

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
MARCH 3, 2025**

10,554

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight, and Mary Collura. Also, present was Deputy Village Clerk, Jennifer Mante. Others present, Steve Rubin.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
The Deputy Village Clerk held the roll call.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried for Acceptance of Minutes: February 18, 2025

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye
Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried for Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$204,727.09.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye
Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Announcements

1. The Village of Warwick General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.
2. Brush Program Disposal Schedule for 2025.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Stefanie Keegan, Executive Director of The Warwick Valley Chamber, regarding tourism enhancements.

Mayor Newhard mentioned a letter under correspondence from the Chamber of Commerce, written by Executive Director Stefanie Keegan. He noted that Orange County Tourism offers an annual grant, which he believes aligns well with the criteria and presents a potential opportunity.

Trustee Collura, serving as the tourism coordinator for the Chamber, stated that she and Stefanie Keegan met with Visit Widget for a demonstration of their app. The app, which is free to download, offers features such as trip planning and other tourism-related tools in one platform. She noted that the app has a high retention rate among users, which is a positive sign. One potential use for the app would be for Applefest, allowing for a vendor directory to be integrated directly within the app.

Mayor Newhard explained that, as Stefanie Keegan had described to him, there is an associated cost for the app, including a \$5,000 startup fee. The Orange County Tourism grant is approximately \$4,999, making it a near-perfect fit for funding the initial setup. He inquired whether the Chamber has the resources to maintain the app, and they confirmed that they can budget for it. He noted that the cost varies by season, allowing for a higher level of service during the fall, particularly during Apple season and Applefest. He then asked if Trustee Collura knew what the higher-level service entails.

Trustee Collura said she did not know the details off the top of her head. She mentioned that a higher-level version of the app allows for municipal information to be included, such as the Village newsletter, announcements, or push notifications—for example, a no-parking notice on Village streets. She acknowledged that such notifications would also reach visitors who may no longer be in the area, but she did not see that as a concern.

Trustee Foster asked if there was an opportunity to discuss with the Chamber how this app might align with *Hello, Warwick Valley*. Trustee Collura suggested reaching out to Stefanie Keegan.

Mayor Newhard noted that the app could serve as another tool for the Visitor Center to offer the public. While visitors might find it on their own, staff could also guide them toward using it.

Trustee Collura noted that trip planning is a valuable resource that many visitors seek, such as finding places to go after lunch or locating nearby parks. She emphasized that the app would be a helpful way to provide that information.

Mayor Newhard asked about the app's potential connection to Airbnb.

Trustee Collura responded that she had not yet received any questions about Airbnb. She noted that her time at the Visitor Center had been limited, and the cold weather had

reduced foot traffic. She anticipated that there would be more engagement in the fall and spring.

Trustee Cheney asked if anyone else in Orange County or the Hudson Valley was currently using the app.

Trustee Collura responded that, to her knowledge, no one was.

Trustee Cheney then inquired whether there were any competitor apps.

Trustee Collura responded that she would imagine there are competitors.

Mayor Newhard mentioned that he believed the Historical Society was looking into a walking tour.

Trustee Collura confirmed that the Historical Society's walking tour was likely being developed through their website. She also mentioned that Port Jervis has a kiosk in their tourism center but was unsure who manages it.

Mayor Newhard said he would follow up with Stefanie Keegan to discuss whether there are similar apps available and to explore options that might be comparable. He noted that gathering additional pricing information would be a sensible next step.

Trustee Cheney suggested asking the companies about the geographic distribution of their subscriber base. He noted that if certain apps are widely used in the metropolitan region, it would make sense to consider those options.

Mayor Newhard said he would follow up with Stefanie Keegan, and they could all have a discussion to evaluate whether this app is the best option or if there are other viable alternatives.

Trustee Foster reiterated the suggestion of discussing with the Chamber how the app might align with *Hello, Warwick Valley*.

Discussions

1. Summer Concert Series

Trustee Collura shared that Trustee Foster had asked her to assist with planning the summer concert series. Together, they reviewed the calendar to select dates that would not conflict with other scheduled or rain date events. One concern she raised was the

impact of consecutive Saturday concerts on local restaurants, as some owners expressed frustration that these events negatively affect their business by reducing customer traffic.

To address this, Trustee Collura and Trustee Foster selected a mix of dates and split the concerts between Stanley-Deming Park and Railroad Green. They also proposed bringing back the July 3rd concert, which falls on a Thursday this year, noting that past years have traditionally included a concert on that date. Additionally, they suggested introducing a new concert on Juneteenth, which also falls on a Thursday and is a holiday, meaning children will be out of school. They envisioned this event as an opportunity to feature programming similar to what Steve Rubin organized for Black History Month or to collaborate with the Union AME Church.

Trustee Foster believed the Union AME celebration ended in the afternoon. She noted that since the event takes place during the day, an evening concert could be a nice addition. She emphasized that discussions with Union AME would be necessary but felt that, provisionally, it seemed like a good idea.

