toward the world I grew up in, sifting through the rubble for some pieces, looking to rebuild. When I was working as a choreographer some years ago, I discovered the work of the left-wing dancers of the 1930s and ’40s. Inspired by them, I made some dances about this move back east towards home.

*and you gather some driftwood limbs from a rocky beach on the Puget sound
and bring them back east in a duffle bag
and you set them into an off-kilter xylophone
on the floor of a dance studio in lower Manhattan,
and the mallets strike the wood
and the sound goes to liquid inside your body
sending your spine into spiral motion*

*and you roller skate down lower Broadway eating a slice of pizza
and the rivers on your west and your east flow down town toward the harbor
and the cars and the taxis and the busses stream down to the sea
and the elevators rise above you
and the subways and the freight trains run underneath you with their subterranean song
and you pass by the Woolworth building
the mason’s ornate handwork in the soaring stone filigrees
and its bones resting on the tectonic plate in the basement
and you ride the New York island as it floats its bedrock on the trampoline of the earth’s curve*

*and the people on the sidewalks are Woody’s faces in memory
and you hear their reflections, recollections,
together a chorus of voices and ocarinas rising their melodies into space.*

*And we stack the bales of hay high on the flatbed before the rain comes
and Tom Joad and Sholem Aleichem dance The Village I Knew
and four generations dance Mayim Mayim in the Barn*

*And Grandpa Morris is out from behind his sweatshop sewing machine,
And the others come out from behind their mops and steam tables and stacked boxes,
a whole line of them swinging their scythes, living Hey Zhankoye
And Old man Rosen puts an accordian in your arms and you feel your feet on the ground*

*And you learn ways to kneel
To close your eyes and listen to the blood moving in your veins
You learn to listen for your full name,
to plow the floorboards powered by the muscles of your thighs
to rock and to sway and call out to your ancestors
some kind of secular davening.*

*And to call out to the people who keep this world turning everyday,
to work a loom together the whole length of a factory’s floor
You learn to make dances.*

Maintaining Our Lake, by Eric Stand



Pristine Waters, Inc. has finished suction-dredging the accumulated silt/road runoff at the Hall Avenue cove and the silt/accumulated wood debris near our concrete dam. Additionally, they spent about a day vacuuming up some of the fine silt on either side of the swimming area.

They still need to construct the forebay in the Hall Avenue cove. The forebay is basically a hole dug into the lake bottom, lined with large rocks and planted above the low water line with water-tolerant, native grasses and shrubs. As the hole fills with heavier particles from the road culvert and road run-off, the cleaner water will flow over a spillway which will, most of the year, be under water. As the forebay fills, we will need to hire a company with a vacuum truck to empty it. This routine maintenance will not require any further permitting and will extend the recreational and aesthetic viability of our Lake.

Most of the silt-free water in the geo-textile tube* has flowed back into our Lake already. It will take a few more months for the water in the silt itself, to come out of the organic material as it sits on the volleyball court.

Around early-to-mid April, Pristine Waters will tell us when the material is suitable for transport. Roman Broberg will let us all know, via e-mail, the window of days during which we can come with containers and take the material, that is a great fertilizer, back for our gardens. After that date, a backhoe will put the material in trucks, to be hauled away.

I know this has been a controversial procedure for some Community members who feel this intervention hasn't been necessary because our lake is in such good shape. Our lake is, indeed, in very good shape (except for those damned snails). We are fortunate that there are very few houses on the lakeshore, so we don't have a severe nutrient load from septic fields and lawn fertilizers. We are fortunate that our dirt roads and the wooded land around the lake are able to absorb a significant portion of normal rainfall and release it more gradually into the lake. When our lake was overrun with weeds, one of the solutions was to mow them. We did that for 10 years. Many of us went out in rowboats and hand-pulled the weeds out with their roots. We then decided that the best solution was to put Triploid Grass Carp** into the lake, and that has kept our waterweeds down.

Our permits from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), NYS DEP, NYC DEC and the Town of Lewisboro include



A high-pressure pump system is used to vacuum up the sediment, which is then transferred to land and into a dewatering bag (or "geotextile tube"). These micro-porous bags will allow the water to return to the lake, while capturing the sediment for eventual re-purposing or removal and disposal.

