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**APRIL 10, 2008**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

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The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on April 10, 2008 at the Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Edward Scott, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Attorney for the Town Tal Rapplelea.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00pm and the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bertram asked for a motion to approve the previous month's minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott, seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and voted on unanimously. The minutes were approved.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Supervisor Bertram read the communications:

- ✧ A letter from the Kinderhook Memorial Library announcing the speaker for the "Speakers in the Humanities" program being held at the Stuyvesant Railroad Station on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Dr. J. Ward Regan will give a lecture on "Feet, Hooves and Rails: Transportation in Nineteenth Century America".
- ✧ An email from Peter Simons – the owner of the home recently hit on the corner of Route 9J and Riverview Street. The letter expressed concerns about the fate of their home (Building Inspector Jerry Ennis spoke here and said that they had already been issued a building permit to repair the damage because there were no structural deficiencies). His letter went on to ask the Board's help in finding a way to eliminate the risk of this type of accident happening again.
- ✧ A letter from the residents of "Keils Lane" in Stuyvesant Falls requesting that the Town officially change the name of the road to "Keils Lane" as opposed to Keil's Road as it is named now – there is a Keil's Road in Stockport and there is a lot of confusion with 911 calls.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to approve the request of the residents and start the process for changing the name of the road. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and carried unanimously. Supervisor Bertram will contact E-911 Director to correct their records – since there is already a sign there "Keil's Lane.

A motion to approve the communications as read was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS:**

### ***Town Clerk***

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli read the report of the Clerk's Office – a copy is on file in her office.

### ***Highway Department***

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that the date for the Spring Townwide Clean Up day will be Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 4:00pm *rain or shine*. He asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to put something in the paper.

He also reported that the highway dept. has been filling in sunken areas around the cemetery and have been cleaning up other areas around Town. Residents from Stuyvesant Manor asked about cleaning the roads and removing the dirt and sand from the winter from their yards. Mr. Kowalski said that if there is too much they would have to hire an outside company to come along and vacuum it up. He would go over to the development and take a look at the situation.

Superintendent Kowalski asked for permission to purchase a new pickup Ford 250 for \$21,893.50 on State Contract – to purchase this vehicle privately it would cost \$32,000. They will purchase a plow locally for approximately \$3949. There is enough money in the equipment fund.

A motion to approve the purchase was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. After a vote of all in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

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

Jerry Ennis reported that he has all of his required education credits for the year completed. He also reported that the Weid lawsuit has been settled. He also gave an inspection report for accident scene at Riverview Street and Route 9J. Mr. Ennis mentioned that the owners had asked about highway barriers being installed in front of the house. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski said that he had asked DOT about that issue but had not gotten a response yet. There was also a question about better signage. There was a brief discussion about the events of the accident and it was agreed that there was nothing that the Town could have done or could do that would have changed the outcome of this accident.

### ***Greenway Committee***

Chairman Ronald Knott reported that the final tally of the results from the survey presented at the public meeting held in March on recreation needs of the Town have been completed. The results in order of voted importance are as follows:

1. Hiking, walking, nature trails
2. Cross Country ski trails
3. Playgrounds
4. Baseball Fields

5. Bike/Roller Blading Path (paved)
  6. Ice skating rink (outdoor)
  7. Tennis, basketball courts
  8. Soccer fields
  9. Horse trails
  10. Hunting
- (final report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office)

The survey went on to show that 65% of those responding said they would support a “recreation fee” assessed on new subdivisions. On the question on whether or not they would support spending town funds to develop or enhance the recreational uses indicated on the survey 48% said NO; 35% said YES, but also apply for grants and 17% said YES – even if grant money is unavailable.

Councilman Ronald Knott asked the board to appoint Michael Naegeli to the Greenway Committee. Mike's knowledge of land use will be an asset and he has been very helpful throughout the sports fields discussions as he has three young boys involved in those activities. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott, seconded by Supervisor Valerie Bertram and carried unanimously. Mr. Naegeli will be notified of his appointment to the Greenway Committee.

