

**JULY 12, 2007**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Stuyvesant Town Board held its monthly meeting on July 12, 2007 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Edward Scott, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Bradlee Webster, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also in attendance. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli were absent.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Edward Scott. Motion was carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- ✧ Letter from Columbia Land Conservancy to Supervisor Bertram regarding the development of a focus group of local leaders and a meeting to be held on July 17, 2007.
- ✧ Letter from Wayne Sansbury to Supervisor Bertram regarding the Town Survey.
- ✧ Letter from Brian Frick to the Town Board to clarify his estimate for the Sharptown Road property.

Motion made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster to approve the communications as read, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott. Motion was carried.

Motion to approve the bills was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer. Motion was carried.

**REPORTS:**

***Town Clerk***

In the absence of Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli, the report was presented by Supervisor Bertram. Report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

***Highway Department***

Due to the absence of Highway Superintendent, Bernie Kowalski, there was no report.

***Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer***

Report was read by Supervisor Bertram and is on file with the Town Clerk.

***Dog Control Officer***

Report was read by Supervisor Bertram and is on file with the Town Clerk.

***Planning Board & Zoning Board***

The Planning Board met on June 25<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting there was a Public Hearing on the Kay subdivision application. With no comments from the public or the board the application was approved. There was a final plat review of the Great Oaks Subdivision project – plat was conditionally approved upon the applicant meeting the requirements set forth by Town Engineer. There was a Public Hearing on the Fairland Farm subdivision application. The Board will send a letter to County Highway Dept. regarding the signing and location of the road. The Public Hearing scheduled for Mike & Kris Schrader was rescheduled to July 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a minor subdivision application for property on Schoolhouse Road. The application was accepted and a public hearing was scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Heidi Griffin asked about subdividing her property on 9J – the Board recommended she start with a survey map.

The Zoning Board met on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board discussed the application of the Riverview Café to put an addition on their front deck.

***Greenway Committee***

At this month's meeting Tom Kilcer came and brought information on soils. They discussed the importance of preserving the soils for farming. At the next meeting the committee plans to review the results of the Town Survey.

The next meeting will be July 23, 2007.

### ***Agriculture Committee***

The Stuyvesant Agricultural Committee gave the following to Kristen Gillibrand during her recent visit to the County:

*From Concerned Members of the Stuyvesant AG Committee: Due to the recent turn of events in the pet food industry, we as Americans need to strive to be more concerned about human health risks. These risks are caused by poor food standards from other countries. One great way to address this vital issue, would be to pass a law requiring food packaging to have a specific label of origin. This would be similar to the COOL, country of origin labeling, that is used in the Dairy industry. A way to promote the United States Agriculture would be a label, affixed to food packages.*

*The label would be a US Flag with "Proud to be Produced in the USA" written on it. This label would increase the usage of American grown food because it has higher standards and much stricter regulations. It would also reassure the consumers that what they were buying was safe.*

Based on a complaint of horses in a yard in Stuyvesant Falls, the Ag Committee met with the neighbors regarding their concerns about the horses. The Committee then met with the owners of the horses they didn't realize there was a problem. The Committee recommended that they work harder on the upkeep of their fences and paddocks. The recommendations were well-received.

### ***Recreation Committee***

At the meeting held on July 7, 2007 Willy Janeway came to discuss his recommendations on trails at the Sharptown Road site. The morning of July 28, 2007 committee will meet at the property with Mr. Janeway to go over his recommendations in more detail. The next regular meeting of the Recreation Committee will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2007 at 9:00am at the Town Hall.

There are 52 children signed up for the Kinderhook Playground Program. The program runs Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm. There was a discussion regarding the security of picking the children up without identification. Councilperson Gumaer said she will talk with the Program Director about these concerns. Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone that at last month's meeting the Board agreed to fund the program for up to 40 children, with the money that had been budgeted to the Recreation Account. However, the response has been more than expected so a vote needs to be held to spend the additional money for the 12 kids over the initial. Councilperson Ronald Knott made a motion to pay for the kids who attend the program. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Edward Scott and was carried. The Town will be billed for actual attendance at the end of the program.

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that the pavilion at the playground in the Landing will need to have the roof replaced as well as some of the timbers. He also asked about the plan to extend the chain-link fence. Supervisor Bertram asked Councilperson Knott to get estimates on the materials needed to repair the pavilion. He agreed.