Mayor Newhard confirmed that the event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Collura explained that they aimed to space out the Saturday concerts to avoid consecutive events. She included the concert schedules from 2023 and 2024 in her information packet, noting that many dates in past years were scheduled close together. She also shared that they are proposing to reduce the number of concerts from 14 to 12. Given the success of *Warwick's Winter Wiggle*, they suggested reallocating funds from the two removed concerts to support a potential winter event.

Trustee Foster suggested the possibility of holding one concert in the fall and one in the winter instead of allocating the entire concert budget solely to the summer season.

Trustee Collura noted the success of the square dancing at *Warwick's Winter Wiggle* and suggested incorporating it into future events. She mentioned that the band hired for the *Winter Wiggle* offers a variety of performances, including swing dancing and 1950s-style music, making them a potential option for future events.

Trustee Foster explained that Trustee Collura was instrumental in mapping out all existing events, which helped in determining the Summer Concert schedule. Through this process, 12 concerts naturally emerged as a reasonable number rather than a deliberate reduction from 14.

Trustee Cheney asked if the restaurants that felt impacted by the concerts were primarily located in the Railroad Avenue area.

Trustee Collura clarified that the affected restaurants were not on Railroad Avenue but were located throughout the Village. She shared her own experience working at a restaurant outside the immediate area that also felt the impact. When she raised this concern with the concert organizer last year, she was told that restaurant business was not a priority for them. However, she emphasized that her concern extends beyond the businesses to the employees—servers and bartenders—who typically rely on Saturday nights for strong earnings. If consecutive Saturday concerts negatively impact their income, she believes steps should be taken to address the issue and find a way to improve the situation.

Trustee Foster noted that the Summer Concert Coordinators had expressed, and it would be reasonable to assume that restaurants located on or near Railroad Green likely benefit the most from the concerts. She asked whether the feedback from restaurant owners was related to timing, as it would make sense that there would be fewer customers during the concert itself but possibly a surge in business right before or after the event.

Trustee Collura mentioned that one of their suggestions was to adjust the concert times. Currently, concerts run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., but they proposed shifting them earlier, possibly from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., to help mitigate the impact on restaurants. Trustee Collura stated that she advised any restaurant owners with concerns to submit written letters outlining their issues.

Mayor Newhard agreed that receiving written feedback from restaurant owners would be helpful. He noted that the Village had already planned to hold a listening session with restaurants, and this issue could be one of the topics discussed during that session.

Mayor Newhard shared that he received an email from John Johansen stating that he would not be organizing the concerts this year. He had not yet heard from Michael Gurvich regarding his interest in continuing his role. Mr. Johansen also provided a synopsis of his experience running the concerts, including feedback he received, which could be useful information moving forward.

Mayor Newhard expressed his support for the proposed breakout of concert dates and acknowledged that while Stanley-Deming Park is a great venue, it also presents some challenges. He noted that Steve Rubin, who was in attendance, had a successful concert there and asked for his thoughts on it.

Steve Rubin shared his thoughts, agreeing with Trustee Collura's concerns about the impact on restaurants. He noted that the issue of concerts affecting local businesses is cyclical. Years ago, there was much more live music in restaurants and bars, and at that time, the challenge was justifying free concerts while restaurants were simultaneously paying musicians to perform. This had created some tension in the past. He supported the

idea of adjusting concert times and questioned whether shifting them later—perhaps from 9:00 to 10:30 PM—would be a possibility.

Mayor Newhard responded that holding a later concert downtown might not be too difficult, but it could limit attendance.

Mr. Rubin stated that, historically, restaurants on Railroad Avenue have benefited significantly more from the concerts than other businesses. He acknowledged this as an ongoing issue and suggested that hosting concerts at different times of the year, as previously mentioned, was a great idea. He also supported the use of Stanley-Deming Park as a potential solution, as it would remove the advantage given to specific restaurants, such as Grappa, which benefits from its proximity to Railroad Green. Moving concerts to a location without nearby restaurants could help eliminate some of the concerns expressed by other business owners. However, he noted that the existing concert infrastructure at Stanley-Deming Park is lacking compared to what other venues offer.

Mayor Newhard acknowledged the concerns about concert infrastructure at Stanley-Deming Park and noted that improvements were part of the Village's *New York Forward* grant plans. He reflected on the history of the summer concert series, which began 20 to 25 years ago. Initially, concerts were held at Stanley-Deming Park when the idea was still new, before eventually settling at Railroad Avenue. However, he pointed out that since then, live music events have significantly expanded in the region, with Sugar Loaf, Chester, and Blue Arrow Farm all now hosting concerts, leading to an explosion of available entertainment options.