The next meeting will be April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Bertram asked if the Greenway Committee is at a point where we should be getting some advice from a planner or an engineer for the comprehensive plan. Councilman Knott responded that he has had brief discussions with the Town Engineer and has received an updated copy of a summary of the discussions that have been held over the years and the findings of the committee of the various meetings. Someone should be contacted soon to try to pull everything together – the new recreational information as well as compilation of results of past work.

Dr. Asbornsen remarked that there were Greenway grants available and Councilman Ronald Knott responded that when the committee reaches a point where they will need to spend money they will certainly look into those opportunities.

### ***Agricultural Committee***

No one from the committee was in attendance but Supervisor Bertram reported that they had met with representatives from GAR Associates. Cathy Knott, the Assessor's Clerk, said there were about 7 seven farmers in attendance and it was discussed how important it was to get accurate information.

### ***Town Hall Committee***

Councilman Ronald Knott said that the lock at the playground shed had to be replaced. There will need to be some work down on the grounds of the Town Hall. The committee will be looking for volunteers to help weed the gardens and put down some mulch. Supervisor Bertram asked about the damage on the soffit from the bees. She asked if we will need an exterminator and Councilmen Ronald Knott and Edward Scott said that the damage can be repaired and

blocked off from the bees. Councilman Edward Scott said that he will bring the pressure washer and clean off the building.

Councilman Knott said that we will need to purchase additional mulch this year. Last year the Board weeded the flower beds and “fluffed” up the mulch but more will need to be added this year. Councilman Edward Scott will get prices for mulch by the truckload.

Supervisor Bertram asked Councilman Scott about the repairs and painting in the town hall. He said that he will repair some of the damage to the walls in the Sheriff’s Office and begin painting the halls.

### ***Railroad Station Restoration Committee***

Marilyn Burch, Committee Secretary, reported that there are several events planned at the station: the Kinderhook Library Book Sale and Lecture will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>; May 9<sup>th</sup> is the opening day of the Farmers’ Market and that evening the Kinderhook Library will hold a movie night – the Hitchcock moving “Strangers on a Train”. On June 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a showing of old postcards during the Farmers’ Market.

Mrs. Burch also reported that the Farmers’ Market will again be able to take WIC and Sr. Nutrition coupons. Marilyn is looking into a report that someone was told they would need a special permit to sell seedlings.

Councilman Ronald Knott requested that the board approve up to \$500 to advertise the different events in the local newspapers that will be held at the station. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve funds for advertising, the motion was seconded Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was voted on unanimously and carried.

Councilman Ronald Knott introduced a new resident – Rich Moran. Mr. Moran is a retired Engineer with interest in historic preservation. Councilman Knott asked the Board to approve the appointment of Mr. Moran to the Railroad Restoration Committee. The motion was made by Supervisor Valerie Bertram, seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and carried after a unanimous vote in favor.

### ***Cemetery Committee***

The highway department has filled in some of the sink holes. The Committee is looking into a request by an abutting property to erect a fence - the length of the fence would be about 180’.

The trees are in good shape with the exception of one old tree down on the corner.

Karen Hummel wanted to let the committee know that she has noticed damage to some stones and statues in the cemetery. Councilman Bradlee Webster said he would go to the cemetery and look at the damage.

Councilman Bradlee Webster said he would look into the price of a fence.

### ***Town Historian***

Mrs. Juanita Knott reported that there is a signed Town Hall copy of the book History of Columbia County. Photograph display will be at the Columbia County Historical Society until the end of April.