### ***Railroad Committee***

Marilyn Burch gave a financial report and reported that they are trying something new with the coffee on Monday mornings. Not wanting to create problems in the post office, they have moved the coffee table out to the porch.

Mrs. Burch encouraged everyone to come to the Farmers' Market and reminded them that it's more than just fruits and vegetables. There are new and different vendors every week.

Lee Jamison asked for an update on the electrical easement. Town Attorney, Tal Rappleyea responded to her question with a report that he has spoken with Mr. Melville regarding corrections to the easement. He thought they were in agreement and is just waiting for it to be signed.

Marilyn Burch asked about the price for the porta-potty and questioned the \$108.00 per month. There was a discussion about siting a composting toilet permanently. She also said that she will be returning 3 of the 5 cases of books. We will be receiving a refund check.

Councilperson Ronald Knott asked, on behalf of the Railroad Restoration Committee, permission to order additional Railroad Station t-shirts. Supervisor Bertram told the committee to go ahead and order the shirts and thought she had told them previously.

### ***Cemetery Committee***

No report.

### ***Historian***

Town Historian Juanita Knott reported that there are information flyers available for the 2007 Historic Stuyvesant Day. The festivities are in honor of the two fire companies in town and will be held at both. Mrs.

Knott has asked the fire companies to plan their own presentations. She will meet with representatives from each company to hear their respective plans. T-shirts have been ordered with a drawing by Roy Shannon. Shirts from previous years are now available at ½ price. Shirts that are available will be brought to the Farmers' Market for sale.

Supervisor Bertram had asked Mrs. Knott to contact the County Tourism Office regarding the 2009 Celebration. After speaking with the Tourism Office, she learned that there will be no financial help from the State. It was suggested that the Town set a budget for the celebration as well as put together a committee. Juanita showed everyone a flag that was used in 1959 for the celebration, and she suggested that something be done for the 2009 celebration. Supervisor Bertram said that a committee will be created and discussions will begin in the Fall and asked anyone who is interested to contact her.

Supervisor Bertram asked what will be on this year's t-shirts. Mrs. Knott said that Mr. Shannon's drawing shows the cooperation of the two companies.

### ***Old Business***

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone about the presentation that had been made by GAR Associates regarding the proposed re-evaluation. She read a letter from Sole Assessor Howard Gleason recommending that the Town perform a reassessment of properties in the Town of Stuyvesant, work to start in Spring 2008. He reported that his office contact 3 companies for prices to do the work – TSL Company from Buffalo, CLT Company from Connecticut and GAR Associates out of Amherst, NY. TSL has not responded to date. CLT responded with a price of \$110-\$113/parcel x 1050 parcels for a total of \$110,000 – \$113,000. GAR responded with a price of \$70-\$80/parcel x 1050 parcels for a total of \$70,000 - \$85,000. Mr. Gleason has contacted several other towns for references for GAR's work and those references have been very good. Therefore, he recommends that GAR Associates be hired to perform the work of the reassessments for the Town.

Supervisor Bertram reported that this had been discussed at the workshop meeting. She then read the letter and proposal from GAR associates. For 2008 an amount of \$55,000.00 would be due, then in 2009, the remaining \$25,000 for a total of \$80,000. A motion was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to sign the contract with GAR Associates to do the reassessment at \$70-80.00 per parcel or \$70,000 - \$80,000 for the Town. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Edward Scott. The motion was carried.

At the last meeting, Fire Commissioners from the Stuyvesant Fire District #1 came to the Board meeting to discuss dissolving the Protective Districts into one fire district. They found a map that was developed around the same time as the 911 system development that shows the three protective districts. Supervisor Bertram then read a petition from the Board of Commissioners from the Stuyvesant Fire District #1 – it was as follows:

*The Stuyvesant Fire District #1 Board of Fire Commissioners request to dissolve the Kinderhook, Schodack Landing and Stuyvesant Fire Protection Districts. The Board of Commissioners would like to have these protection districts added to the Stuyvesant Fire District #1. Signed by Harold Sager, Secretary; Chairman Warren Leiser; Robert Klingbeil; John Pinkowski; Charles Stiffler; and Ken VanAlstyne.*

Supervisor Bertram asked Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea to briefly go over the process to grant this request. He has researched the laws regarding this process and the Fire Commissioners would file a "consent" with the Town as they have done requesting that the protection districts be dissolved and added to the Fire District. The process to do that now that that request has been received is the Board may schedule a Public Hearing (properly noticed – no more than 20 days and no less than 10 days prior and at least once). At the close of the Public Hearing, if the Board determines it appropriate to dissolve the protection districts, they would make a resolution to do so. The resolution would have to be filed with the County Clerk as well as the NYS Dept. of Audit and Control. Once those filings are complete, the dissolution is final.