Above: Filtered water is returned to lake

three areas to be suction dredged. We will get a price from Pristine Waters to vacuum up the accumulated sediment in the Danger Road cove, dig out the cattails (which are non-native, extremely invasive plants whose roots can extend down to fifteen feet), and remove the de-watered material. There is as much sediment in that cove as the other two coves combined. When I get that price, I will bring it to the Community in order to accomplish the third and final phase of this project.



*Geotube dewatering tubes are used for sludge dewatering projects of all sizes and there is good reason—simplicity and low cost. There are no belts, gears, or complicated mechanics. Geotube containers use an engineered textile that is designed for dewatering of high moisture content sludge and sediment.

** Triploid (sterile) grass carp are a new vegetation control available to New York pond owners. The grass carp is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 pounds. It has been introduced into over 50 countries worldwide due to its uncanny ability to control a wide variety of aquatic plant species.



Monday October 30, 2017. A large tree across the road from the Kroun property was uprooted during a severe rainstorm and windstorm, blocking the road and several driveways. Luckily the tree narrowly missed power and cable lines avoiding electric, telephone and cable outages.

A crew from the Town of Lewisboro was soon on the scene with heavy equipment and cleared the roadway.

“If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?” Hell, yes!



My family places faith in DBT — Dialectic Behavior Therapy. DBT is based on a combination of accepting your feelings and behaving in a positive way.

For my sister, who has depression, this means acknowledging her sadness and leaving the house for school or work. For me, it means accepting my physical disabilities and doing what I love. The important word is “and” as opposed to “but.” “And” shows that the feelings and actions have equal value, whereas “but” implies the actions outweigh the feelings.

DBT teaches skills that are guided by principles. These principles are based on the idea that behavior and feelings impact each other. Opposite action is the skill that embodies the D — dialectic — in DBT. A dialectic is two sides of a concept that appear to conflict but actually coexist. Opposite action involves feeling one way and acting another. You might be disappointed that someone else got the lead in the school play — that would be reasonable — and go to rehearsal and be the best flying monkey you can be! We call that “smile like you mean it.”

I find that every day has disappointments. Some are minor, like being unable to hold a basketball in my lap. Some are soul crushing, like being denied access to the community school that seemed so perfect. Whatever the lack of visualized joy, I peer out at the future through the hazy miasma of discouragement smiling like I mean it. Acting in a positive way can increase the likelihood that your future experiences are good, but there is no guarantee.

The future holds many pitfalls that cannot be anticipated. There is no way to prepare for all possible problems, but you can build up your emotional bank so you are stronger when hard times come. Working hard and succeeding at a difficult task makes you less vulnerable to feeling like a failure when failures happen. This skill is building mastery. You might build mastery by practicing your instrument, making electronics, baking pies, or running. I work at my writing every day that I am able, so when my body doesn’t cooperate with my brain, it is just a bad day, not a life failure. I collect hard earned successes and lean on them when my legs collapse under me. The next morning I get up and “try it all again.”

“Tomorrow we’ll try it all again” — my mom says that at the end of every evening. She plans to persevere. In some cases the goal is long term, but sometimes it is just getting through the day. Do not mistake getting through as a cop out. We all have days that never seem to end, but giving up cannot be the plan. Having perseverance as part of the plan means setting expectations that are achievable. We may not always succeed, but we can try. By trying, we are following the plan and fulfilling the expectations we set. On a rough day, that is success.

There is a skill for times when even trying seems to be more than we can handle: radical acceptance of ourselves. For some people this skill means accepting being angry. In my case, I accept that I often feel resentful that I cannot speak. Both anger and resentment are often met with disapproval because they are not positive. Radical acceptance is one of the most important skills and the most difficult to achieve. It means accepting your feelings about your reality without judgement, especially negativity. When we focus on how bad something feels we can route our energy into a cycle of compounding failures. When we validate our feelings instead of denigrating them, we are better positioned to proceed productively. In my family all feelings are valid, even hate and desolation. My brother can be jealous of all the attention I need. My sister can feel inexplicably sad. When we accept our emotions, their frenetic nature doesn’t take control, so feelings can ebb naturally.

We may rest during times that are too emotionally or physically overwhelming. On most days I practice the skill that represents the B — behavior — in DBT: “just keep swimming.” Following this mantra is how I get through those days that present challenges. I might swim slowly, or against the current, or in circles, but I never give up. The behavior is the swimming — it might be the work of building mastery, the continuing perseverance in the face of discouragement, or just getting through the day. Being active gives you a chance to affect your direction. It also feels good to be in control.

Taken together, these skills make my family resilient. We work hard at things we consider important, baking the perfect challah and forging relationships to improve accessibility in public schools. When obstacles arise, we plan to try again, debugging a computer program and rewriting the conclusion. If we feel unhappy, we smile like we mean it, visiting annoying relatives and doing that thousandth worksheet. In the worst situations, we accept our own and each other’s feelings, despising a bad kindergarten teacher and getting overwhelmed on Christmas. Through it all we keep swimming, with faith in our principles and unwavering confidence that tomorrow we will try harder and do better, because we are resilient.

Abraham Weitzman is a 14-year-old writer with a love for irony. And he has cerebral palsy, rendering him non-verbal (to learn more, check out his article Simply Speaking at <https://kidspiritonline.com/magazine/simplicity-and-complexity/simply-speaking/>). He types using his chest while standing. It is tiring and rewarding. Abraham enjoys traveling and staying home. He is the grandson of Dan Fast and the late Judy Fast.



Portrait of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
Colored pencil drawing by Martha Levites

Why Celebrate Ruth Bader Ginsburg with this image?
Right now, the esteemed Supreme Court judge, Ruth Bader Ginsburg is holding her place on the court thus preventing another questionably competent appointment by our president. As an octogenarian, Justice Ginsburg has earned a rest, but she heroically carries on protecting women's rights and both liberal and intellectual ideology. This drawing is paying homage to her with hopes for her strength and good health.

Some thoughts from Justice Ginsburg:

- Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.
- A gender line...helps to keep women not on a pedestal, but in a cage.
- Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's ability to persuade.
- You can disagree without being disagreeable.
- If there was one decision I could overrule, it would be "Citizens United;" I think the notion that we have all the democracy that money can buy strays so far from what our democracy is supposed to be.
- "I'm sometimes asked when will there be enough women on the

supreme court. And I say "When there are nine." People are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that."

The following article is reprinted from the Business Section of the Lewisboro Daily Voice

**Goldens Bridge Mercedes Dealer
Countersues Repair Shop For Defamation**

A Northern Westchester Mercedes dealer is countersuing a local repair shop for defamation after the shop claimed the business was demanding kickbacks.

Celebrity Auto of Westchester, owner of Mercedes-Benz of Goldens Bridge, filed suit against North State Autobahn of Bedford Hills and its owner Gregory Coccaro Jr., on Nov. 22.

In the suit, Celebrity Auto claims North State and Coccaro made defamatory and slanderous statements of fact with respect to Celebrity, including statements that Celebrity is not licensed, Celebrity violated New York law, that they demanded so-called "kick-backs" and requested a "flat-out mafia style bribe."

The problems between the two companies began when Tom Maoli, owner of the Celebrity Motor Car Co. who also owns a group of stores in New Jersey,

bought the Goldens Bridge dealership from Estate Motors.

Estate Motors had backed North State as an authorized Mercedes repair shop for some 13 years, but when Celebrity took over the two met to discuss their continued collaboration, North State says Celebrity demanded a "kickback" on each repair they referred.

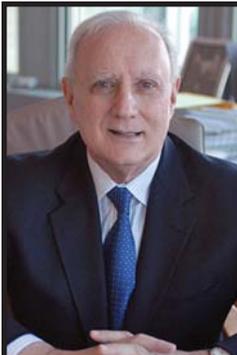
North State says in its lawsuit it refused the deal, and Celebrity then terminated its ranking as an authorized Mercedes repair shop costing the shop millions of dollars.

Shortly after, the repair shop sued Celebrity and the automaker for \$11.5 million.

In Celebrity's suit, they claim the business has a right to terminate their sponsorship of the repair shop.

North State and Coccaro, are asking for compensatory and punitive damages for the damage to their reputation.

11/17/2017—The Lewisboro Police Department and state police are requesting all town residents to lock their vehicle doors at night. This is due to a number of incidents recently in Lewisboro and surrounding communities. These crimes are occurring in residential neighborhoods and are facilitated by residents who leave their car keys and valuables unsecured inside of their cars, according to police.



ALBERT TOMEI, a retired state Supreme Court justice who sat in Brooklyn and spent more than 30 years on the bench, died Sept. 22. He was 77.

Tomei presided over New York City's first death penalty case after the state reinstated capital punishment in 1995. He ruled the plea bargain provisions of the law were unconstitutional and the case went all the way to the state Court of Appeals.

The death penalty was abolished in New York in 1997.

Tomei retired last year and went on to work for Judges for Love Inc., a service where judges perform civil wedding ceremonies.

"He went from sentencing felons to execution to sentencing romantic couples to a lifetime of marriage," said Alan Marrus, also a retired state Supreme Court justice who sat in Brooklyn and who worked alongside Tomei for Judges for Love.

While Tomei was well-known in New York City's legal community in his own right, he was also known for a famous relative: actress Marisa Tomei, who won an Oscar in 1993 for best supporting actress for her role in "My Cousin Vinny."

A Brooklyn native, Tomei obtained his J.D. and LL.M from Brooklyn Law School in 1964 and 1966, respectively. He worked in private practice after law school and was first elected to the bench in 1978, as a Civil Court judge.

Tomei was briefly appointed as Brooklyn's surrogate in 2005 after the Commission on Judicial Conduct recommended the removal of surrogate Michael Feinberg for awarding more than \$2 million in excessive legal fees to a friend.

Office of Court Administration officials said at the time that Tomei's appointment was intended to restore public confidence.

While Tomei was known within Brooklyn's legal community for his sense of humor and his stand-up comedy routine, Marrus said he had a reputation for being a no-nonsense judge who was not afraid to speak his mind on the bench.

"He didn't come across as a pompous, arrogant judge which, unfortunately, some of my colleagues do," Marrus said.

Tomei is survived by his wife, Lynda Sumner, two sisters, one brother and a granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Lisa.

Albert (Al) Tomei was a past member of the Goldens Bridge Community Association.

Reprinted from the New York Law Journal.

BOARD MINUTES

GBCA Board Minutes August 13, 2017

Present: Rina Slavin: President, Dan Fast: Secretary, Adam Huggard: Treasurer, Martha Levites, Mike Brown, Roman Broberg, Jeremy Metz, Fred Margolies, Carol Nordgren, John Bergherr, Gerry Sircus, Mera Eisen, Joy Radulovic, Drew Orr

Absent: Ron Arnstein, Vice President

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM by Rina Slavin: President.

1- Minutes:

The minutes of the 7/9/17 Regular Board meeting were read by Dan, and accepted as read.

3- Financial:

The current financial report, as of 8/9/17 was given by Adam:

M&T Bank	\$130,463
M&T Bank (Scholarship Fund)	\$ 20
M&T Camp Account	\$ 57,480 (Includes \$10,000 Camp Reserve)
M&T Water Capitol	\$ 22,803
M&T Capitol Improvement	\$163,259
Total	\$374,027

There are currently 4 members in arrears as of 7/9/17, with 11 members on payment plans for 2017. The members in arrears are: Apter, Nuza, Rios, and Sherwood-St.John.

Adam noted that Gecaj paid off the lien against him in full, and that Sandler's house, which was rebuilt, is now fully occupied and he will be contacting Sandler about the revised tax situation.

Adam presented the preliminary draft of the 2018 Budget for discussion. A discussion of the Water Data Logging System, which has been a Proposed Capitol Project for several years, ensued. Martha moved, seconded by Joy, to move the Water System data logging system from Proposed Capitol Projects to Future Proposed Capitol Projects. All in favor except Adam opposed. Motion carried.

The Barn exterior renovation project was discussed, with it mentioned that, although several contractors have looked at the job, we have only received 2 bids. Dan moved, seconded by Martha, to accept the bid from Mark Schmid at \$35,000 for the labor to do the west and south side work. Passed unanimously.

A discussion of projected costs for the entire Barn exterior renovation ensued. It was pointed out that the wood, which we will be supplying, will cost several thousand dollars and will then need to be coated (we were unable to secure hemlock that was pre-finished), and that the lowest bid for painting the north and west sides of the Barn was \$8,000, so additional funds need to be allocated for the entire job. Adam moved, seconded by Mike, to raise the allocation from \$40,000 to \$60,000 for the entire Barn exterior work. passed unanimously.

Adam noted that a final preliminary budget will be ready for the next Board meeting.

3- Committee Reports:

A- Nominating:

It has come to the attention of the Board that there may be some changes in the final slate and ballot for the upcoming election. Mike will follow up on this.

B- Sales & Legal:

Jeremy reported that the Migdails had a buyer at \$439,000, but the deal fell through and they have another buyer at \$425,000. It was the consensus of the Board to waive the option on the second contract since we already waived the option, and the price had not changed substantially.

Jeremy stated that the Selvaggi property was being taken over by the bank, and he is monitoring the situation.

The discussion the proposed "Property Sales Changes 201", which was tabled at the last meeting, was reopened for discussion. After a brief discussion it was decided to propose the formation of a membership committee to study and change the community documents at the next membership meeting.

C- Camp:

Rina reported that Camp has gone well, and that they may come in at Budget.

D- Beach:

Martha reported that the Waterfront Director, who is excellent, will probably be returning next year, as will two excellent lifeguards. There was discussion of handicapped parking at the Beach, which is a recurring problem. It will be brought up at the coming Membership meeting and the Beach and Road committees are working on it.

E- Lake:

Dan reported that all permits have been received, and that Eric has contacted the contractor, and the project should start in early October.

F- Insurance:

John reported that he has nothing further to report at this time.

G- Social:

John reported that the Karaoke event was a success, but that the cooking event planned for next week needed more participants.

H- Roads:

Fred reported that the roads are in need of work and that he is working on the problems.

I- Road 4:

Gerry reported that the email edition, which is also posted on the GB website, is different from the print edition, with more pictures and more pages. Gerry showed the Board a set of large format pictures, which Aaron has produced. One of the entire community, taken at the Beach, and the other a composite of photos. Anyone wishing to have copies can contact Gerry or Aaron to get the files.

J- Environment:

Roman reported that his committee is continuing to remove vines, and has been taking the accumulated debris to the dump.

K- Water:

Drew reported that two leaks have been repaired, and a third very small leak has been discovered and will be repaired in the near future.

6- Good & Welfare:

This was Mera's last meeting, and she was thanked for her many years of service to the community.

Dan reported that the Affordable Housing project has indeed undergone several changes with 2 and 3 bedroom apartments reduced from 32 to 20, and one bedroom apartments increased from 14 to 26. Individual entrances have been eliminated in favor of a central hall access to the apartments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM. Respectfully submitted: Dan Fast, Secretary

GBCA Board Minutes September 10, 2017

Present: Rina Slavin: President, Martha Levites, Vice President, Dan Fast: Secretary, Adam Huggard: Treasurer, Ron Arnstein, Mike Brown, Roman Broberg, Jeremy Metz, Fred Margolies, Carol Nordgren, Ben Goldner, Gerry Sircus, Drew Orr

Absent: Patrick dePaula, Hannah Yates

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by Rina Slavin: President.

1- Minutes:

The minutes of the 8/13/17 Regular Board meeting were read by Dan, and accepted as read.

