

AMITYVILLE

Village faces 2 suits over zoning decisions

BY DENISE M. BONILLA
denise.bonilla@newsday.com

Amityville is fighting two lawsuits involving decisions made by its zoning board.

The challenges, filed in Suffolk County Supreme Court, are referred to as Article 78 proceedings. The first case, filed in November, involves a decision by the zoning board to deny permission for HRM Tooling & Design, LLC to operate a fiberglass business at 45 Burch Ave. The second filing was made last month by Robert Glaser Jr. over a denial

for a renewal of a special exemption permit for a two-family house at 51 Berger Ave.

On Nov. 13, 2017, the board of trustees unanimously approved a Hazardous Material of Operations permit for HRM, which is located in an industrial zone. After complaints from neighbors and being issued violations, HRM applied for a certificate of occupancy but was denied by the village, citing that fiberglass product manufacturing is prohibited under village code, according to the lawsuit.

The company filed an appeal with the zoning board, and at a

Sept. 20 hearing, eight residents spoke out against the company, noting noxious smells and health concerns. They also presented a petition signed by 40 residents. The property owners stated that the chemicals used cause cancer only in large amounts, not the amounts used on site. The board voted unanimously to deny HRM's appeal, noting a "detrimental impact on surrounding residential property," according to the minutes from the hearing.

In the lawsuit, the company states it had been given clearance by the state Department

of Environmental Conservation and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to manufacture fiberglass. Attorney Glenn Nugent of Amityville, representing HRM, and Phil Siegel of Hauppauge, representing the village, both declined to comment on the case.

In Glaser's case, he states in the lawsuit that, starting in 2010, the zoning board gave the home, then owned by his grandmother, four two-year permits to be a two-family home. Upon her death, Glaser took over ownership of the house in 2016. Then, last year, Glaser sought

to renew the permit for the house, in which he does not live. After a hearing in which six residents spoke out against the house, citing their belief that more than two families resided there, the board denied the application in September.

Glaser said in the lawsuit that there is "simply no valid reason or explanation" for denying his request.

Glaser's attorney, Bruce Marx of Westbury, declined to comment. Siegel, who so far has been paid \$4,127 by the village for both cases, declined to comment.

BROOKHAVEN TOWN

45,000 LED lights on pace

BY DEON J. HAMPTON
deon.hampton@newsday.com

Brookhaven Town Highway officials say they are on pace to replace all of the town's 45,000 outdated streetlights by the end of next year.

Roughly 11,000 fixtures have been replaced with more energy-efficient lights since 2013, saving more than \$1.1 million in energy costs, highway officials said.

"We are on course to meet our goal," Brookhaven Town Highway Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro said in a statement. "By the end of 2020, we will have replaced every high and low-pressure sodium light in the town."

Efforts ramped up in October after creating the energy-efficient streetlight conversion program, and, since then, roughly 1,000 lights per month have been replaced, officials said.

Brookhaven used nearly 18,000 kilowatts of energy in 2013 for the streetlights but expects to use 14,000 kilowatts this year, highway officials said.

The LED lights are up to 60 percent

more efficient, have an estimated life span of as long as 20 years, a 10-year warranty and require less maintenance, town officials said.

Electric costs for the town were \$3.2 million in 2013, compared to the projected \$2.08 million this year.

"This is real, recurring savings," Losquadro said. "We have managed to bring our costs down year over year."

Brookhaven is using \$900,000 in repurposed federal grant money to replace the fixtures.

Town officials last year asked the U.S. Department of Energy to repurpose the funds that were left over from a \$4 million grant the federal department awarded to Brookhaven in 2009 in part for energy improvements to homes, town buildings and solar programs.

Babylon Town officials last month said it has replaced its 13,354 streetlights with more efficient ones, saving \$1 million annually. The four-month switch-over to LED cost \$3.2 million.

Southampton Town completed its streetlight conversion to LED lights in November.



Car crashes into pole

A woman suffered non-life-threatening injuries Wednesday afternoon when her 2001 Honda sedan crashed into a utility pole at Jericho Turnpike and Elwood Road in Elwood, police said.

You know a good deal when you see one.
How about up to \$2,500 cash?

For a limited time only, when you open and fund a new account, we'll provide you with up to \$2,500 cash and 90 days of commission-free trading.

Learn more at tdameritrade.com/2500offer



See tdameritrade.com/2500offer for offer details and restrictions/conditions. Applies only to equity, ETF or options trades. Contract, exercise and assignment fees still apply. This is not an offer or solicitation in any jurisdiction where we are not authorized to do business. TD Ameritrade, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. © 2019 TD Ameritrade IP Company, Inc.