There was a brief discussion reminding everyone why this request has been made. There is an inequity between the taxpayers in the "District" vs. the taxpayers in the "protection districts". This merger will create an equity throughout the District.

A motion to accept the petition by the Stuyvesant Fire District #1 Fire Commissioners to dissolve the fire protection districts was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was carried. A Public Hearing was scheduled for Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

### ***New Business***

As Shirley mentioned in her report, the Planning Board is hearing applications on the Fairlands Subdivision. Tal Rappleyea's residence is adjacent to that property so he has decided to recuse himself as the Planning Board Attorney for this application. Supervisor Bertram has spoken with Jason Shaw, a partner of Rappaport, Meyers, Whitbeck, Shaw & Rodenhausen Law Firm in Hudson as to whether or not he would agree to sit-in for that Planning Board application. Supervisor Bertram read a letter from Mr. Shaw dated July 6<sup>th</sup> expressing his

interest in this opportunity and outlining the rates associated with their time involved. The letter is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to hire the Law Firm of Rapport, Meyers, Whitbeck, Shaw & Rodenshausen to represent the Town in the Fairlands Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Edward Scott and carried.

Councilperson Edward Scott reported that he has received two estimates for the new signs entering the Town. One estimate was from Matt's Signs for \$1600 for all 4 signs and durability of approximately 8-10 years. The other estimate was from Graphic Design for \$2264 for 4 signs with the same amount of durability time. The signs will be on the same posts (replacing two that have rotted on Route 9J) and will be laminated. Councilperson Scott passed around a picture of the proposed sign and told everyone that they will be reflective so they can be seen at night also. A motion was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to accept the estimate from Matt's Signs and to hire them to make the 4 signs for \$1600. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer and carried.

Melissa Naegeli is forming a committee to put on a run – the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Run to take place on September 29<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Quadricentennial Celebration.

We thank Faith & John Robertson of Allied Health for donating 3 picnic tables and putting them where they belong. One is on the overlook at the Falls, one is at the Sandbar to replace one that was stolen last year, and one is at the playground in Stuyvesant Falls to replace the one that was stolen from there.

Councilperson Ronald Knott told everyone that he got a note from the NY Planning Federation Office along with the Association of Towns announcing the annual conference and training will be at the Saratoga Hotel & Conference Center on October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Bertram and the Board have set July 31<sup>st</sup> as the end date for receiving Surveys. The Board will go over them at the Workshop Meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Committees will receive copies of their pages to review and the Library information will go to Lee Jamison since she sits on that board.

There will be a grounds clean-up and weeding around the Town Hall on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm.

***Public Comment***

Karen Hummel asked Councilperson Edward Scott to look into power pole #561 with a light out.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster and was seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott. Motion was carried unanimously.

## JULY 2007 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

210	National Grid	1719.02		221	Gempler's	51.95
211	Columbia County Treasurer	4514.45		222	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	212.15
212	Columbia County Sheriff's Office	48.60		223	Chemung Supply Corp.	245.53
213	Carrie O'Hare	14.22		224	Main Care Energy	475.07
214	NYS Town Clerk's Association	50.00		225	Farm Plan	243.27
215	Xerox Corp.	152.38		226	Nextel Partners	96.67
216	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	9.46		227	Fred Cohn, III	700.00
217	Tal Rappleyea	3250.00		228	Yaun Co., Inc.	271.34
218	Morris Associates, PLLC	1444.20		229	Isabelle Bosquet-Morra	86.07
219	Gerald Ennis	14.73		230	Candace Christiansen	63.75
220	Unifirst Corp.	119.79		231	Fairpoint Communication	308.52

Recorded this 12th day of July 2007

Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007

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 TRANSCRIBED BY  
 TOWN CLERK

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 SUPERVISOR

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 COUNCILPERSON

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