A fundraiser is going on to raise money for the 2009 Quadricentennial celebration. There are notecard packets showing 6 of Roy Shannon drawings. The pack is \$10.00 and examples are on the noteboard. The packs are also available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Bertram thanked Mrs. Knott for representing Stuyvesant on the Columbia County Quadricentennial 2009 Committee. Most of the meetings will be held here so we will stay well informed. The Town Committee, made up of Supervisor Bertram, Town Historian Juanita Knott, Karen Hummel and Charlene Leach have met twice to discuss a date for our Quadricentennial Celebration. The date will be September 19-20, 2009. They will be working with a group of Kinderhook and Stuyvesant Falls. Once more plans are made more volunteers will be needed. Although the committee hasn't started discussions on specific events, any ideas would be welcome. Karen Hummel added that the date was chosen based on the Historic Marker on Route 9J. Juanita Knott said that according to history "this was the farthest Henry Hudson could get up the river – somewhere between here and Castleton. The ship was too big to go any further so he would then send smaller ships further North".

#### ***Assessor's Office***

The surveys are coming in. There is a workshop being held on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Town Hall. April 18<sup>th</sup> is the return date for the surveys.

#### ***Recreation Committee***

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer began with making a motion to name the Sharptown Road park after former Councilman Ken Hummel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and voted unanimously in favor. The motion was carried. A formal name will be decided on at a later date.

Letters telling parents about the summer recreation program will be going out in the mail next week.

The ice rink at the Stuyvesant Falls playground will be dismantled. The committee is requesting that the ground be leveled and reseeded. Volunteers will do the work but grass seed will need to be purchased. Highway Superintendent Bernard Kowalski asked that the area remain "mowable". He will go to the playground and assess the work that needs to be done. The materials for the ice rink will be stored in Councilwoman Gumaer's barn.

The Recreation Committee is requesting that the motion made by Councilman Ronald Knott at the March meeting be amended to change the wording regarding the size of the area to be disturbed [wording from March *not more than 3 acres*].

The committee is watching for the OPR Grant applications. There are questions regarding permit requirements for a SPDES Permit.

Councilman Edward Scott asked the Army Corp. of Engineers would have to be consulted before work could begin at the Sharptown Road site. Supervisor Bertram said that would probably have to be part of the grant application process.

The trailbuild at Sharptown Road scheduled for Saturday morning has been cancelled due to the weather. The committee will set another date in May. If anyone is interested in helping contact a committee member.

### ***Old Business***

Supervisor Bertram announced that the acquisition of the Hydroelectric Plant in Stuyvesant Falls by Albany Engineering is complete. Mr. Besha called her the day the acquisition was signed by the judge. The keys were not handed over and they had to use bolt cutters to get in but they are in and clean up has begun. Mr. Besha will be at the May meeting to answer any questions or concerns.

Supervisor Bertram said if anyone has any event ideas for the 2009 Celebration please put them forward. The only plan already set is that there will be fireworks on the closing night.

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli announced that the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Run will be held on Historic Stuyvesant Day this year, August 9<sup>th</sup>. She announced that everyone who participated last year was very enthusiastic about coming back this year. The Albany Runners' Club has already been contracted to run the event again this year. Melissa is working with Town Historian Juanita Knott to coordinate the two events. The hope is that the run will bleed into the Historic Stuyvesant Day events and make a whole day of it.

Juanita Knott said that the Town Quadricentennial committee is discussing a different type of shirt for 2009 and are looking into the availability of the new Town logo.

### ***New Business***

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that she attended the Columbia Bounty Board meeting. They will be having an Agricultural Tour at the end of the June. They would like to come to Stuyvesant for part of the tour to have lunch and to see the Sharptown Road park. Councilwoman Gumaer asked if they would be able to park at the Town Hall to board the bus. Supervisor Bertram asked how many people there would be and there would be a busload.

The Headstart Program is looking for a spot for a classroom to hold 10 kids and teacher and Councilwoman Gumaer was wondering if there was a spot in Stuyvesant. After a brief discussion, there weren't any solid leads.

There was a question about the Beautification Committee and who it was. Supervisor Bertram replied that the Committee had been inactive for a while but it could be reactivated. They could work in conjunction with the Garden Club.