Mr. Rubin shared his thoughts on the gazebo concert environment, noting that while jazz may not draw as large a crowd as other genres, the setting was excellent. He suggested trying the gazebo for performances by groups that typically attract larger audiences, such as Alyssa Jones and Emish, as it offers a cozy atmosphere with good acoustics. As a musician, he found the gazebo to be a great venue and asked whether concerts had been held there frequently. He also inquired whether there had been any complaints from South Street residents about noise or other concerns related to performances at that location.

Mayor Newhard responded that there had not been significant complaints from South Street residents regarding concerts at the gazebo. He noted that the *Pride* event started there, and multiple concerts have been held at the location.

Trustee Collura added that *Applefest* has also featured bands performing at the gazebo.

Mr. Rubin reflected on his experience organizing concerts at the gazebo, noting that he initially received support for one event but was able to extend it to two. He described the

gazebo as a great setting and suggested it could serve as a temporary solution until budget and other factors allow for a more suitable band shell in Stanley-Deming Park. He acknowledged that while Railroad Green has traditionally been the primary concert venue, it is understandable that restaurant owners outside that area may feel disadvantaged. To address this, he proposed experimenting with at least one concert at a later time to gauge the impact. He recognized concerns about certain audiences, such as families with young children, being unable to attend later performances but suggested gathering data on concertgoers to determine who is attending and why. In his view, a significant portion of the audience consists of people who attend simply because it is a Village event, rather than being drawn solely by a specific type of music. He encouraged trying a later concert and observing the response, noting that attendees would provide feedback quickly.

Trustee Collura agreed, sharing that based on her observations while serving last year, many attendees go to the concerts simply because it is a Village event, without necessarily knowing which band is performing.

Mr. Rubin agreed, noting that many attendees go to the concerts simply because it is something to do, bringing their chairs and enjoying the event regardless of the band. He questioned whether 10:30 p.m. would be considered too late for a concert.

Trustee Collura pointed out that there are residents living above the stores near Railroad Green, which could be a factor to consider when discussing concert timing.

Trustee Collura agreed that starting concerts later might not be feasible but suggested experimenting with earlier start times, such as 5:30 or 6:30 p.m.

Trustee Collura mentioned that they had discussed other ways to support local restaurants, such as including a message on printed materials encouraging concertgoers to dine at local establishments. She acknowledged that similar efforts had been tried in the past.

Trustee Foster suggested exploring a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to offer a coupon program, such as \$10 off at a local restaurant, to encourage concert attendees to dine in the Village.

Mayor Newhard noted that Chester has a strong concert series and does a great job with their events. He mentioned that they also incorporate a beer wagon as part of their setup.

Trustee Collura added that Monroe follows a similar approach, inviting a different restaurant for each concert to set up a beer tent.

Mr. Rubin shared that the Sugar Loaf concert series would not be taking place this year due to challenges, including funding issues. He also mentioned that, in addition to John Johansen stepping down this year, he suspects Michael Gurvich may as well.

Mayor Newhard acknowledged that organizing the concerts is a significant amount of work, requiring a lot of time and energy to get everything running, set up, and taken down.

Mayor Newhard complimented Mr. Rubin again for his concert at Mulder Chapal during Black History Month, calling it amazing and expressing his appreciation for the event.

Mr. Rubin reflected on the success of the concert, noting that creating partnerships is key to making these events happen. He pointed out that, while patrons of the arts with deep pockets can help, such benefactors are often temporary. He shared that the Jazz Festival had a benefactor from Sugar Loaf for three seasons, but such support doesn't always last. Despite this, he expressed that the event was enjoyable and thanked everyone for their participation.

Mr. Rubin acknowledged the challenges of funding and the fact that some events occur outside the Village limits. He then asked whether the restriction on funding events outside the Village is an official policy, based on bylaws, or if it is more about maintaining appearances.

Mayor Newhard explained that funding for events outside the Village limits is considered on a case-by-case basis. He provided the example of *Warwick's Winter Wiggle*, which was cooperatively funded by both the Town and the Village. Once both municipalities are involved, it becomes easier to support such events, as the Village is just a small part of the larger Town.

Trustee Foster stated that accessibility plays a significant role in event planning. She highlighted that for *Warwick's Winter Wiggle*, the Dial-a-Bus service supported attendees in getting to the event. She emphasized that the Village, being a dense area, should prioritize events that are easily accessible on foot.

Mr. Rubin shared his thoughts on the potential for the Village of Warwick to brand itself in a way that extends beyond its immediate geography, drawing a comparison to Woodstock. He pointed out that although Woodstock didn't host the famous 1969 concert, the nearby town took advantage of the event's association by keeping the Woodstock name, which has since become a major draw for tourism. He suggested that Warwick could benefit from associating itself with events that take place outside its borders, much like Woodstock did, without necessarily taking on the logistical challenges

of hosting those events within the Village itself. Mr. Rubin emphasized that this approach could provide the Village with positive tourism benefits and greater recognition.

Mayor Newhard agreed with Mr. Rubin's idea, noting that collaboration with other villages and the Town would make more sense. He acknowledged that many organizations seek financial support from the Village, even though their events benefit the entire town.

Mr. Rubin expressed his understanding and appreciation for the support the Village has provided for the Jazz Festival. He acknowledged that there are many people with great ideas, but it's impossible to satisfy everyone's demands. He related this to his own experience with the Jazz Festival, where he faces different sets of demands—from organizations and artists—and recognizes the challenge of balancing them. Despite the challenges, he praised the Village for the great work they've done, stating that this is the best support the Village has provided since he moved there.

Mayor Newhard asked if the Hudson Valley Jazz Festival is taking place this year.

Mr. Rubin explained that he originally started the Hudson Valley Jazz Festival in Warwick, but he changed the name and expanded the geography to include other areas to attract more participants and secure funding. He shared that one of the strategies was having participating venues serve as individual sponsors, which helped meet the funding challenges. He also mentioned that he didn't hold the festival last year or this year but would like to bring it back to Warwick in a scaled-back format. In the past, the festival included up to 22 shows in seven towns, but he expressed uncertainty about being able to manage such a large event again. However, he still wants to retain the festival's name and believes it holds value for the reasons he previously mentioned. He also pointed out the importance of having alternative locations for concerts, in addition to alternative dates, to avoid disappointing attendees. He noted that while having an alternative location may reduce the number of attendees, promoting the change in advance could lead to better results.

Trustee Foster suggested listing alternative locations in advance, such as Stanley-Deming Park, Railroad Green, or Mulder Chapel. She pointed out that an alternative location must be confirmed at least a day before the event, and the space must be publicly available, making it a bit tricky to arrange.

During the general discussion, it was noted that getting the word out about location changes is not particularly difficult in Warwick. One suggestion was to consider local venues, such as the Reformed Church, which has historically been generous with space. Another option mentioned was the old Baptist Meeting House, although the lack of restroom facilities there could be a major issue, especially for larger audiences. It was

pointed out that when concerts were moved to the Reformed Church in the past, a simple chalkboard sign was placed to inform attendees, as it was within walking distance. The importance of having an alternative location in case of rain was emphasized, as it can be very disappointing when a concert is canceled due to weather.

Mr. Rubin suggested that when promoting the concert, it should be clearly communicated that an alternative location will be available in case of rain. He acknowledged that it might be difficult to line up an alternative location in advance but pointed out that he had a positive experience with a local church in the past. He mentioned that the church was very accommodating, allowing him to simply take the key, use the space, and clean up afterward. Mr. Rubin also noted that while the venue might change the concert experience, it would still ensure that everyone has a seat and can see the performance, though he recognized that the food logistics might be more challenging.

Trustee Foster suggested that, in a pinch, conversations with local organizations could help identify alternative venues for concerts. She liked the idea of using the summer concert series and similar Village investments as a tool for economic development and tourism. She emphasized that these events help connect the community and promote engagement in various ways. She proposed reaching out to organizations like the Union AME Church to see if they would be interested in hosting or partnering for a concert. A concert combined with a community showcase, similar to *Warwick's Winter Wiggle*, could be an easy and beneficial option. Foster noted that while Stanley-Deming Park would be a more feasible location for this type of event, Railroad Green would be too crowded to accommodate such a partnership. She stressed the importance of exploring these ideas to maximize the benefits of community collaboration.

Mr. Rubin shared that when working with organizations like the Union AME Church, it's important to consider their interests in terms of the artists they would like to see perform. He acknowledged the difficulty of balancing various ideas, as people often have different opinions, and sometimes, those ideas might not work out. He emphasized the importance of having someone make the final decision about who performs, even though there may be many different ideas to consider.

Mr. Rubin also reflected on his own experience with the Jazz Festival, noting that while people may suggest student performances, it's crucial to maintain a high level of quality. He shared the challenge of balancing support for different groups while ensuring the festival retains its professionalism. He stressed the importance of representation, particularly when partnering with organizations like the Union AME Church. In his experience with a concert he organized, he made sure that African Americans were included in the group, reflecting the cultural significance of jazz, which, while rooted in the African American community, is enjoyed and played by others as well. He

emphasized that it's essential to strike a balance between inclusivity and maintaining a certain level of quality in the performances.

Mr. Rubin expressed his desire to hold a Jazz Festival and suggested incorporating it into the Village's budget. He offered to email an estimated number for a few Warwick-centric shows, which he would manage, including all logistics and ensuring there's a backup show. He proposed branding the event as "The Village of Warwick presents the Hudson Valley Jazz Festival in Warwick," which could be an appealing way to promote the festival while showcasing the Village.

Mayor Newhard agreed that Mr. Rubin's idea could work well and encouraged him to move forward with it. The Trustees then thanked Mr. Rubin for his valuable insight and contributions.

Trustee Collura shared that it had come to her attention that there has never been a specific process or procedure for organizing the concert series. She presented an initial framework for discussion, which includes reviewing the Village calendar first to avoid conflicts with other events at Railroad Green and rain dates. The goal would be to prevent scheduling concerts during events that could cause congestion or negatively impact attendance, such as graduations, the carnival, the fire department parade, and the Historical Society's *Party in the Park*. She noted that, for the past two years, there hasn't been a concert on the same day as the *Party in the Park*, though she wasn't sure if that was intentional.

Mayor Newhard believed that it was intentional.

Trustee Collura explained that the process for scheduling concerts had previously been unclear. She mentioned an issue from the past two years where contracts were signed before the Village Board had approved the dates and acts, leading to complications. To address this, she proposed a new process: the Village Board would first review and approve the fixed dates, then present those dates to the concert coordinator. The concert coordinator would tentatively book the acts and dates, then bring them back to the Board for approval, including the acts and contract amounts.

Trustee Foster suggested that the Village should have a draft contract agreement in place, including a ceiling cost per act. She proposed that the concert coordinator could indicate which acts they plan to reach out to within the established budget range. This would help avoid issues with booking, as securing acts before full approval could be challenging. Foster recommended that the coordinator provide a list of potential acts and the typical costs, with the Board then providing provisional authorization for the mayor to sign the contracts, streamlining the process.

It was clarified that the Mayor does not sign the contracts, but rather, the concert coordinators do. Therefore, the coordinators would be authorized to sign the contract agreements once the process and budget are approved.

Mayor Newhard emphasized that there needs to be a balance between ensuring proper oversight and allowing the concert coordinator the freedom to move forward with organizing the events. He pointed out that the coordinator should not be hindered in the process, as they need the flexibility to get everything up and running efficiently.

Trustee Foster added that, from a date perspective, the concert coordinator should have provisional dates in place. However, if they have other ideas, it's crucial that they are provided with the dates of other events and clear guidelines set by the Board. This way, the coordinator can operate freely within the parameters defined by the Board.

Trustee Cheney acknowledged that a budget is set each year for the concert series, and in the past, it was up to the coordinator(s) to decide how much each group should receive. He noted that while this approach is the least restrictive, it may not always be the best method. He agreed that the coordinator should have more latitude than needing to return to the Board for approval on every concert. However, he liked the idea of the coordinator sharing the types of acts they are considering, so the Board can understand the direction being taken.

Trustee Collura pointed out that one of the issues last year was starting the concert planning process late, which led to an anxiousness to book acts and get the contracts signed quickly. She expressed concern about facing the same challenge this year, as it's already March, and emphasized the need to get moving on the planning process to avoid delays.

Trustee Foster asked if the proposed process—where the concert coordinator identifies potential acts within the established parameters and budget, without micromanaging their decisions—would work. She suggested that as long as the Board agrees to the contract and sets clear guidelines, the coordinator should have the freedom to fill in the details while staying within the agreed-upon framework.

Trustee Cheney confirmed that a written contract currently exists for the concert series but suggested that it might need to be updated or adjusted to better align with the new process and parameters being discussed.

Trustee Cheney emphasized the need to find a balance between the Board's involvement and giving the concert coordinator the freedom to organize the events. He noted that the coordinator typically aims to bring diversity in music genres, and suggested that the

Board could provide input on genres and offer ideas for specific bands within those genres, but ultimately, it would be up to the coordinator to select the bands.

Trustee Foster expressed that while she doesn't want to micromanage, it's important to ensure that the concert coordinator, though a volunteer, serves the interests of the entire Village. She emphasized that any appointment to serve the Village must prioritize the needs of the whole community, not just a small group. She explained that the coordinator should consider the broader needs of the Village, including people who may have been unable to attend concerts in the past due to the crowded environment at Railroad Green. Trustee Foster highlighted that Stanley-Deming Park could be a better venue for families or individuals with neurodivergent children, who might struggle with the busy, noisy setting at Railroad Green. She noted that the focus should be on meeting the needs of the entire Village and ensuring that tax dollars are being spent in a way that serves all residents.

Trustee McKnight suggested that the contract should include a clause stating that the artist must be willing to perform at either venue, allowing for flexibility in case the location needs to change. He recalled an incident from the previous year where an artist had an issue with the venue change and emphasized that there is no room for such behavior. He stressed that the goal is to provide the concerts for the benefit of the entire community, and artists should be understanding of that.

Trustee Cheney expressed some reservations about Stanley-Deming Park as a concert venue, particularly noting that the gazebo area is quite small, which could limit its use and possibly prevent people from using the playground when the concert is well attended. He also shared his experience as a nearby resident, pointing out that concerts in the gazebo area are often poorly attended. Trustee Cheney noted that while the larger amphitheater section of Stanley-Deming Park offers plenty of space, the vast openness makes it appear less crowded compared to Railroad Green, where concerts tend to draw larger crowds. He acknowledged that certain concerts might be better suited for Stanley-Deming depending on the audience. Additionally, Trustee Cheney questioned why the concert series had never included at least one children's concert, suggesting that it might be something to consider in the future.

Trustee Foster agreed with Trustee Cheney and suggested that incorporating interactive activities, such as square dancing, could help encourage more engagement and participation from the community. She emphasized the importance of providing enough guidance and clear parameters to ensure that the concert series serves the entire Village and fosters a sense of fun and inclusion for all residents.

Mr. Rubin shared his belief that Stanley-Deming Park's gazebo area could attract a good turnout for concerts, and he didn't think the playground issue would be a major concern.

He acknowledged that no event could please everyone, noting that, regardless of the venue or event, someone will always find something to complain about.

Mr. Rubin stressed that whoever organizes the concerts must be sensitive to the idea that these events are for the entire community, not just a specific group of people. He also suggested diversifying the concert genres, pointing out that there has never been a Motown or disco performance, which could appeal to a different audience. Mr. Rubin emphasized that while finding talented performers isn't the challenge, the key is having someone skilled in selecting acts that represent the interests of the entire community. He acknowledged that some people would always have complaints, but he argued that keeping the quality level high and offering a variety of genres would help satisfy a larger portion of the community.

Mr. Rubin noted that, like with the Jazz Festival, while it's impossible to please everyone with every performance, offering a broad variety over time can help engage a wider audience. He concluded by saying that someone involved in organizing the concerts needs to have a good sense of what the community truly wants and be able to balance different tastes effectively.

Mr. Rubin also suggested improving the promotional efforts for the concerts, noting that while platforms like *Hello, Warwick* are useful, there is potential to do more. He emphasized the importance of using *I Love New York* as a primary promotional tool, as it has a broader reach. He shared a past experience where the campaign used an image of a saxophone player from the Jazz Festival, which led to significant exposure, including being featured on their website's opening page. Mr. Rubin stressed that *I Love New York* and similar statewide promotion could attract a wider audience, especially since fewer people are buying newspapers these days.

Mr. Rubin also mentioned the importance of reaching out beyond local platforms like Facebook and targeting a broader audience, including music enthusiasts. By connecting with various networks, the concert series could potentially draw larger crowds. Mr. Rubin further supported the idea of strategically placing specific acts in venues that align with their expected audience size. He concluded by reiterating that the person responsible for organizing the events should understand how to match the right acts with the appropriate venues to ensure the best turnout.

It was decided that Mayor Newhard would wait to see if Mr. Gurvich's would remain a coordinator, and the Board would proceed from there.

2. The Keeping of Fowl, Rabbits and Pigeons.

Trustee Foster brought up a discussion about Village Code Article Two, which prohibits the keeping of fowl, rabbits, and pigeons, a law that was passed in 1976. She acknowledged that while she wasn't present at the time the ordinance was passed, she could understand the potential concerns of cleanliness, noise, disturbance, and disease that might have led to the ban. However, Trustee Foster argued that a lot has changed since then, and she believes that the ordinance, as written, may be an overreach.

Trustee Foster explained her view on good governance, stating that the goal should be to legislate only enough to safeguard the health, safety, and well-being of residents without infringing on their rights. Trustee Foster mentioned that she had received inquiries from residents interested in keeping chickens and that she, herself, was open to exploring the option, though she wasn't sure whether it was something she would pursue personally. She pointed out that other urban areas, similar to Warwick, have allowed chickens, and she had been looking into ordinances with key conditions that could mitigate potential risks.

Trustee Foster proposed opening the discussion to both the Village and the Board to evaluate the possibility of revising the ordinance to allow chickens, while also considering safeguards to address potential concerns.

Mayor Newhard provided some historical context, noting that the Village had revisited this issue in 2011 when they worked with Cornell Cooperative to consider a pilot program for allowing chickens, of which the response from residents was not positive at the time. He mentioned that, to his knowledge, no villages in Orange County allow chickens specifically. However, he agreed that the issue was worth revisiting and acknowledged that there would need to be certain parameters, especially given the Village's density and the challenges of animal husbandry on small lots. He recalled that during the previous discussion, there were considerations such as limiting the lot size, prohibiting roosters, and capping the number of hens at six. Mayor Newhard agreed that these factors should be part of the conversation.

Trustee Foster shared that she had been researching ordinances from other communities across the country, noting that the discussion around allowing chickens has been gaining momentum over time. She highlighted the growing concerns around local food security and the potential for residents to supplement their food supply, especially with rising costs such as the price of eggs.

Trustee Foster emphasized that any potential revisions to the ordinance would need to align with existing regulations in the Village of Warwick, including noise, waste disposal, and nuisance rules. She mentioned that many other communities with similar ordinances do not permit roosters, ducks, turkeys, geese, or peacocks due to their potential for noise and waste complaints. She suggested that chickens should only be kept

for personal use, such as for eggs, companionship, or education, and that they should not be used for commercial production, breeding, or hatching. She also noted that slaughtering chickens on the property should be prohibited, as it could be considered inhumane.

