

**Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 11, 2018**

The meeting was held at the Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Library at 517 Western Avenue, New York on January 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Dan Sleasman, President of the Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA), at 6:38 p.m.

Dan Sleasman reported that the balance in the BLNA checking account is currently \$108.84. Mr. Sleasman also stated that many members have not yet renewed their membership and reminded the members present that the renewal is done on an annual basis. Mr. Sleasman also stated that most of the member fees are used for the website, which is \$280 annually. Mr. Sleasman asked Margie Sheehan, editor of the BLNA website, if it is possible to scale back the website or look at lower cost options. Ms. Sheehan stated that it is possible and she will research those options.

Dan Sleasman introduced Officer Brooks of the Albany Police Department, who attended the meeting as a guest. Officer Brooks stated that between December 18 and December 24, 2017 seventy (70) tickets were issued in the BLNA neighborhoods, with 396 tickets issued city-wide during that same time period. Officer Brooks also stated that the Albany traffic division is small, with 4-5 officers during the day, which is much smaller than it used to be several years ago. Dan Sleasman stated that the members are hoping this will change as more patrol officers are needed. Mr. Sleasman asked Officer Brooks if he has seen any change to this now that the new year has begun. Officer Brooks said that the force is still “light,” due to the fact that a lot of officers went to the Neighborhood Engagement Unit and that drained officers away from the regular force. Dan Sleasman commented that all neighborhoods struggle with traffic and safety issues, and we need more officers and more enforcement, and that he is hoping Mayor Sheehan will help to address this.

Dan Sleasman then asked if Officer Brooks could provide an update on the new Chief of the Police Department. Officer Brooks stated that the City is still searching for a new Police Chief, saying that the Chief must live in Albany, and that has been problematic.

One member present asked the following question: Last August there was a press conference held by the Mayor about the St. Peter’s Hospital traffic study; can you tell us what is happening with that? Dan Sleasman stated that this would be covered in Old Business.

Dan Sleasman asked Officer Brooks for a crime report. Officer Brooks stated that the police have recently picked up some kids and others who were caught checking cars in the neighborhood for unlocked doors and garage doors, as well. Officer Brooks reminded those present to always keep house, car and garage doors locked and to keep outside lights on at night. Officer Brooks asked the members present to watch out for anything that doesn’t look right, anyone in the neighborhood who looks suspicious, etc. so that we can help each other maintain a safer neighborhood, and to call the police if they are worried about anything.

## Old Business

Dan Sleasman stated that he has talked to the Mayor's staff representative about a dozen times regarding the traffic study and there has been no progress as of yet. The first time this issue was brought up was at the Mayor's press conference on August 24, 2017. Dan Sleasman asked the members present to call City Hall, Brian Shea or Mayor Sheehan to ask about the study and see if we can get some results. Several members expressed their frustration that the study has not been done yet. One member said that the developers of the New Scotland Village had held a second meeting regarding their development proposal, and during that meeting the developer stated that a traffic study was being done by St. Peter's. There was confusion among the members as to whether this is a different traffic study than the one promised to the BLNA by the Mayor. It was determined that more communication from the City is necessary regarding these traffic studies.

One member stated that due to the fact that the City Council will be reviewing the proposed New Scotland Villages development in the coming months, perhaps it is necessary for members or the BLNA to inquire about the zoning codes for the project. Dan Sleasman said that he would look into that.

Dan Sleasman reminded everyone that the next BLNA meeting will be March 8, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margie A. Sheehan, Secretary of the BLNA, 2017-2018 term.