

JULY 9, 2009
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, and Councilman Bradlee Webster, Councilman Edward Scott and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea were not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve previous minutes was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from the Columbia County Office for the Aging regarding their new senior newsletter called "Elder Express".

A letter from the Columbia County Dept. of Public Works approving the closure of Route 26A for the Ken Hummel 5K Run on August 8th.

A Public Notice from the Town of Stockport regarding the creation of a Development District.

A letter from the Twin Rivers Council, Inc. asking for a donation. A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to make a \$50.00 donation. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and it was voted on. The motion was approved unanimously.

A letter from the Columbia County Planning Board announcing a workshop being held on July 29th at the Columbia Greene Community College regarding "Common Mistakes to Avoid in the SEQRA and Land Use Processes". Supervisor Bertram asked that copies be made for everyone on the Planning and Zoning Boards.

A letter from the Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District regarding Mud Creek and educational programs available. Supervisor Bertram gave the information to Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer who will look into possibly organizing a program at the Ken Hummel Park.

A letter from Town Engineers Morris Associates. The letter was an announcement of their moving their offices.

SPECIAL GUEST

Chris Benfield, from Boy Scout Troop 113 came before the Board with a proposal for a project that he will use for his Eagle Scout Project. His proposal is to make some renovations at the Overlook Park in Stuyvesant Falls. He (with assistance from Troop Leader Dr. Steven Krizar and other scouts) will replace the chain link fence with a split-rail fence (this has been okayed by the insurance company) and will paint the new fence. He will also paint the existing woodwork that surrounds the picnic area. His estimated total cost for the project will be under \$600.00 and expects to be finished with the work by July 25th.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to approve the expenditure of up to \$600.00 for the materials to make the renovations proposed by Mr. Benfield at the Overlook Park. His motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and it was voted. The motion was approved unanimously. Supervisor Bertram thanked Chris for his work on the proposal and wished him luck in achieving his Eagle Scout rank.

Supervisor Bertram also took this opportunity to thank Jean Hewig (not in attendance) for her work around the grounds of the Town Hall.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

Melissa Naegeli read her report and it is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Melissa Naegeli also reported that the Town has received over \$500 to date in sponsor money for the Ken Hummel 5K race in addition to registrations that have been coming in. She reminded everyone that all sponsors and volunteers are welcome.

Melissa Naegeli also took the opportunity to thank Supervisor Bertram and the Board for their including a program for the Town Children and for funding them going to the Kinderhook Playground. It works out to be a very successful program for everyone.

Highway Department

Superintendent's Kowalski was not in attendance. Supervisor Bertram read a brief report supplied by Jeff Altomer, Deputy. She read that trees are being trimmed, the equipment and roads are being prepared for the chip sealing process that will begin on Monday and the roadsides are being trimmed.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

Report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

No Report.

Planning/Zoning Boards

No report.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that representatives from Scenic Hudson were at the last meeting and they were working on updated maps of protected lands in the Town. He then read a letter of thanks from them for being included in the meeting.

Councilman Knott reported that the Committee has completed the first draft of the Survey they would like to send out. The draft has been distributed to the Board members for review and comment. Councilman Knott said that other towns have used professional help in analyzing the results when the surveys are returned. He will contact some of those professionals and have a cost analysis prepared for the August meeting.

The next Greenway Meeting will be held on July 30th at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Agriculture Committee

No Report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Edward Scott announced that work on the pavilion roof and the small utility building at the Landing Playground is complete. He thanked Jack Cirro, Billy Sager and his son, Tom Pinkowski, Anthony Guido, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Councilman Ron Knott and Dave Eberwine. He reported that the next work will be to stain the woodwork on the pavilion, seal the blacktop underneath, replace the vents, and paint the picnic tables. Councilman Scott said they are still working on the boxes for the garbage cans.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Councilman Knott began by thanking Marilyn Burch for her work on the Farmers' Market. He then reported that the grant process is moving along and is getting close to going out to bid. The architects have completed the project manual and Councilman Knott is working with Town Engineer, Ray Jurkowski, to get the project ready.

Councilman Knott also reported that Marilyn Burch had taken a collection from the vendors at the market and had collected \$150.00 toward advertising and she was asking the Board to approve a matching amount. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the \$150.00 matching funds for advertising. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and it was voted on. The motion was approved unanimously.

Cemetery

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that all is quiet.

Historian

Supervisor Bertram read a report by Town Historian Juanita Knott. Her report reminded everyone that Historic Stuyvesant Day will be August 8th and will begin with the Ken Hummel 5K Race. There will be a Park Dedication at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park at noon and a dedication of the kiosk and Overlook Park at 3pm in Stuyvesant Falls. Mrs. Knott is also proposing a “brownie bake off” to be judged at the Overlook Park dedication.

Supervisor Bertram said that she will be meeting with Karen Hummel to plan out the dedication of the park and that other members of Ken Hummel’s family will be involved as well.

Karen Hummel shared a picture of the commemorative pins that the Quadricentennial Committee has designed and are being made. The pins will be available on Historic Stuyvesant Day. Mrs. Hummel also announced that the program for the Quad Weekend will be final after the Committee meeting on July 18th.

