



THE INCORPORATED  
VILLAGE OF UPPER BROOKVILLE

August 29, 2016

Dear Neighbors and Residents,

This June the first contested Mayoral election in our 84-year history drew 273 voters and the outcome was decided by *one vote*. Frank Russo and Antje Dolido were reelected as Trustees to join Mike Schwerin and Bill Campbell. I'd like to thank you for your confidence and support.

I am delighted to report that Tracy Lynch is returning to the Village as Clerk / Treasurer effective September 19, 2016.

We have been busy since the election. The Board approved:

1. **Collecting e-mail addresses to improve Village communication**, including sending important notifications and a periodic e-newspaper. Villagers may elect to keep e-mail addresses confidential. Please log onto [www.upperbrookville.org](http://www.upperbrookville.org) and register your e-mail address and emergency contact information.
2. **The creation of a new interactive Village website** that is now up and running in basic form and will be expanded with more options soon. Check out the new [www.upperbrookville.org](http://www.upperbrookville.org)
3. **Designation of the Upper Brookville Beacon as the official e-newspaper**, to be e-mailed periodically to Residents.
4. **A September 19, 2016 Hearing at the Village Hall to discuss draft legislation to create a Special Solid Waste District to collect Village-wide trash**. Residents who elect not to participate in the district will have the option to opt out. *Villagers who want the option to participate in the district are cautioned to avoid signing long-term trash collection contracts with individual carters, which may force you to opt out of the district until your contract has expired.*
5. **A Natural Gas information session** to be presented with National Grid in September. Natural Gas will become more accessible to many Residents. This will be the first of two information sessions at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28 at the Village Hall at Planting Fields. Complete installation pricing, benefits and timing will be discussed for every Village road. Please RSVP to [villageclerk@upperbrookville.org](mailto:villageclerk@upperbrookville.org) and let us know how many will attend. Subject to demand, we may move the meeting to larger quarters.
6. **Repaving Friendly Road and Chapel Gate Lane**. This project has been awarded and construction is slated for this Fall. The cost will initially be paid by the Village and subsequently refunded from the proceeds of a 15-year bond financing, also approved by the Board.
7. **Bond financing** with the potential to fund up to \$3 million of road repairs. Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP were engaged as bond counsel.
8. **Extending to Villagers the municipal rate on private road repaving** after Friendly Road and Chapel Gate Lane are both completed. E-mail Sam Vergata, Road Commissioner at [samvroads@aol.com](mailto:samvroads@aol.com) if you are interested.
9. **Additional road repaving in 2017 and beyond**, subject to an engineering study and decision of the Board as to specific roads. In a preliminary survey, the Village Engineer cited condition issues on Cedar Ridge, Hillcrest, Lawn, part of Linden, Locust, Pine Valley, Planting Fields, Ripley, Terrace and The Knolls.

10. **Engaging Cullen & Danowski LLP to audit the Village.** Audited financials are necessary to issue bonds and in order to apply for certain state and local grants.
11. **Engaging Humes & Wagner to research the feasibility of creating a Special District** for snow removal and road repaving on private roads.
12. **A new Village logo and a “Welcome to the Village of Upper Brookville sign”** to be placed at the junction of Northern Boulevard (25A) and Wolver Hollow Road.
13. **Eight additional road signs** to be placed at roads that are either unmarked or with signs in disrepair. The East Norwich Fire Company requested additional road signs for safety reasons so they can locate homes and lower response times.
14. **Appointing Sergio Tedesco as Village Building Inspector.** Matt Moed was appointed Village Building Department Consultant.
15. **Preliminary work designed to move the Village Hall** to the Carriage House at Planting Fields Arboretum.
16. **Deer management presentation.** Department of Environmental Conservation reps will attend a fall Board Meeting to discuss our growing deer population and related health and safety issues. Concerns include lyme disease, auto accidents as well as tree and foliage destruction.
17. **Elimination of permit fees for removal of naturally dead or dangerous trees.** Residents are encouraged to remove these trees. An inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer and permit will continue to be required.
18. **A Meet the Neighbors and Village Officials event** to be held in the near future.

The Board recognized the important contributions of two departing Village leaders.

After ten years of hard work and wise counsel, David Helme retired as Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals. David presided over many important zoning decisions during this period displaying sound judgment, fairness and foresight. Innis O'Rourke, III, a 13 year BZA veteran, will succeed him.

The Board presented a Proclamation to former Mayor Thielen recognizing her twenty four year history with the Village as a member of the Upper Brookville Zoning Board of Appeals and later Chairman of that Board, Village Trustee, Fire Commissioner, Deputy Police Commissioner, Police Commissioner and Deputy Mayor. She was appointed Mayor in 2008 and subsequently elected to three consecutive two-year terms.

The Board recorded “its lasting appreciation and gratitude...for her dedication, hard work, invaluable contributions, ideals and principles which she has given willingly to the Village” as well as “her wise counsel, leadership and tireless service as a Village official” that will “always be appreciated and remembered by all the residents of the Village whom she served so unselfishly.”

This is an active and exciting time for the Village. Please call the Village office if you have questions about these initiatives or e-mail at [mayor@upperbrookville.org](mailto:mayor@upperbrookville.org). We look forward to seeing you at a future Trustee meeting.

Sincerely,

Elliot S. Conway  
Mayor