### ***Public Comments***

Ned Depew asked if there was any progress on the reply to the CSX letter. Supervisor Bertram said that we are working on another letter to them. He announced that there is an Albany Group

who would be willing to take over the air quality monitoring project. They have equipment that is mounted on a vehicle and would start with establishing a baseline. They are getting costs for various monitoring options.

Supervisor Bertram introduced Mark Burch as our representative to the County Environmental Management Council Committee. Mr. Burch said that the County Committee is discussing proposals to the County and their meeting is held the last Monday of the month.

Mr. DePew asked that the Board take a position on the widewaters project in Greenport because the IDA is discussing giving them a PILOT Agreement and the taxpayers would have to take up the slack. Supervisor Bertram said that the Board had already sent a letter to the County Planning Board asking for the SEQRA. Mr. DePew asked if the Board would pass a resolution against the PILOT agreement. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea suggested asking the County IDA to have a representative come to a meeting to answer questions regarding this proposal. Supervisor Bertram said she would look into that possibility.

Dr. Matthew Asbornsen said that he objected to the “truncated” format of the March meeting – the limiting of committee reports. His main objection was that the Recreation Committee didn’t have an opportunity to give a 1-year summary and that Councilwoman Gumaer didn’t have beforehand knowledge of the motion made by Councilman Knott. Supervisor Bertram said that it certainly wasn’t planned that way, that it was just the direction that the meeting took. She is confident that disagreements have been resolved.

Mrs. Maul thanked Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and the Recreation Committee for their work over the past year.

Karen Hummel addressed a few issues raised during this section of the meeting. She asked if the Albany School of Engineering would require money to do the air monitoring and asked if there would be grant money available. She asked Mr. DePew if he could get the Town some press in the Berkshire Home Style magazine for which he is a writer. Mr. DePew said yes, he could. Mrs. Hummel then publicly thanked Dr. and Mrs. Asbornsen and the Town Board for naming the park after her late husband, Councilman Kenneth Hummel.

Stuyvesant Fire Company #1 Chief Steve Montie encouraged everyone to visit the new fire company website – there is a link on the Town website. He reminded everyone that the annual Roast Beef dinner will be held at the Stuyvesant fire house on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 4pm.

Richard Frick announced that the Stuyvesant Falls chicken barbeque will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30pm to 7pm.

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that he has had a discussion with John Regan of the LaFarge Plant regarding the difference in the numbers reported for emissions. There is no standardized testing and the state is looking at both sides of the issue.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

## APRIL 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

88	US Postal Service	256.30	108	Mario's Home Center	40.07
89	National Grid	2023.63	109	Hudson Electrical Supply	231.89
90	Fairpoint Communications	328.22	110	Culligan	27.00
91	Columbia County Treasurer	4882.30	111	Northern Safety	96.09
92	Kingston Oil Supply Corp	1083.90	112	Main Care Energy	4418.19
93	Empire Alarms	21.95	113	ATR Trucking	1795.60
94	US Postal Service	21.95	114	Colarusso Quarry Co	6680.34
95	Kinderhook Bank	12,450.00	115	Stuyvesant Fire District #1	304.68
96	Mark Fitzgerald	155.44	116	Terry Haggerty	473.26
97	Col Co Sheriff's Office	58.60	117	CarQuest of Valatie	31.09
98	City Locksmith	4.00	118	Mooradians	73.75
99	Howard Gleason	120.00	119	Unifirst Corp.	75.46
100	Melissa Naegeli	125.50	120	Columbia Tractor	98.14
101	Xerox	425.30	121	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	37.10
102	Tal Rappleeya	3218.75	122	Applied Industrial Technology	131.12
103	The Independent	109.25	123	Zwack, Inc.	342.53
104	Johnson Newspaper Corp	48.16	124	Northeast Auto Parts, Inc.	79.98
105	Schodack Septic	108.00	125	Marchese Ford	133.00
106	NexTel Partners	46.35			
107	Rainbow Distributors	5.94			

Recorded this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2008

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2008

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TOWN CLERK

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SUPERVISOR

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COUNCILPERSON

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