

Mayor Bucciferro called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Brown, Trustee Cook, Trustee Gray, Trustee Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Board observed a moment of silence of memory of Mark Lansing

WOLF HOLLOW BREWING COMPANY LIQUOR LICENSE

Board discussed the request to waive the 30-day notice requirement for Wolf Hollow Brewing Company; this will allow them to go to the State for liquor license, the project will still go before the planning board for complete review.

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Cook that

Whereas, Wolf Hollow Brewing Company is applying for a liquor license for a property within the Village of Scotia, and

Whereas, the applicant is required to give a 30-Day Advance Notice to the Village which notice has been received by the Village, and

Whereas, the Village has the option of waiving the 30-Day Advance Notice, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees welcomes Wolf Hollow Brewing Company, LLC and waives the 30-Day Advance Notice for an on-premises liquor license at 154B Sacandaga Road, Scotia, NY.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

OVERNIGHT PARKING DISCUSSION

Chief Halbfinger presented the following to the board:

Overnight Parking Prohibited – 3am to 6am

Good evening everyone,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about overnight parking in the Village of Scotia.

As it currently stands, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM. While this prohibition is written into our Village Code, overlooks—or temporary exceptions—have been granted by the Police Department through various methods over the years.

Let me give you a quick timeline of how these overlooks have evolved:

- When I began in 2007, residents would call the Glenville Dispatch Center to request a parking overlook.
- When dispatch responsibilities transferred to the UCC, the process shifted to calling a voicemail box at the Scotia Police Department. Officers would then have to listen to these messages every night and manually compile a list.

- When I became Chief, and with input from our midnight officers—who had the technical know-how—we implemented an online parking overlook request system. This system automatically emails the department every night with a compiled list, streamlining the process significantly and improving efficiency.

Now, while the Village Handbook states that overlooks are for emergencies only and limited to three days, in practice, this policy has not been strictly enforced—neither during my time here, nor well before I joined. In fact, no explanation has been required to request an overlook.

But the real issue lies deeper than just procedure.

Many of the buildings in our Village are older, built in eras—like the 1940s—when off-street parking wasn't a major consideration. A family back then might have had one vehicle, whereas today, a similar household might have three or four vehicles.

Because of that, a complete and absolute prohibition on overnight parking creates real hardship for some residents. And yet, we must also acknowledge why the restriction exists in the first place.

The reasons for prohibiting overnight parking include:

- Enabling street maintenance, including snow removal and cleaning.
- Preventing overnight habitation.
- Discouraging long-term storage of inoperable or broken-down vehicles.
- Helping police more easily identify stolen or abandoned vehicles.
- And ultimately, protecting our residents and their property.

That said, we need to recognize reality: every night, at least 25 vehicles appear on our overlook list. This volume indicates a sustained need for overnight parking exceptions and highlights the disconnect between current code and real-life practice and tells us that change is needed—either in enforcement, policy, or both.

So what are our options?

One possibility is to implement a more formal system for hardship exemptions. For example, we could issue what I'll call a H.O.P.E. Permit—Hardship Overlook Parking Exception. This would formalize the process, set clear expectations, and ensure fairness.

We could look to Ossining, New York, as a reference point. They have a structured program we can adapt to meet our own needs, while making sure any changes remain efficient for officers to enforce.

Other options we might consider:

- Allowing overnight parking year-round, perhaps with seasonal restrictions for snow emergencies.

- Implementing odd/even side parking, rotating based on the date, which balances access with maintenance needs.
- Develop a tiered system:
 - Emergency overlooks
 - Short-term guest overlooks
 - Long-term hardship exceptions (permit-based)

Key Considerations

- Enforcement efficiency: Any new system must be simple and enforceable for officers on patrol.
- Fairness and transparency: Rules should be clear, applied consistently, and easily accessible to residents.
- Balancing needs: We must protect the integrity of Village streets while acknowledging evolving residential parking realities.

In conclusion, it's time for us to revisit this long-standing policy. Our goal should be to balance the needs of residents with the operational needs of the Village, while ensuring the system is transparent, enforceable, and fair.

My original plan was discuss options at a traffic safety committee meeting prior to presenting it to the board but due to current discussions I presented this tonight.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to any questions or feedback you may have.

Board discussed overnight parking options and will review current code and materials regarding permit system provided by the Chief and come up with a plan that best fits Scotia.

ELECTRONIC PARKING TICKET APPLICATION

Chief Halbfinger provided the board with information regarding an electronic parking ticket application to replace the current paper tickets. The system would allow for a more efficient process and potential increase in collections. The Chief will present to the Traffic Safety Committee for their input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gray to enter into executive session to discuss personnel.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Mayor Bucciferro reconvened the meeting at 7:15p.m. with no action.

September 2, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Gray seconded by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting at 7:15p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Gray, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees