

THE ST. PAUL'S SENTINEL

Honoring and preserving our community's heritage

A publication of the Committee to Save St. Paul's, September 29, 2006



Statement to the Garden City Life Re: Public Hearing on the Village's "Restore NY" Application

Once again, Mayor Gerard Lundquist and the Board of Trustees missed an opportunity to listen to residents who wanted to speak about St. Paul's, share their feelings about the fundamental need for rehabilitative work on the historic structure, and commend the Board for considering the taxpayers' pocketbook. Indeed, our trustees blew an opportunity, too, at the public hearing on the Village's "Restore NY" application, to gain valuable information, free of charge, from the Committee to Save St. Paul's consultant, Murray Gould, who is not only highly regarded by our State Parks and Preservation Departments, but is also an expert in preservation and adaptive reuse of properties from North Carolina to Oswego, New York.

Instead, after ascertaining that there were "no negative comments" from the audience, our trustees chose to adjourn the hearing without a word from residents who thought it worthwhile to take the time to attend. Former Trustee Peter Negri, who is also President of the Committee to Save St. Paul's, asked Mayor Lundquist to take the time to allow Mr. Gould, who had traveled from Oswego to attend the hearing, to provide more information on the grant application process and implications. Mayor Lundquist brusquely refused. To our trustees, the Committee says, *shame on you*.

There is a title we give to those who seek government office and it is public servant. At the public hearing, the public was not served. The Mayor has said in the past that the Board wishes to get residents' opinions on St. Paul's. We ask, do our public servants have selective hearing, and can residents only speak on the days and designated times they want to hear us? We continue to question if we can trust our trustees to treat all of the St. Paul's RFP responses even-handedly, even those that may be thinking "out of the box" and presenting unique solutions to the St. Paul's impasse—solutions that encompass grant funding, such as "Restore NY," tax credits, and other innovative ways to reduce costs for taxpayers, and yet, bring significant benefits that can be enjoyed by residents for generations to come.

If you feel as strongly about the St. Paul's issue as the Committee to Save St. Paul's, consider writing a Letter to the Editor of the *Garden City News* to express your views.

To read previous issues of *The St. Paul's Sentinel*, log on to our website "News" page.

***The Committee to Save St. Paul's*, P.O. Box 7642, Garden City, NY 11530, www.savestpauls.org**

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