

FINAL MINUTES: MAY 26, 2026



Village of Bellport

General Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00PM
This meeting will be held in the Community Center
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

A G E N D A

This meeting is open to the public in the Community Center, located at 4 Bell Street. It is an in-person meeting and will be streamed on Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

Mayor Maureen Veitch, Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, Trustee Dan Polner, and Attorney Larry Davis. Absent – Trustee Michael Young

On a motion by Trustee Dan Polner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, and unanimously carried the Board opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Opening remarks by Mayor Maureen Veitch. Mayor Veitch welcomed those that were in attendance and on Zoom.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried the Board opened the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law #3.

Open Public Hearing for Parks and Recreation Hours for Introductory Local Law #3

Attorney Larry Davis explained the change in the code “Parks and Recreation Hours”. The local law addresses the time of opening and closing parks. The Board had a discussion about the hours of operation for any village park. It may be modified at the sole discretion of the mayor, as circumstances may require. Some of these circumstances would be impending weather or dangerous issues. The local law states that no person shall enter, remain in, or use any village park at any time when a park is not open for public use, except when authorized by the Board of Trustees. At Mother’s Beach, we have a gate that’s set to the sunrise and sunset, although, that changes daily.

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Open to Public for Comments – Mayor Veitch opened the floor for public comments. No one from the public had comments.

Board Discussion on Local Law #3 – No Board member had comments on Introductory Local Law #3.

Vote on Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law #3

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried. Local Law #3

Resolution: 109

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BELLPORT ENTITLED “PARKS AND RECREATION.”

Section 1. Legislative Intent. This Local Law would amend the Code to modify hours of the use of public parks.

Section 2. Text Amendment. Chapter 14 entitled “Parks and Recreation” of the Code of the Village of Bellport is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 14- Parks and Recreation.

Section 14-1. Hours of use of public parks.

(a) All Village parks shall be open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset, and at no other time, except as provided herein.

(b) The hours of operation for any Village park may be modified at the sole discretion of the mayor, as circumstance may require.

(c) No person shall enter, remain in, or use any Village park at any time when a park is not open for public use, except when authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, chapter or part of this local shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, chapter or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 4. Authority to enact pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10 and in conformance with Municipal Home Rule Law § 20.

Section 5. This local law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

Close Public Hearing on Introductory Local Law #3

On a motion by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn, seconded by Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried the Board closed the Public Hearing.

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Open Public Hearing on Deer Fences for Introductory Local Law #4

On a motion by Trustee Dan Polner, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board opened the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law #4

Attorney Larry Davis opened the discussion. Presently we have a fence code, but there has never been a formal one on deer fencing. The code in short states that deer fencing shall be permitted subject to the following limitations.

One, deer fencing shall be constructed of black mesh or similar material designed to be visually unobtrusive and blend into the surrounding landscape.

Number two, deer fencing shall not be visible from the traveled portion of an abutting street.

Number three, deer fencing may be installed within a required front yard, provided that continuous landscaping is installed and maintained between the deer fence and the street, sufficient to fully screen the deer fence from visibility from the travel portion of an abutting street. Such landscaping shall consist of evergreen or similar plantings that provide year-round screenings, seasonal vegetation is not permitted to provide screening.

Number four, deer fencing shall not exceed 8 feet in height.

Number five, deer fencing and any required screening landscaping shall be properly maintained and kept in good repair. Any damaged fencing or failed planting shall be promptly repaired at or replaced to maintain compliance with the section. That is the extent of the deer fencing code.

Open to Public for Comments

Open to Public for Comments – Mayor Veitch opened the floor for public comments. No one from the public had comments.

Board Discussion on Local Law #4

Trustee Dan Polner stated that it's important that we do this mainly for health reasons, Lyme disease. There are so many deer in our village and residents are starting to put deer fences up.

Mayor Veitch had a meeting with the head of wildlife at the DEC. We are going to arrange to have someone speak and make a presentation about what to do with deer.