Trustee Foster also proposed provisions regarding coop requirements, setbacks, and minimum size conditions for each bird to ensure responsible and humane care. She called for a comprehensive yet straightforward approach, drawing from successful examples in other areas. Trustee Foster concluded by stating that she wanted to raise the topic and begin the conversation with the Board.

Mayor Newhard stated that he would reach out to Cornell again to see if they have any notes or further information on the matter.

Trustee Foster mentioned that she had gone through the process of drafting an ordinance regarding chickens. She explained that she wanted to consider whether this was feasible and practical, thinking about the broader implications before making any assumptions. Trustee Foster clarified that she was not trying to push a specific direction but wanted to have a starting point for a conversation. She also recognized the need for a public discussion on the matter, understanding that it could be a divisive issue. She offered to share the draft with the rest of the Board, ensuring that her intent was not to presume a final decision, but to see if a balanced, reasonable proposal could be developed.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The public may speak only during the meeting's Public Comment period and at any other time a majority of the Board allows. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer, step to the front of the room/microphone, give their name, residency, and organization, if any. Speakers must limit their remarks to three minutes (this time limit may be changed to accommodate the number of speakers) and may not yield any remaining time they may have to another speaker. Board members may, with the permission of the mayor, interrupt a speaker during their remarks, but only for the purpose of clarification or information. The Village Board is not required to accept or respond to questions from the public at meetings but may request that inquiries be submitted in writing to be responded to at a later date. All remarks must be addressed to the Board as a body and not to individual Board members. Interested parties or their representatives may also address the Board by written communications.

No comments.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW
IMPOSING A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON LAND USE APPROVALS
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY FACILITIES INVOLVING
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has a local law before it entitled: “The Village of Warwick Temporary Moratorium on the Acceptance and Processing of Applications for Approval of Public Utility Facilities Involving Energy Storage Systems”, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact the said local law it is necessary to formally introduce it and to hold a public hearing on it,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the movant of this resolution does hereby introduce the proposed local law, and
2. That a public hearing on the proposed local law be set for March 17, 2025 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. and that due notice of the same is directed to be given by publication and posting.

Trustee McKnight presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Cheney,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting	Aye
Carly Foster, Trustee, voting	Aye
Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting	Aye
Mary Collura, Trustee, voting	Aye
Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting	Aye

Payment #5 – TAM Enterprises, Inc., Well #3 Treatment Plant Project

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to approve payment #5 in the amount of \$122,553.33 to TAM Enterprises, Inc. for the Well #3 Treatment Plant Project as per the recommendation of Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers, P.C. Funds are appropriated in budget code F.8330.2350.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Motion to Advertise – DPW Seasonal Laborer, Brush Pile Attendant

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to advertise for the position of Seasonal Department of Public Works Laborer to perform the duties of Brush Pile Attendant at Veterans Memorial Park for the period of April – November 2025 during designated brush pile operation dates and times. Start date to be determined by the DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the FY24-25 & FY25-26 budget.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Motion to Advertise – Village of Warwick Engineer Intern

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to advertise for the position of Village of Warwick Engineer Intern for 32.5 hours per week for up to thirteen (13) weeks. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the FY25-26 budget.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Motion to Advertise – Village of Warwick Office Intern

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to advertise for the position of Village of Warwick Office Intern for 32.5 hours per week for up to thirteen (13) weeks. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the FY25-26 budget.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use - Warwick Youth Football and Cheerleading, Veterans Memorial Park & Pavilion

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to Warwick Youth Football and Cheerleading to use the Veterans Memorial Park Football/Rugby Field and the area between the Daniel Prial Field and parking lot for practices and games from April 1, 2025, to November 30, 2025. Request includes use of field lights for the season and in the event of rain, use of the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion for the cheer teams. It is the responsibility of Warwick Youth Football and Cheerleading to ensure that parking is in the designated parking lot and not on the grass on the entrance roads. All events must be in coordination with the other sports activities taking place in the park. Completed facility use permit, proof of insurance, and security deposit have been received. Approval is pending receipt of the Memorial Park Football/Over 35 Field Light fee.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Stanley Deming Park, Wickham Works - Treecycle 2025

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Wickham Works to hold their Treecycle 2025 event at Stanley Deming Park on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, April 27, 2025, with setup to begin at 9:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 7:00 p.m. Permission includes use of restrooms, sound systems, pavilion, gazebo, and handball courts. Town of Warwick Police, Fire, and EMS have been notified of the event. DPW has approved the event parking plan. Completed park permit, proof of insurance, and security deposit, have been received. Pending permission from Park Avenue Elementary to use the school parking lot.

Pending proper insurance requirements from any participating vendors.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Main Street/Railroad Ave., Warwick Merchants Collective - Summer Sidewalk Sale

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Merchants Collective to hold their annual Summer Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair on Main Street, Railroad Avenue and Railroad Green on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with setup to begin at 8:00 a.m. and breakdown complete by 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with setup to begin at 8:00 a.m. and breakdown to be complete by 4:00 p.m. Completed facility use permit, proof of insurance and security deposit have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Parking Closure – Main Street, Summer Sidewalk Sale

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Merchants Collective to place ‘No Parking’ meter bags on the meters on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. along Main Street as follows: Eddies Roadhouse to Bank Street, G’s Restaurant to Fetch Bar and Grill, Bertoni Gallery to Etched in Time, B Free to Café Dolce, Akins Pharmacy to WVT for the benefit of the Warwick Merchants Collective Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair. Pickup and return of ‘No Parking’ meter bags to be coordinated with the Village of Warwick’s Planning Department.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Parking Closure – Railroad Avenue, Summer Sidewalk Sale

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to place ‘No Parking’ meter bags on the meters along Railroad Avenue on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the benefit of the Warwick Merchants Collective Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair. Pickup and return of ‘No Parking’ meter bags to be coordinated with the Village of Warwick’s Planning Department.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Road Closure – Railroad Avenue, Summer Sidewalk Sale

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to close Railroad Avenue on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the benefit of the Warwick Merchants Collective Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Budget Modification

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to approve the budget modification request as per the Village Treasurer's memo received February 26, 2025.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

No comments.

Final Comments from the Board

Trustee Collura

Trustee Collura announced that the Warwick Tourism Center at 75 Main Street will be open this Sunday from about 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to coincide with the St. Patrick's Day parade. She encouraged everyone to visit, noting that there will be a great volunteer on hand and printed brochures about the Village and other local information available for visitors.

Trustee Cheney

Trustee Cheney provided an update on the street light conversions. He reminded the Board that the Village purchased the street lights in December. The conversion from non-LED to LED lights began on February 3, and as of this morning, 145 out of 269 fixtures (54%) had been installed, along with 110 out of 187 smart controls (59%) installed on the pre-existing LED lights. He noted that at the current rate, the conversion will be completed by the week of March 17 to March 25. Trustee Cheney mentioned that outages and other issues have been addressed as the installation progressed, and any issues with street lights are now being handled through the Village's Department of Public Works. He thanked everyone for their efforts.

Trustee McKnight

Trustee McKnight provided an update on the solar system bids for the Department of Public Works (DPW) roof. He mentioned that last Friday, the Village opened bids from eight providers. The Village is still waiting for a report from Keith, the engineer, but noted that some of the providers need to be revisited, as their proposals did not fully meet the specifications. Trustee McKnight clarified that the minimum system requirement was 100 kilowatts, as this would maximize points for the New York State Energy Community Standard and the Climate Smart Community program. Meeting this threshold would also position the Village for more grants should additional funding become available. He expressed disappointment that some bidders did not follow the specifications, including one provider that wasn't even on the qualified NYSEERDA list, making them ineligible for the contract. Trustee McKnight acknowledged that there is still some back-and-forth with the bidders, but he remains confident that the Village will reach a decision in due time.

Mayor Newhard stated that the project is a great initiative and expressed hope that they can move forward once the bidding process is resolved. He asked when the start date for the project would be, wondering if it would be immediate once a decision is made.

Trustee McKnight explained that as soon as a contract is signed, the Village could receive 25% of the funds for the solar project. The remaining 75% would be released once the system is up and running, and the Village can prove that it is operational. He expressed his motivation to move forward quickly, as there is still a 30% rebate available, which could be a significant savings for the project.

Trustee McKnight emphasized the goal of completing the solar project while the 30% rebate is still available. He stated that the objective is to make the entire system cost-neutral for the Village, which would be an excellent outcome.

Mayor Newhard

Mayor Newhard mentioned the Village recently held a bid opening for the Patriots Path project. He reached out to the engineer for more information, as there is a lot of data to review.

Trustee Foster agreed that there is a lot of information to review and suggested that the Board should consider having a panel to help manage and evaluate the details more effectively.

Mayor Newhard mentioned that he was expecting to receive a price for the cost of the review. He believes that the cost can likely be absorbed within the grant, but having a panel to assist with the review would be helpful in the process.

In the discussion between Mayor Newhard and Trustee Foster, they considered whether the individuals reviewing the Patriots Path bid applications had any relationships with the applying firms. They agreed that the reviewers should be unbiased to ensure fairness in the process. It was mentioned that there were five solid submissions, and it was decided that the Patriots Path stakeholder group would review the recommendations in advance. In addition, Mayor Newhard said he would reach out to Mike Moser, the DPW Supervisor.

Executive Session

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to enter into Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Exit Closed Session and Adjourn Regular Meeting

A MOTION was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to exit Executive Session, resume the regular Village Board meeting, and adjourn the regular meeting approximately 9:48 p.m.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Jennifer Mante, Deputy Village Clerk