

Freightway committee completes its report

By CATHERINE FERRIS

SCARSDALE VILLAGE — It's in the board's hands now.

The Freightway Steering Committee was formed in spring 2017 and charged with developing a shared community vision for the future development of the Freightway garage, which is a village-owned site next to the Scarsdale Metro-North station.

Members of the committee, and Noah Levine and Jon Martin of Manhattan-based BFJ Planning, presented some of their work and findings to the board of trustees Feb. 13.

"The goal of the Freightway Steering Committee was to put together a vision for the potential redevelopment of the site," said the committee chairman, former Mayor Jon Mark.

This isn't the first time the Freightway site has been considered for an improvement project.

Most recently, in 2010, the village completed a comprehensive plan to take a fresh look at the village center in the wake of recent development. There were four potential options for the site: no changes other than landscaping improvements, a parking structure wrapped

by retail and office uses only, a parking structure below a mixed-use building that includes residential and, the preferred option, mixed-use development that includes allowable development on a sliding scale depending on amenities and decking over the railroad tracks.

Following nearly a year of research, interviews, focus groups and walking tours, the steering committee presented its findings.

This year, the committee has four options as well.

One option is to repair and refurbish the garage. There would be some development on the Popham Road side of the site. In September 2017, Martin said the market for the Freightway site would be residential development. Any retail would be minimal because the driving principle of the project isn't to compete with the village center, but to complement it.

The second option is similar to the first, but with an additional connection to Scarsdale Avenue over the railroad tracks. Martin said this option could improve the connection with the village center and create the opportunity to have a small village greenspace.

Continued on page 11

SCARSDALE INQUIRER/JIM MACLEAN

trip to the Ardsley Curling Club Feb. 14. See more on page 8.

tech expenses

In 2016, the ratio of students in Edgemont Junior/Senior High School to Chromebook laptops was 10 to one. This year that ratio is four to one.

Edgemont Schools is also making use of Google Classroom to encourage more digital interaction with students, who can find and turn in assignments on the program. In addition, it allows students to interact with each other, making group projects easier.

According to Garofano, approximately 350 classes across the district are using the program. Also, teachers and students

Continued on page 8

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side can reach an agreement, ont would take ownership of of site D and and assume both d debt associated with those

hose parking spots would be commuter parking needs in g to the committee, Edge-vice associated with the one- es would be an unidentified mately \$450,000 owed by the igh 2026.

ict has accumulated this debt pay for constructing parking equipment at the various sites

Continued on page 11

Sign code to remain as is after Berg injunction, mayor says

By CATHERINE FERRIS

SCARSDALE VILLAGE — So, Tisdale Road resident and trustee candidate Robert Berg got what he wanted from his lawsuit to stop village police from removing political signs from the village right of way section of residents' lawns; he got an injunction.

But is it over?

A week before the school bond vote — signs of support for which were the subject of Berg's lawsuit — Berg was involved in an email correspondence with Village Attorney Wayne Esannason regarding Scarsdale's policy on having signs on residents' property, but in the village's right of way.

The village right of way is a 13-foot portion of a resident's property closest to the curb.

Berg said residents placed lawn signs urging voters to vote yes for the school bond proposal but wrote they don't obstruct the village's use of the right of way for access to utility lines or obstruct

sight lines for drivers on adjacent village streets. He then said village police removed the signs, at others residents' request, ostensibly because of their placement in the village's right of way, but, as Berg argued, the real reason was the complainants' disagreement with the content of those signs.

"I see 'for sale' commercial signs and 'Raiders' signs all over the village on residents' front lawns in the same village right of way," Berg wrote Esannason. "So, this seems like selective enforcement based on complaints from residents."

Regardless of content or impetus for their removal, Esannason told Berg the placement of signs in the village's right of way without permission or authority is a violation.