Trustee Lorraine Kuehn stated that she is probably one of the biggest offenders. I've had fencing up for 4 years now. Is there going to be amnesty? Mayor Veitch said yes. Just as we did with the open permits, I think a summer long amnesty for anybody who wanted to come forward with a fence already erected.

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Vote on Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law #4

Motion: Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried. Local Law #4

Resolution: 110

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BELLPORT ENTITLED “ZONING” ARTICLE IV “DISTRICT REGULATIONS” DIVISION 2 “RESIDENCE A DISTRICT” AND DIVISION 4 “RESIDENCE B DISTRICT.”

Section 1. Legislative Intent. This Local Law would amend the Code to regulate deer fences in the Residential Districts.

Section 2. Text Amendment. Chapter 21 entitled “Zoning” Article IV “District Regulations” Division 2 “Residence A District” of the Code of the Village of Bellport by adding the underlined (____) words and deleting the strike out word (----) read as follows:

Chapter 21- Zoning

Article IV- District Regulations

Division 2- Residence A District

Section 21-227. Fences.

In the Residence A District, no fence or wall may be erected having a height greater than four (4) feet from the ground except as follows:

(a) Where a residence has been erected a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard with the following limitations:

(1) On an interior lot a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard to extend along the rear lot line and along the side lot lines.

(2) On a corner lot a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard to extend along the rear lot line and along the side lot lines except that no fence shall project closer to the street fronting on a side yard than the width of the required side yard.

(3) On a through lot a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard along the two (2) side lot lines, but not closer to a street than fifty (50) feet.

(b) Deer Fencing shall be permitted subject to the following limitations:

(1) Deer fencing shall be constructed of black mesh or similar material designed to be visually unobtrusive and to blend into the surrounding landscape.

(2) Deer fencing shall not be visible from the traveled portion of an abutting street.

(3) Deer fencing may be installed within a required front yard, provided that continuous landscaping is installed and maintained between the deer fence and the street sufficient to fully screen the deer fence from visibility from the traveled portion of an abutting street. Such landscaping shall consist of evergreen or similar plantings that provide year-round screening. Seasonal vegetation is not permitted to provide screening.

(4) Deer fencing shall not exceed (8) eight feet in height.

(5) Deer fencing and any required screening landscaping shall be properly maintained and kept in good repair. Any damaged fencing or failed plantings shall be promptly repaired or replaced to maintain compliance with this Section.

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Section 3. Text Amendment. Chapter 21 entitled "Zoning" Article IV "District Regulations" Division 4 "Residence B District" of the Code of the Village of Bellport by adding the underlined (____) words and deleting the strike out word (----) read as follows:

Chapter 21- Zoning
Article IV- District Regulations
Division 4- Residence B District

Section 21-273. Fences.

In the Residence B District, no fence or wall may be erected having a height greater than four (4) feet from the ground except as follows:

(a) Where a residence has been erected a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard within the following limitations:

- (1) On an interior lot a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard to extend along the rear lot line and along the side lot lines.
- (2) On a corner lot a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard to extend along the rear lot line and along the side lot lines except that no fence shall project closer to the street fronting on a side yard than the width of the required side yard.
- (3) On a through lot a six-foot fence may be erected in the rear yard to extend along the rear yard lot line and along the side lot lines, so long as that part of the fence along the rear lot line has plantings on the outside of said fence.

(b) Deer Fencing shall be permitted subject to the following limitations:

- (1) Deer fencing shall be constructed of black mesh or similar material designed to be visually unobtrusive and to blend into the surrounding landscape.
- (2) Deer fencing shall not be visible from the traveled portion of an abutting street.
- (3) Deer fencing may be installed within a required front yard, provided that continuous landscaping is installed and maintained between the deer fence and the street sufficient to fully screen the deer fence from visibility from the traveled portion of an abutting street. Such landscaping shall consist of evergreen or similar plantings that provide year-round screening. Seasonal vegetation is not permitted to provide screening.
- (4) Deer fencing shall not exceed (8) eight feet in height.
- (5) Deer fencing and any required screening landscaping shall be properly maintained and kept in good repair. Any damaged fencing or failed plantings shall be promptly repaired or replaced to maintain compliance with this Section.