Mrs. Hummel reported that the Town was mentioned in the Columbia County Council on the Arts’ newspaper “Arts Alive”. It was in reference to the art show “Take Me To The River” that will be held in the Town Hall on September 20th from 10:00 – 4:00. There will be a reception planned for the evening of the 19th.

The complete report is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Assessor’s Office

Supervisor Bertram reported that she and Assessor Howard Gleason had a final wrap-up meeting with representatives from GAR, the NYS ORPS, and the Columbia County ORPS. They reviewed the process, discussed what worked well and not-so-well. GAR offered assistance in the review process next year. Supervisor Bertram said that she was pleased with the many opportunities that were available to residents to be prepared and educated on the process.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that the Committee met on June 30. They were wrapping the registration for the playground program and the count is around 50 children. Melissa Naegeli mentioned that there were 2 more children that had just found out about the program. She said she sent the information to Michelle Richardson but had told the family that someone would contact them. Councilwoman Gumaer said that she also had another one that came in late and that since there were only 50 children the extra 3 should be able to be added. She said she would contact those families.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that she had been having conversation with the Playground Director about having some programs in the Ken Hummel Park. She said he asked her to contact him again after the first week of the program was over when he would have a better idea of registration numbers. Councilwoman Gumaer said she would call him again with the information received from the Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation about educational programs.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that the 4th of July family picnic at Ken Hummel Park was attended by a small number but that it was a nice day. The trails were not too wet and the parking lot was fine.

Councilwoman Gumaer announced that the Recreation Committee will have equipment for games and activities for after the dedication of the park on August 8th. The Committee is also planning a baseball game and other kids’ activities to be held at the VFW on Sept. 19th.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that the Childrens’ Community Garden in the Stuyvesant Falls Playground is going well. Cal Burch had dug a trench through the raised bed to allow for the rain water to drain off. The plants are growing well.

Supervisor Bertram asked Councilwoman Gumaer and the Recreation Committee to begin pricing a pavilion to be built at the Park. She also asked that they look into the prices of picnic tables.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had received information from the NYS Parks & Recreation that the 2009 Grant Programs are undergoing significant changes in requirements and amounts. There will be a workshop on July 28th in Poughkeepsie.

Melissa Naegeli asked Councilwoman Gumaer if the Recreation Committee was all set for the children during the 5K Race. Councilwoman Gumaer said they were.

The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held August 1st at 9:00am at the Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had received a call from Gene Kelly – DEC, Region 4 Director asking to meet a new program. Supervisor Bertram and Councilman Knott met with Mr. Kelly and other representatives on July 9th. DEC is proposing a new partnership and management system for Towns and properties along the Hudson River. Members of the Partnership will include DEC, Scenic Hudson, OGS and other government entities. The Town of Stuyvesant has approximately 9 miles of shoreline and DEC and the partnership are offering a management program for signage, species identification, eagle habitat information, etc. DEC assured Supervisor Bertram that this isn't a "land grab" but an offer of assistance in maintaining the shoreline.

Supervisor Bertram said that she took this opportunity to reiterate the Town's concern over access to the River, the flooding on Ferry Road and the erosion of Ferry Road.

Supervisor Bertram reported that the Air Monitor is hooked up and there is a link to real-time results on the Town webpage.

Councilman Edward Scott reported that he has spoken with Jim Romanchuk who will fax a list of materials for the kiosk for the Ken Hummel Park. Councilman Scott will purchase the materials and the kiosk will be built on-site. Supervisor Bertram said she will ask Kathy Schneider to assist in the information for the kiosk.

Councilwoman Gumaer asked about the signs for the park. Councilman Scott reported that the signs are being worked on and should be completed in 1 to 1½ weeks.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she and Tal Rapplelea met with the Attorney General's Office regarding the CSX bridge. Supervisor Bertram read a letter from Tal Rapplelea with the updates from the meeting. The letter is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Knott reported that there will be an informational meeting in the Kinderhook Village Hall with the NYS Building Inspectors and the DEC regarding the regulation of outdoor wood boilers. The meeting will be held on July 23rd at 7pm. There will be samples of local laws regulating the siting of the systems, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stuyvesant Fire Company #1 Chief Steven Montie reported that the Company had recently been called out to rescue three people that had become "stuck" out on a rock at the sandbar in Stuyvesant Falls. He wanted to remind everyone that there is no swimming allowed at the sandbar.

A discussion ensued regarding the swimming issues at the sandbar. The Town leases the beach and picnic area from Allied Health and that there are "no swimming" signs posted. The Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company uses the area for truck fills so closing the area is not feasible. Mr. DePew suggested the Town contact its insurance company to investigate the cost of insuring the area for swimming. Supervisor Bertram explained that we do not own the area and that the Town had explored that option several years ago.

Mr. Richard Moran asked if burn barrels were legal. Supervisor Bertram explained that while there were NYS Laws against burning garbage, the Town had no restrictions on burning leaves, papers, cardboard, etc. She also explained that if there were problems with burning materials that were restricted it should be addressed to the police.

Councilman Bradlee Webster announced that the Stuyvesant Fire Company will host the Fort Crailo Band for a free concert on July 30th 7pm -9pm. Hot dogs and soda will be available for purchase.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Recorded this 9th Day of July 2009

Approved this 13th Day of June 2009

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON