

July 13, 2006

The Stuyvesant Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on July 13, 2006 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Kenneth Hummel, Councilperson Bradlee Webster, Councilperson Ronald Knott and Town Clerk Lori Ennis.

Superintendent of Highways Bernard Kowalski, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer Gerald Ennis, Town Attorney David Ross were also present.

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Kenneth Hummel, approved.

**COMMUNICATION:**

- **Columbia County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board** 6/1/06 endorsed the Town of Stuyvesant Grant Proposal for the funding the purchase of Development Rights on the property of George and Marie Allen. This endorsement is for the RFP at this time in the Town of Stuyvesant.
- **Notice from the United States Tennis Association and the Columbia County Youth Bureau.** Announcing tennis lessons being offered at ICC during the month of August. Announcement is posted in the Town Hall lobby.
- **Lafarge Plant** - Although not technically correspondence, Supervisor Bertram read the letter and resolution to William J. Clarke at the Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the Town's opposition to the Lafarge Tire Burning Plant. This resolution was adopted at the June Board Meeting. A copy of letter and resolution are available in the Clerk's Office. Supervisor Bertram announced that the resolution is also available on the Town's website.

A motion to accept the communications as read, and be brought up under proper heading, was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, carried.

**REPORTS**

**TOWN CLERK:**

- In the Month of June, the Town Clerk collected \$2300.50 of which \$2185.83 was given to the Town Supervisor.
- Introduced Melissa Naegeli as the new Deputy Town Clerk.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

- Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski attended a class on Emergency Management. Homeland Security requires that municipalities adopt this program to be eligible for any grants regarding any major incidents. Everyone in the County will be grouped together and we will have to do a resolution. A test needs to be taken before a resolution can be made.
- Took in \$675 for scrap metal (10 tons) that the Town turned in from Dumpster Day. This amount did not cover our costs. There may have been a couple hundred tires at \$3-\$5/tire.

**CEO/ZEO REPORT:**

- Office took in \$700 in June.
- Building Inspector Ennis created a new file on the computer, this file can be used to cross reference materials by tax number and/or building permit number. This will make it easier for the Town to pull up information regarding a Certificate of Occupancy, building permits, or any violations. Building Inspector Ennis is considering going back through the files to include older information.
- Building Inspector Ennis attended another three day session of school this month will be finished in August. It has taken 18 months to complete.

**DOG CONTROL OFFICER:**

- Report is on file with the Town Clerk.

**PLANNING AND ZONING:**

- Report is on file with the Town Clerk

**RAILROAD RESTORATION:**

- Had a work party last Saturday (July 8<sup>th</sup>). Marilyn Burch, Councilmen Kenneth Hummel and Ronald Knott cut brush down on the point to increase visibility for the Farmer's Market. Bernie picked up all of the brush and cut down some lower limbs on the small trees. There will be a meeting next Saturday morning (July 22<sup>nd</sup>). Councilperson Hummel spoke with Jeff Baker, architect for the railroad station, who hopes to be able to attend the meeting. He is checking into historic paint colors. The committee will start scraping and hopefully get some of the trim painted once a color has been chosen.
- Councilperson Hummel reported that "Thank You" notes with photographs are going out to the people who opened their homes for the house tour. These notes will be hand delivered by the committee.
- The committee thanked the Highway Department for picking up the brush.
- There is a port-a-potty at the station to be used for the Farmer's Market, railroad station committee members, boaters or anyone who is down there and will remain opened to the public for the summer.
- Supervisor Bertram spoke with DOT regarding the status of the railroad grant. She let them know that the scope of the project has changed. This will be discussed further with the Railroad Committee.
- The next meeting will be 9:00 am on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Railroad Station.

**FARMERS MARKET:**

- Is going very well. It is well attended and has been very busy. The Town Board would like to thank Marilyn Burch for this excellent community project.

**TOWN HALL COMMITTEE:**

- Councilperson Hummel stated that there is no news to report on the shed. The mulch around the trees is almost done, probably one more day and the project will be finished. Supervisor Bertram thanked Councilmen Kenneth Hummel, Ronald Knott, and everyone else who helped with the

mulching. It was decided that the committee will not do the island as previously discussed.

- The date for the work at the Town Hall will be posted on the website. Councilperson Hummel said to let him know if anyone would like to help and he will call when there is a scheduled date.
- Councilperson Ronald Knott requested that the thermostat be moved from the Clerk's Office to the hallway. The board decided that this would be beneficial to all at the end of the building.