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Section 4. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, chapter or part of this local shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, chapter or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 5. Authority to enact pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10 and in conformance with Municipal Home Rule Law § 20.

Section 6. This local law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

Close Public Hearing on Introductory Local Law #4

On a motion by Trustee Dan Polner, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board closed the Introductory Local Law #4 Public Hearing.

Mayor Updates Capital Projects, Grants & Other

- a. Bellport Environment Committee – Panel Discussion “Beyond Your Yard” on May 30, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center
The Bellport Environmental Committee will be hosting the event. They are a very active committee and volunteer endless time. The panel discussion will be Thomas Schultz, the Director of Water Operations at Friends of Bellport Bay, Robin Silvestri, Executive Director of Save the Great South Bay, Sue Wicks, owner and farmer of Violet Cove Oysters, Patty Wood, Executive Director of Grassroots Environmental Education, and Jason Crane, Superintendent of the Village of Bellport Department of Public Works.
- b. Tax Bills are being sent out May 29, 2026, due July 1, 2026
- c. General Election – June 16, 2026, 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Community Center
Registration day is June 6, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Village Hall. The residents will vote for two (2) trustees. The slate of candidates is Nathan Rohmeier, Dan Polner, and Jean-Damien Lury.
- d. Negotiations of Local 342 Contract
We are in negotiation with Local 342 which covers the DPW, Department of Public Works. The contract will be for five years. The conversations are going productively with health insurance and employees’ increases the two main topics under discussion.
- e. General Code
The code book has not been rewritten or updated for 51 years. It is an arduous and lengthy process to update. We continue to work on it with employees and committee members. If residents have any opinions about the codes, please let us know.

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f. Rental Registry Forms

We have a new code in place that requires people renting their homes for a day or 100 years to register with the village. There have been 25 applications submitted and 15 permits have been issued. Most people are choosing to have the inspector from the village do the inspection. The process is going very well.

g. REMINDER – Trash Collection Rules

Today I saw a lot of trash cans of people who had their trash collected, but did not bring their cans back in. You're not supposed to put the can out more than the night before, or sooner than the night before your pickup date, and then bring your cans in by the end of the day it's picked up. Tickets will be issued for cans that are left on the street and not in compliance with the code.

h. Home Improvement Contractors – Discussion & Rules

We are trying to make sure that all contractors, and home improvement contractors that work in the village, abide by the rules of the village. So, we're working on something that makes it easy for contractors to register with us.

i. Grant – Road

Congressman Andrew Garbarino supported a grant request that we wrote for \$500,000 for roads in Bellport Village. The grant is part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. The project description was simply road improvements. The funding will be a 75-25 grant with the village paying 25. We do have the money appropriated in the budget to pick up our piece.

We have a map of the roads in the village. Some of the roads that are top of line for repair are Bieselin, Kreamer, Bellport Lane, and Circuit being finished. Paving is one piece of road repairs. The drains on the roads are monitored by a process called MS4 reporting and the DEC requires us to be very specific about how we fix our drains and monitor them. Every drain costs about \$4,000. I'm very optimistic that funds could be coming to Bellport for roads. We know that is a big issue.

j. Yacht/Sailing Lease License

We are in discussion with the Yacht Club (501c7) and Sailing Foundation (5013C) to renew and their contracts. Recently there has been a robust letter-writing campaign to Village Hall about the wonders of both organizations. Actually, I was going to send a letter to the leadership of the organizations and want to make something publicly clear that there is no question about the historic importance of both organizations.

I think I speak for every member of the Board that we value both organizations historically and for what they bring to the village. As a Board we have a fiscal responsibility to take care of the marina and all the infrastructure needs.

Another piece of responsibility is safety. We want to address complaints about props being left uncovered and other safety hazards.

Trustee Dan Polner strongly supports the Bellport Yacht Club and the Sailing Foundation and wants to see a swift resolution to the agreements.

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Mayor Veitch stated that right now the current lease expires at the end of the week. The Board considered extending the lease for another month while it is finalized and made the following resolution.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner - Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 111

The Board extended the current lease with the Bellport Bay Yacht Club to June 30, 2026 as stated.

Trustee Updates

- a. Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Code Enforcement, Waterfront Management Board, Golf Commission, Tennis Commission, and Vouchers

Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier kept it short. The Memorial Day parade was great success. He thanked the local VA for organizing it as well as the Bellport Fire Department and South Country Ambulance Company.

As far as trash cans go make sure you don't put them out too early and take them in.

- Code Enforcement Update

We have new Code Enforcement Officers that are writing tickets for overnight parking on the street. Keep that in mind when planning to have guests. The Village Hall is very accommodating for parking passes for your guests.

- b. Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Communication/Website, Business District, Senior Program, Vouchers, Kids Camp, and Building Department

- Town of Brookhaven Senior Programs

The Senior Program is going well. As far as approval from the Town of Brookhaven funding we won't know until the end of June.

- Technology Update

We slowly are incorporating improvements to the website to be ADA compliant. The committee is working with Sourcepass to guide us in that direction. Trustee Kuehn and Trustee Polner attended AI training provided by SCVOA. The workshop was given by Sourcepass and we learned some basics on AI.

- Chamber 250th Anniversary

I'm working with New York State Parks Department to secure a travel museum trailer to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA Declaration of Independence. Also, I will contact the Bellport Historical Society and Chamber to see what ideas they have about the celebration.

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c. Trustee Michael Young – Zoning Board of Appeals, Architectural Review Board, Planning Board, Historical Preservation, Yacht Club/Sailing Foundation

- Finance Committee

d. Trustee Dan Polner – DPW, Bellport Fire Department, South Country Ambulance, Suffolk County Police Department

Trustee Polner gave a plug for the annual Classic Car Show Fundraiser on June 28th sponsored by the Bellport Fire Department. If you have a classic, by all means, submit an application or just come down and enjoy the day.

- Update on First Responders - None

Mayor Veitch thanked the Trustees for their updates. She addressed a request that was submitted by the Chamber. They want to expand the art fair which is held on July 4th to close Main Street. To do that we have to contact Suffolk County Police to get involved. The road is a county road not owned by the Bellport Village. An exciting thing is that the Chamber is planning to have art painters throughout Main Street on the sidewalks but we're not going to close the road for that.

Public Comments

Robert Slutsky stated that his street Colonial looks like Tijuana. It's a disgrace. He has lived all over the United States and Colonial is the most disgraceful street. The street was ripped up on the middle, north, and south. The road has been that way for a year. Mr. Slutsky does a long strip of gardening in front of his property and has invested lots of time. It is hard to do because of the mess. I haven't been able to get an answer from Jason Crane about the status to finish the road.

Mayor Veitch said she would speak to Jason Crane tomorrow and let Mr. Slutsky know the plan to finish.

Marilyn Slusky stated that they were working on the drains and the work has stopped. It is a very busy road with lots of traffic. It is an accident waiting to happen.

Nancy Norman asked whether the Board has figured out a solution to the ferry losing money on Tuesdays and Wednesdays? I don't see a reason why we can't invite non-residents to use the ferry on those days. It will help keep our taxes down if the ferry makes money on those days. Ms. Norman's question is why are people against this. Is it their fear of non-residents or just fear?