2- Financial:

The current financial report, as of 9/9/17 was given by Adam:

M&T Bank	\$ 89,413
M&T Bank (Scholarship Fund)	\$ 20
M&T Camp Account	\$ 12,454 (Includes \$10,000 Camp Reserve)
M&T Water Capitol	\$ 22,804
M&T Capitol Improvement	\$163,259
Total	\$297,951

There are currently 4 members in arrears as of 9/9/17, with 10 members on payment plans for 2017. The members in arrears are: Apter, Nuza, Rios, and Sherwood-St.John.

Adam suggested that the discussion of the proposed 2018 Budget take place at the next Board meeting. He had previously sent it to all Board members for their consideration. It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

Adam presented the pricing for internet and phone service at the Barn from the 2 available providers, Verizon and Cablevision. Verizon - \$94 per month; Cablevision - \$60 per month. Dan moved, seconded by Roman, to use Cablevision. All in favor, except Jeremy

abstaining. Motion carried.

3- Committee Formation & Liaisons:

A- Camp: Liaison: Ben

B- Beach: Liaisons: Martha and Hannah

C- Barn: Liaison: Mike.

D- Lake: Liaison: Dan

E- Sales & Legal: Liaison: Jeremy

F- Social: Liaison: Roman

G- Road 4: Liaison: Gerry

H- Roads: Liaison: Fred

I- Water: Liaisons: Ron and Patrick

J- Environment: Liaison: Roman and Patrick

K- Communications: Liaisons: Roman & Martha

L- Maintenance: Liaison: Drew

M- Town: Liaisons: Rina & Carol

N- Welcoming & Good & Welfare: Liaison: Carol, with an assist from Gerry and Martha.

4- Committee Reports:

Camp:

Rina reported that the Camp committee is considering raising the in-Colony tuition.

Sales & Legal:

Jeremy reported that the closing on 20 Branch St. (formerly Migdail) is to occur this coming Thursday, and that the Firdman property at 8 Hillside Ave. may be on the market at somewhere between \$515,000 and \$549,000. He is trying to get further details: the owners have never contacted the community with their intention to sell, though they have posted notices to that effect.

Beach:

Martha reported that the beach cleanup was done yesterday, with a number of volunteers from the community. Martha stated that the committee is looking into improving the quality of the Beach bathrooms, improving the main path to the beach from the road to improve it's accessibility, and the creation of handicapped parking spaces.

Barn:

Mike reported that Mark Schmid was waiting on the supplier to get the Hemlock for the Barn siding, which requires a certain amount of drying time. Mike will speak to Mark to get more information about scheduling and duration of the project.

Mike stated that he has several reservations from community members for the use of the Barn over the coming weeks.

Mike and Adam will be coordinating the installation of internet and phone in the Barn from Cablevision.

Roads:

Fred reported that the Highway Dept. had tried to repair the gullies along the side of the roads in several places with the installation of dirt, which unfortunately will wash away in the next heavy rain. Fred will contact the Highway Dept. and try to get them to use crushed stone and gravel for this work in the future.

Social:

Martha reported that the Banquet was quite successful, but that there was money left over and she suggested that we ask the Membership to put it into the Scholarship fund at the next Membership meeting.

Road 4:

Gerry reported that Mollie Arons had written a long article about Colony history that will be published in the next edition of Road 4.

Water:

Drew reported that a leak at the parking lot is scheduled to be repaired, that another leak at Hall Ave. and Hillside Ave. has been repaired, that the gas for the pump house emergency generator was topped off, and that the split rail fence in front of the pump house was collapsing. Drew will get pricing for the replacement of the fence and send to Adam to put into the 2018 Budget.

Environment:

Roman reported that his committee is still working on vine removal.

Communications:

Roman reported that the committee is still working on a full Colony email list. Discussion ensued on how to get information to all community members.

5- Good & Welfare:

The Board discussed the problem of some community members, who are aging and having health problems, and are living alone, and how the community might provide help. It was the consensus of the Board to bring this up at the next Membership meeting and try to form a Membership committee, which would involve a larger segment of the community.

Also at the next Membership meeting an attempt will be made to form a Colony History committee with an eye toward producing a permanent exhibit in the Barn.

Fred mentioned that there is a Primary Election this coming Thursday, and urged all to vote.

