

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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From: Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate
To: Trustee Fritz Gohl
Cc: President McLaughlin and Board of Trustees

Today, April 23, 2017 will be your last village board meeting as our official Village Trustee, I wanted to take my opportunity to recognize your sixteen years of service to our village community. You have had an extraordinary glimpse into the workings of municipal government, serving us for an amazing sixteen straight years! Undoubtedly, you have also seen your fair share of upheavals and changes in administration, witnessed and participated in some highly-charged and highly-partisan debates and power struggles over your tenure with the village.

As you might recall, I have known you in total, all sixteen years that you have served in the capacity of Trustee. I met you during the Fritz Duda hearings when we were fighting against the effort in Woodstock weekly, it was a turbulent time but it eventually concluded with a successful result. My hope is that the work we did then will finally translate into the village annexing the former Duda property back to the village where it rightfully belongs.

We again were brought together a short time later, when the issue of trying to get the D300 homes in my subdivision re-annexed back into the school district into D220 surfaced. That effort however, proved to be a very ambitious and difficult with multiple legal and strategic challenges which were simply at the time insurmountable to overcome. However, you still took the time, and met with us and other residents to try and solve this matter which everyone appreciated. Then recently, we met again, when I became a member of the Heritage and Environs committee two years ago. You, were the lone Trustee who spoke in support of me for a reversal of the President's decision not to allow me to continue my membership on the HEC committee. I want to publicly thank you Trustee Gohl for taking that stance in favor of my retention, and stating on the official village record that my removal was not warranted. I lost my committee seat for the simple reason that I advocated on behalf of the village and our residents to limit and control unnecessary spending regarding the village hall refreshment.

It might surprise many, that we have managed over the years to have a very amicable personal and working association which was not partisan despite our differences on specific issues as of late. I am old-school in that regard. This is an area I think that the upcoming new members and current Board of Trustee members will need to work very diligently on in order to facilitate the people's business. As only you know, it will take some focused effort and a genuine desire to find common ground despite fundamental personal policy positions or disagreements. Elections remind us that public service is not an entitlement, but a volunteer position with an ongoing responsibility to carry forward the wishes of our constituents and taxpayers. There are many areas where I think the village can and should improve the way we have structured some our policies. Change can be positive and beneficial as long as the motivations behind it are pure and well-meaning. Rest assured, I will be driving the change whether I am a sitting Trustee or not in the future.

I wish you good luck as you leave village service. Over these long sixteen years, I've watched multiple boards turn over, and different faces occupy these chairs. Everyone approaches the assignment of Trustee differently, some more having more success and impact than others. Thank you for your sixteen year commitment to the Village of Barrington Hills! I'm sure your record of an astounding sixteen straight years will stand unchallenged for many years to come. Wishing you God's speed as you chart a new chapter in your public life. There will always be those standing judgment, critics and others; however as long as you did your best, that is all we can realistically ask of you and of those serving us in these often challenging public service roles.

Congratulations and Best of Luck!

Linda H. Cools, Village Resident Advocate