#### **AGRICULTURE**

- Report is on file with the Town Clerk.
- Discussion was held regarding questions outlined in minutes. Supervisor Bertram said that since the repeal there is nothing new going on with the Animal Trespass Law. Supervisor Bertram also said that the Town Board would like the Agriculture Committee's views on the PDR. There was a discussion regarding appointments to the Greenway Committee. Councilman Knott, Chair of the Greenway Committee, stated that Gale Bury and Brian Chittenden are the farmer representatives on the Committee.
- Supervisor Bertram had a conversation with Brian Chittenden regarding land use moratoriums and that the farmer's don't necessarily think it's a good thing. This is an example of having a different perspective on a zoning issue.

#### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**

- Everything is going well. A meeting was held with Tom Barber to take a look at the trees. Superintendent Kowalski put the new sign up and did a nice job.

#### **GREENWAY COMMITTEE:**

- Minutes from meeting are on file with the Town Clerk.
- Do we want to continue to call it the Greenway Committee? Everyone knows it as that so we'll leave it.
- There was a discussion with the public regarding appointments to the Greenway Committee.

#### **WEB SITE:**

- Supervisor Bertram gave a few updates on the website:
- She met with Mark Kelly, our technical partner on the website, with a need to update the Committee's Page that has been under construction since we booted up the website so there will be changes made over the next few weeks, some of which he has already started. He has the dates and times for committee meetings, their goals and updates on their progress. Mark has been doing the web page work at no charge.
- Mark has recommended a web-hosting package, which is website storage, using Network Solutions. There is an annual fee of \$156, which if paid annually includes the cost of registering the domain (Stuyvesant.ny.us). That package also includes 10 email addresses (sub-domains) and we could provide sub-access to local civic groups (churches, firehouse) at no cost to those organizations. Supervisor Bertram asked for approval from the Board to go ahead and purchase the package. We will have to reach out to the local organizations to let them know about it.

- If anyone else has any ideas of things that should be changed or added to the website please let the Board know. Some errors (telephone numbers) have been found and discussions are being held as to other things to put on the site (i.e., building permit forms). The Zoning Map is on the page now.
- A suggestion was made by a member of the public for local laws to be put on the website. Another suggestion was to put a list of fees on the site. Lori Ennis, Clerk, asked that if anyone has any pictures they would like to include on the website from any committee or community activities. Councilman Ronald Knott asked that if anyone had a community event they would like posted they should email the information to the Town address. A contact person will be established.

#### **RECREATION:**

- The summer program started on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and currently they are averaging 7 kids. The amount of attendees is low but the staff doesn't mind. The kids are enthusiastic and they have several trips planned. If anyone has a talent or craft that they would like to give a couple of hours to the program it would be appreciated. In the case of bad weather the program will be held in the Town Hall building as opposed to canceling as we have done in the past.
- The tennis court was repaved. We are trying to get someone to repaint the lines on it and the two basketball courts which were repaved last year.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Mobile Home Law**

- An open discussion was held on the Mobile Home Law and a Public Hearing will be scheduled for the August meeting or another date in August.
- Councilman Ronald Knott gave an overview of the reasoning behind changing the old Mobile Home Law and the things they looked at changing or updating (i.e., the increase in size of the newer mobile homes vs. the sizes in the 1960s). While going through the process of the Palladino Mobile Home Park project the committee noticed a lot of things that needed to be reviewed and changed. Ned DePew asked why the Town was mandating the way a "Park" should be set up (in the new Law it mandates that the front of the trailer face the road) and thought that it was unnecessarily restrictive. Councilman Ronald Knott explained that it was basically for aesthetic reasons. Councilman Kenneth Hummel added that when people start adding porches and decks on to their trailers in a traditional park set-up the living quarters become too close. Councilman Brad Webster asked that if the dimensions of the lot would determine the location of the trailer. Councilman Ronald Knott explained that with these requirements we are mandating the size and dimension of the lots as well as the orientation of the trailer.
- Some things have been changed are the licensing processes; the approving boards (Planning/Zoning Boards vs. Town Board); set back requirements; and parking upgrades. The Committee also looked the Law in relation to "Construction Mobile Homes" and an extension on their permitted use from 1 year to 2 years with no renewal option.

