



SALTAIRE NEWS

John A. Zaccaro Jr, Mayor

October, 2018

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

As we head into the Fall, I want to inform you of some of the important issues facing our Village.

You will be receiving emails throughout the off-season from our favorite Village Administrator Mario Posillico relating to our major capital projects. We want to keep you informed of the progress, but more importantly of any conditions that could impact you during off-season.

Village Hall

The Village Hall renovation is scheduled to commence October 22. We have moved the Village offices to the Duplex located at 104 Neptune walk. We hope to have the Library and new offices in Village Hall completed and operational by the start of the summer season. The Village Hall design documents are online on the Village website. The renovation will bring the structure into compliance with current building codes and will be completely accessible. It will be elevated to FEMA flood level, winterized, and have long-overdue upgrades to the electrical, plumbing and life safety systems.

Lighthouse Promenade Reconstruction

With the recent completion of Bay Promenade, all of the walkways in the Village have been reconstructed since Sandy to the new flood-resistant elevated boardwalk design - except for, of course, Lighthouse Promenade. Mobilization for the project has commenced. The surveyor has laid out the walk benchmarks and the Public Utilities have identified their lines. We have had some surprises with underground utilities that have forced us to adjust the planned location of the water main and the walk, but we are confident the new solution will reduce down landscaping issues and should allow us to stay on schedule. We have also spent a significant amount of time value engineering the project to reduce the costs and improve the project. Some of the changes have added cost to the project like extending a new 12 inch main to our water well at our Maintenance Yard and installing new water branch lines with hydrants in the east end of the Village. We have also reduced the size of the timber decking to stay more in keeping

with the aesthetics of our other walks. We have offset those costs by changing the connection details on the understructure, modifying the means and methods of construction and the traffic control plan. With all those changes we believe the total project costs will be the same or below what was discussed at our summer meetings when the Board voted to move forward with the timber design.

Although we are working with the contractor to increase production rates for the project, we face the real possibility that it will require two off-seasons to complete. If you live along Lighthouse Prom, you will be receiving periodic updates as to the status of the project and the proximity of the work area to your home. Before you start removing trees or relocating structures on your property kindly reach out to the Village to confirm with Mario to what extent your property will be affected.

14 Bay Promenade

The design phase of the Village Public safety and doctor's office is progressing. The footprint has been submitted to the Suffolk County Board of Health for the septic tank approval. The design has been approved and is online on the Village Website. Our architect will be working on construction documents which we hope to have ready to bid well in advance of the 2019/20 off-season. Once completed it will house the Post Office, Public Safety, the Doctor's office and the Village Court. As the year progresses we will be discussing the budget and the schedule at upcoming meetings.

Black Turpentine Beetle

The black turpentine beetle is back. Long-term residents will remember the beetle from the late 90s when it devastated our Black Pine population. This appears to be one of those natural phenomena that happens and must run its course. It started at Robert Moses Part about 2 years ago and seems to be moving east on Fire Island. The beetle resides in the base trunk of the black pine, and they do not get higher up into the branches. We are unaware of any pesticide that will work effectively to either prevent the beetle from attacking the tree or to get them to leave. The best thing is to remove the damaged trunks as soon as possible to prevent spreading. That is the guidance from the US Forestry Service about the turpentine beetle, which can be found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2_043190.pdf.

Storm Protection

As hurricane season approaches we are better protected on the oceanfront thanks to the Army Corps' beach replenishment project. The Fire Island Stabilization Project (FIMI) is in the third and final phase. This phase entails replenishing the beach from Ocean Bay Park to Davis Park. In this phase the Ocean Beach Well relocation is planned as well and will be the first step in the Army Corps' removal of the Ocean Beach Jetty. Once this phase is completed, the ocean sand should freely move allowing us to gather sand from both directions of the island.

We are actively engaged in the planning of the Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) reformulation project. We are moving forward to manage this project in conjunction with one of the six local sponsors who will oversee 1.6 billion dollars of coastal storm management projects. This framework will allow the Village to move forward expeditiously in the future to address storm related issues. Our Clam Pond Cove restoration project is included in the FIMP, and we remain active participants in the FIMP to facilitate its commencement as soon as possible.

Water Infrastructure

As a Board, we must continually look ahead and plan for the future protection and viability of the Village. As you probably know, the Village owns and operates our own water system, and we are proud of the quality of water we provide. We consistently exceed all required federal and state water standards, and our staff are very responsive whenever there is a problem. However, we must face the fact that much of our water system infrastructure is aging, and this is an area on which we must more intently focus in order to maintain the high standard and quality of this vital resource. We began that process in the last year by replacing over 2,300 linear feet of new, larger water main along Bay Prom and Broadway. In our Lighthouse Promenade project, we are replacing another 3,300 linear feet of water main. This upcoming off-season we will add vital back-up generation to our Well #2 water field so we can provide service in a blackout situation, all funded through a grant under the Fire Island Reconstruction Zone program. These improvements have gone a long way to upgrade our water infrastructure, but we are planning more improvements with applications from other funding sources. We will keep you apprised as these initiatives progress.

Fire Department Operations

The entire community owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Saltaire Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) for all of their work. Their countless hours of training and preparation (when they could be spending time with their families) demonstrates their dedication to our community and the service they provide. In an effort to continue to provide the SVFC with the tools to perform their duties effectively and safely, the Village and the SVFC funded the purchase of a new Pumper and a new Ambulance. Both of these vehicles are fully operational and currently in service. The new Pumper replaced a unit that was over thirty years old and the new Ambulance replaced a unit that was over twenty years old.

Financial State of the Village

Over the last few years we have completed a considerable number of infrastructure improvements within Saltaire with several more underway. Thanks to the Board of Trustees and our administrative staff, the financial health of the Village remains strong. The Village office staff has guided Saltaire through the maze of federal regulations required for federal reimbursement. The Board has managed the Village's financial assets to fund those projects in

the short-term while maintaining healthy reserves. An important component of that asset-management was the sale of a vacant parcel on Pacific Walk. That asset-reallocation significantly increased the Village's liquidity, and helped us manage the short-term funding requirements as we bridge the time-gap between capital outlay and reimbursement. Our current reserves are approximately 3.5 million dollars and this year we will have a 1.9 million dollars beach bond coming off the books which will free up budget flexibility. With our fund balance and with our fiscal management practices we have achieved a AAA bond rating, one of the few Villages in the New York State to carry such a rating. This rating allowed us to refinance our debt with a bond with a 1.8% interest rate. We are confident we will complete the scheduled capital projects within project- budget and with minimal impact to our operational-budget.

Other Quality of Life Initiatives

- The Board will be reviewing the following policies and programs this winter:
 - New Courtesy Cart Procedures implemented last year
 - The Public Beach Chair Program and the changes needed in the future,

Next Meeting Reminder

These and other topics will be discussed at upcoming Board meetings. Our next Board meeting will be held on November 12, at 1180 Avenue of the Americas on the 8th floor. The specific agenda items, the meeting's physical location, and the remote connection instructions can be found at the following link to the Village website - <http://www.saltaire.org/agenda.pdf>.

As always please do not hesitate to express any questions, comments or concerns. I thank you for the privilege to serve as your Mayor. I, along with my fellow Board members, strive to improve the quality of life for those who currently reside in the Village and for those who will reside in the future.

Mayor John A. Zaccaro Jr.

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In Case of Emergency While in Saltaire, Call 911
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