It was the consensus of the Board to create a more complete list of Nominating Committee procedures than that which exists in the Constitution and By Laws.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. Respectfully submitted: Dan Fast, Secretary

GBCA Board Minutes October 8, 2017

Present: Rina Slavin: President, Martha Levites, Vice President, Dan Fast: Secretary, Adam Huggard: Treasurer, Ron Arnstein, Mike Brown,

Jeremy Metz, Ben Goldner, Gerry Sircus, Drew Orr, Patrick dePaula, Hannah Yates

Absent: Roman Broberg, Fred Margolies, Carol Nordgren

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by Rina Slavin: President.

1- Minutes:

The minutes of the 9/10/17 Regular Board meeting were read by Dan, corrected, and accepted as corrected.

2- Financial:

The current financial report, as of 10/7/17 was given by Adam:

M&T Bank	\$107,955
M&T Bank (Scholarship Fund)	\$ 20
M&T Camp Account	\$ 10,032 (Includes \$10,000 Camp Reserve)
M&T Water Capitol	\$ 22,805
M&T Capitol Improvement	\$139,089
Total	\$279,901

There are currently 4 members in arrears as of 9/9/17, with 7 members on payment plans for 2017. The members in arrears are: Apter, Nuza, Rios, and Sherwood-St.John.

Adam presented the updated 2018 Budget, which was discussed and some minor changes made. During Budget discussion the subject of some needed maintenance work on the Water Pump House area was discussed in reference to a complaint from Andre Dukhin, who lives across the street from the facility. It was pointed out that the items in his complaint had been addressed in the Budget. Martha moved, seconded by Patrick, that she meet with Andre and discuss his concerns. All in favor except Dan and Ron abstaining. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the inclusion of several items of Beach work (improved accessibility to the beach, creation of handicapped parking spaces, beach chair hutch, and boat house analysis) which appear in the Capitol projects section of the Budget. It was the consensus of the Board to hire an engineer to make recommendations to improve accessibility and the cost of this is covered in the Budget.

After further discussion Martha moved, seconded by Dan, to approve the updated 2018 Budget for presentation to the Membership. Carried unanimously.

3- Committee Reports:

Camp:

Rina reported that the Camp committee met and discussed the impending shortfall. She stated that they are considering the reasons for the shortfall and ways to prevent it in the future. One reason is the Katonah Art Center program in old Goldens Bridge, which siphoned off a number of potential campers. Under discussion to ameliorate the situation are: raising tuition for in-Colony children, and cutting one staff position.

Adam noted that when all expenses are paid, which will occur sometime around the end of the year a shortfall of approximately \$11,000 is expected.

Sales & Legal:

Jeremy reported that he has been contacted by a broker in reference to the Firdman property, and that he told the broker that the Firdman's are not current on their taxes.

Beach:

Martha noted that the Beach situation had already been handled during discussion of the Budget.

Barn:

Mike showed the Board samples of a composite material that he had received from Mark Schmid as a possible siding alternative. Drew stated that the composite does not have the structural strength to handle the spans needed for the Barn siding work. Mark and Eric are continuing to search for viable products.

Lake:

Dan reported that the contract with Pristine Waters for the dredging work has been signed, and work is due to start at the end of this week.

Social:

Martha reported that the Social committee will be meeting in the near future.

Road 4:

Gerry again stressed the advantages of receiving the newsletter by email, and stated that they will be reprinting the Barn use rules in the next issue.

Water:

Ron reported that the water is still flowing.

Environment:

Rina discussed the vine problem.

Communications:

Martha suggested that Roman be notified in advance of all committee meetings so as to be able to send email notification to the entire community in order to encourage greater community participation.

Town:

Rina and Ben reported that there is a Town meeting on the 24th and that among the items scheduled for discussion are: the Wilder-Balter project on Rt. 22, the Mercedes Benz dealership expansion, and a park proposal.

4- Good & Welfare:

Martha reported that there will be a dumpster at the Barn from Friday afternoon, 10/27, to Monday morning, 10/30 for the use of community members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM. Respectfully submitted: Dan Fast, Secretary