- There was language added regarding a 30 consecutive day maximum use of "recreational use vehicles" a/k/a "travel trailers". Ned DePew thought that the 30 days were too restrictive and that it would adversely affect people at the Boat Club. There is wording in the State Assessor's Code regarding the number of days that someone can consecutively use a travel trailer. Building Inspector, Jerry Ennis and Councilman Ronald Knott said they believed the State's number was 59 days. After that time period, if there is a complaint about the trailer it can be added to the assessment roll.
- Councilman Ronald Knott read the wording of "Recreational Vehicles" as described in the beginning definitions of the new law.
- David Ross, Town Attorney, suggested that a better definition of "Temporary Construction Mobile Home" and set them apart.
- Changes that are being made to the Mobile Home Law can be made separate from changes being considered to the Zoning Law.
- Jerry Ennis, Building Inspector, has made a list of concerns regarding the Zoning Law in relation to day-to-day problems that arise. Supervisor Bertram pointed out that if and when we make major changes to the Comprehensive Plan changes will have to be considered to the Zoning Law. She also said that she didn't want there to be discussion without the public having adequate time to look at the proposals. Next month we can hand that out and discuss it then.
- A Public Hearing on the proposed changes to the Mobile Home Law is scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm before the next Town Board meeting.
- There was a question from the public regarding when the Moratorium was up. David Ross, Attorney, explained that it was 3 months from filing date after the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to do the domain change on the website, it was seconded by Councilperson Brad Webster and carried unanimously. Supervisor Bertram will take care of contacting Mark Kelly to make that change.

#### **HydroElectric Plant:**

- Senator Schumer was at the Hydro Plant site at the invitation of the Engineering Firm. He was there to discuss the progress of the plant. The paperwork has been filed to start the Eminent Domain process.

#### **Stuyvesant Boat Launch:**

- Supervisor Bertram met with an Aide to Congressman Sweeney regarding the Boat Launch and bridge scenario. She took them a lot of information from the files from the over the last 16 years. We are carrying on the fight and struggle to get this project done. They were very receptive to the project. The next step will be for the Supervisor to have a meeting with DEC and she expects that will be scheduled in the next several weeks. DOT has indicated that the bridge was on their work schedule for 2007.

Supervisor Bertram thanked everyone for the open discussions that were held during the meeting. She said it was nice to be able to handle things in this way.

The Supervisor asked if there were any comments from the public. Ned DePew thanked the Board for the Resolution regarding the LeFarge Tire Burning Plant but is concerned that it wasn't enough. He wished there had been more opportunity for the Public to review it before it was completed. Mr. DePew asked that the Board consider another resolution specifically asking NYS DEC to revoke the permit and to do an Air Quality Review.

Juanita Knott, Town Historian, has made some flyers for Historic Stuyvesant Day. This year the theme is "Celebrating Newton Hook Businesses". The picnic will be at the Newton Hook Ferry Dock. Those planning to attend should bring a covered dish to share. There will be commemorative t-shirts for sale and they will have a Roy Shannon sketch of an early ferry. The celebration will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August (August 12<sup>th</sup>). We will have to notify the railroad that there will be a picnic that day and people will be crossing the tracks. Rose Heintz said that her yard could be used for parking and people could be shuttled to the point.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Councilperson Kenneth Hummel, seconded by Councilperson Brad Webster, unanimously carried.

The meeting was closed with a moment of silence in memory of John Kowalski, a former Supervisor of our town.

## 2006 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

198	Bernie Kowalski	21.58	220	Nova	15.00
199	Metz Wood Harder	150.20	221	Fred Cohn III	650.00
200	Rainbow Dist. Co	11.88	222	Col. Co. Treas	3889.43
201	Nextel Partners	52.50	223	Col.Co. Sheriff	148.53
202	Mario's Home Ctr	429.64	224	Carrie O'Hare	14.56
203	Davis Tractor	82.93	225	Morris Assoc	98.00
204	Columbia Tractor	235.78	226	Tal Rappleyea	3575.00
205	CarQuest/Valatie	350.82	227	Farm Plan	54.16
206	VanKleeck's	541.75	228	Maple Ln Nurs.	600.00
207	Tractor Supply	356.52	229	B. Sutherland	67.20
208	Long Oil Heat	2288.08	230	COARC	27.50
209	Keil Equipment	239.70	231	Joseph Bruno	380.68
210	Capital Tractor	2024.36	232	Mark Fitzgerald	143.20
211	Hudson Vall Gas	70.00	233	Staples	407.11
212	Albany Commun.	80.00	234	Inde News	19.12
213	Unifirst Corp	206.40	235	L's Silkscreen	454.00
214	Colarusso Quarry	198.34	236	Empire Alarms	212.95
215	Gorman Bros.	70858.20	237	Schodack Septic	216.00
216	Ray Hempstead	196.53	238	Nat'l Grid	1655.76
217	George Knott	322.20	239	CC Solid Waste	260.40
218	Hudson Valley	53.38	240	David Ross	12,420.00
219	Berkshire Tel	273.97			

Recorded this 13th day of July 2006

Approved this 10th day of August 2006

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TOWN CLERK

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SUPERVISOR

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COUNCILPERSON

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