

Minutes of the Second Special Parish Assembly of 1978, November 26
Armenian Church of Westchester

On November 26, 1978, a Special Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Westchester was held at St. Andrew's Church Hall at 1:30 p.m. After Der Hayr's opening prayer, Ed Essayan, Parish Council Chairman, conducted the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to consider and vote on the purchase of property in Harrison, New York. The majority of the members present had seen said property during the previous week. Architects Apkar Omartian and George Masoomian both spoke favorably of the 7 acre site with 20 year old twin structures and a pool. One of the structures is a two story house, with 7 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms on the second floor and six rooms on the first floor. The other structure consists of a 3 car garage, a large playroom and an adjoining cabana with two separate showers.

The architects reported that because of its institutional style construction, the structure can be adapted easily to church needs with moderate expenditure. The house has 400 amp service, 5 zone heating system and solid wood ceiling-height doors throughout. On the other hand, there is the lack of thermopane windows, signs of limited water damage and the need for adequate parking facilities.

The asking price is \$330,000, but it is likely to purchase it for \$280,000, with \$95,000 mortgage, which is thought to be assumable at 8½ % rate.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made and seconded that our parish purchase this property on Lincoln Avenue, Harrison subject to three conditions, which include: 1. the approval of purchase by the present assembly, 2. the approval of the Diocese, including the Primate, the Diocesan Council and the Board of Trustees, 3. acquisition of a special exemption for its use as a church to be given by the Town of Harrison. The motion passed with 44 votes in favor, 7 against and 3 abstaining.

In the meantime, it was agreed, in case we encountered serious problems that made it impossible for us to negotiate with the sellers of this property, then this parish should still pursue the option it seems to have with the St. Nersess Seminary property, especially because some of our members still favor that property. To this end, therefore, another motion was made and seconded that this assembly delegate authority to Mr. Suren Fesjian to try informally to negotiate with the St. Nersess Seminary administration to consider selling a part, preferably all, of the Seminary property to our church. 31 members voted in favor of this motion and 6 against. The remaining members had already left the meeting after voting on the Harrison property.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. with a special prayer by Der Hayr.

Recording Secretary

Barbara L. Dorian