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Tom Linden worked on the ferry for 10 years and worked with Mark Leuly. We had lunch and we talked about how the ferry could be utilized a little bit more inclusively than it has been. It could be opened up Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I used to close the ferry on Tuesdays for maintenance. Mr. Linden thinks it should be opened to more children and we should contact the schools. The ferry costs the same when there is 350 people over at Ho Hum or when there is 5 people.

He thinks there should be some type of study group to talk about these things, and not let the tail wag the dog.

Mayor Veitch stated the Board brought this up a couple of years ago and there was a groundswell of opinions that this was not something the residents wanted. We brought it up again not too long ago and the Village Board received an email signed by 100 people saying they really didn't want to open the ferry up, even on days when 3 to 8 people might go to the beach. But one of the positive things that came out of all of that was that there were a bunch of ideas that were generated by people such as expenses such as staff and lifeguards.

Mark Leuly recommended that we do something in the shoulder seasons before schools close and have environmental groups bring in more revenue.

Again, Mayor Veitch commented that it's not just about trying to increase ridership, we're trying to increase revenue because that will offset taxes.

Ed Baker had three items. One, regarding the ferry, it would be interesting to find out what percentage of those 100 people take the ferry on either Tuesday or Wednesday and I do think one suggestion I heard was that non-resident tennis and golf members be allowed.

Mr. Baker stated that the Sunday email says no hedge trimmers or leaf blowers on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. I just want to make sure.

Last item that Mr. Baker addressed was the big pile of construction debris that is next door to his house. The debris has been there for more than 2 weeks. Mayor Veitch will forward the concern to Jason Crane.

Loretta Drew stated that she is one of the people who was opposed to non-residents using the village beach. I've lived in this Village since 1945. Ho Hum was purchased by one of our mayors. You have the right to bring any guest or as many as you want onto the beach but I do want you to know that I am a resident that is opposed to it. I have no fear about it; it is just what I think is the right thing to do.

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Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 112

The Board approved the draft minutes of April 27, 2026 General Meeting as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 113

The Board approved the draft minutes of May 11, 2026 Work Session Meeting as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 114

The Board approved the Friends of Bellport Bay request for the summer kick-off of BFL for the Seine netting program at Mother's Beach on June 29, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 115

The Board approved the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Museum request to hold a lecture/interview on July 11, 2026 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 116

The Board approved of the General Fund Checking Abstract Report #1 dated May 26, 2026 consisting of 75 vendors totaling \$177,408.40 as presented.

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Motion: Trustee Lorraine Kuehn – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 117

The Board approved the Enterprise Fund Check Abstract Report #1 dated May 26, 2026 consisting of 24 vendors totaling \$132,109.62 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 118

The Board approved the Capital General Check Abstract Report #1 dated May 26, 2026 consisting of 2 vendors totaling \$97,507.14 as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 119

The Board approved the Monthly Treasurer's Report (Operating Results as of April 30, 2026) as presented.

Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 120

The Board approved the Tent Application and Permit document at a cost of \$100 as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier – Second Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 121

The Board approved the hiring Kate Taylor Higgins as an Administrative Assistant for the Tennis Program at \$21 per hour effective date May 14, 2026 as presented.

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Motion: Trustee Dan Polner – Second Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, with Trustee Lorraine voting nay, the vote was carried.

Resolution: 122

The Board approved increasing the hourly wage for Thomas Stines to \$38 per hour effective June 1, 2026 as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, Second Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 123

Reviewed the Fire Inspection Summary as presented.

Motion: Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, Second Trustee Dan Polner and unanimously carried.

Resolution: 124

Reviewed the Building Department Activities as presented.

Executive Session (If needed)

On a motion by Trustee Dan Polner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried the Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier, seconded by Trustee Lorraine Kuehn and unanimously carried the Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:21 p.m.

On a motion by Trustee Dan Polner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nathan Rohrmeier and unanimously carried the Board closed the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pontieri
Village Clerk