"The village and its police department does not selectively enforce the provisions of the ... statutes," Esannason wrote. "In fact, the police department is in possession of many signs — real estate, commercial etc. — that were improperly placed

Continued on page 5

Witches of Eastwick: Wed. 7
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Will Showcase Cinema de Lux
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lanther (PG13): Fri. & Sat., Mon.
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...sexual violence.
 ...started tak-
 ...classes at Pelham Art Center in No-
 ...ember, and four of her collages have
 ...already been accepted in the Blue Door
 ...exhibition.

...yorkers native and former Hastings
 ...resident Golda Solomon, 80, offers a
 ...different feminist perspective through
 ...her art.

A "semi-retired" associate profes-
 ...sor in communications, theater arts
 ...and speech, Solomon's artistry exists
 ...mainly in her poetry, and in recent
 ...months, in collage. An active CUNY
 ...professor at Borough of Manhattan
 ...Community College, who continues to
 ...teach at Manhattan College, Solomon
 ...first started writing when she and her

"This is my first foray into art, but
 ...collages are like poetry," she said, "the
 ...way they piece together."

Each Solomon collage dons snippets
 ...of her poetry that corresponds with
 ...that theme. One, "Golda's Story," uses
 ...found objects, text from her published
 ...collections and photographs of Solo-
 ...mon as a baby and at 17.

Through collage, "you recreate piec-
 ...es of memory," she said.

Freightway committee

Continued from page 1

The third option doesn't bridge over
 ...the tracks, but it assumes the develop-
 ...ment would be built as an addition to the
 ...parking. Martin stressed any of the op-
 ...tions presented would not result in any
 ...lost parking. There would be a chance
 ...for the amount of parking to grow.

The fourth option took some pieces
 ...from the other options. It was similar to
 ...the third option, with development on
 ...the open lot, but with an added proposal
 ...of the connection over the tracks from
 ...the second option.

"In a way, [the options] are cumula-
 ...tive," Martin said.

The report, which can be found on the
 ...village's website, goes into depth about
 ...any concerns officials may have, like the
 ...population overview, income of Scars-
 ...dale residents and commuting patterns.

In addition to research and interviews
 ...with storeowners, the study also consist-
 ...ed of hearing from the community. An
 ...online survey was posted from the end of
 ...July 2017 until the middle of September.

"The purpose of the survey was to
 ...get preliminary feedback on issues and
 ...priorities for the Freightway site," the
 ...report stated.

One of the questions asked for a word
 ...that comes to mind when a resident
 ...thinks of the existing Freightway site.
 ...Words like old, dark, wasted, necessary,
 ...difficult and unsafe were included, while
 ...words like parking, community, better,
 ...clean, accessible and available were in-

cluded when residents were asked what
 ...the Freightway site should be.

Most of the survey respondents were
 ...village residents, while 31 percent live
 ...within half a mile of the site, either in the
 ...village itself or an adjacent municipality.
 ...When asked if they would support a resi-
 ...dential or mixed-use residential/com-
 ...mercial development at the Freightway
 ...site, 34 percent of respondents said no
 ...while 66 percent said yes.

But no matter what the trustees decide
 ...to pursue, there were seven main prin-
 ...ciples, according to the report. They in-
 ...clude improve parking and circulation,
 ...ensure public benefits are achieved by
 ...any development, ensure contextual de-
 ...velopment, encourage mixed-use devel-
 ...opment supportive of the village center,
 ...connect and integrate the Freightway site
 ...with the village center, include environ-
 ...mentally sustainable development and
 ...plan for the long-term future within a
 ...reasonably practicable time horizon.

The consultants also provided costs
 ...and impacts with each scenario.

In the first scenario, there would be a
 ...total development cost of \$52 million to
 ...\$57 million. The second scenario would
 ...cost between \$96 million and \$105 mil-
 ...lion. The third scenario would cost be-
 ...tween \$102 million and \$110 million.
 ...And the last scenario would cost be-
 ...tween \$160 million and \$173 million.

The board has not yet made a decision
 ...on which, if any, of the proposals it will
 ...choose to move forward.

Lena Crandall profile

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