

March 8, 2007
Town Board Meeting

The Stuyvesant Town Board held its monthly meeting on March 8, 2007 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Richard Cummings, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Bradlee Webster, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer and Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli. Superintendent of Highways Bernard Kowalski was also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A letter from Time Warner Cable announcing a change in channels.
- A letter from Time Warner Cable announcing a change in rates.
- A letter from the USDA with the 2006 Progress Report.
- A meeting notice from the Hudson River Valley Greenway - meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007.
- A letter from Erin Carroll expressing interest in the Dog Control Officer position.
- A letter from Fran Martino regarding the formation of a watershed protection group for the Kinderhook Watershed and a meeting to be scheduled.
- A letter from Town Justice, Carrie O'Hare, notifying the Town Board that she recently co-authored an article that has received worldwide publication.
- A letter of resignation from Richard Cummings, effective immediately. Supervisor Bertram said that the Board has accepted his resignation with regret. Councilperson Bradlee Webster said it had always been a pleasure with Councilperson Cummings. Everyone stood and applauded the work that Councilperson Cummings has done over the years.

A motion to accept correspondence as read was made Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, carried.

Motion made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to pay bills, seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, carried.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

In the month of February, the Town Clerk's Office took in \$159.00 and gave Supervisor Bertram \$45.90.

Highway Department

Superintendent Bernard Kowalski reported that the plows have been out 16 out of 22 days.

Received payment for paving part of Eichyush road - about \$21,000.

Asked for approval to award the tree removal contract for the cemetery to Hudson Valley Tree Service - they are going to be at least \$800 less than everyone else. A motion was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster to award them the contract, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, carried. Superintendent Kowalski will notify them of the award and will discuss a timeframe for the work to be performed.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there were plans for a garbage day in the Spring. Superintendent Kowalski said he will check when it was last year and will probably schedule it for May. There will be a date at the next meeting.

The Highway Dept. is working on reinforcing the new mower.

Supervisor Bertram commended the Highway Department on their efforts at keeping the roads clear through the snowstorms and blowing snow.

Councilperson Ronald Knott thanked Superintendent Kowalski for attending the Public Hearing for the Colarusso gravel mines.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Report is on file with the Town Clerk.

Planning Board

Secretary Shirley Narzynski reported that the last meeting was held on February 26, 2007. A minor lot adjustment for Pinkowski was approved.

Zoning Board

Secretary Shirley Narzynski reported that the last meeting was held on February 27, 2007. A public hearing for the Kay Area Variance was scheduled for March 27, 2007. There was a public hearing for a variance from Rybka - variance was approved. There was also a public hearing for a sign variance request from Narzynski - variance approved.

There are training seminars upcoming for Planning and Zoning Board members.

Supervisor Bertram discussed the best way to track the 4-hour per year educational requirements for the members. It was determined that their completion certificates should be given to the Planning & Zoning Board Secretary, Shirley Narzynski, to keep on file. Councilperson Ronald Knott asked that the Board adopt a resolution that the members are checked yearly. There will be a resolution at the next meeting. Councilperson Bradlee Webster asked what the ramifications are if the training requirements are completed. There were options discussed that can be put into the Town Resolution.

Greenway Committee

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that the Committee was discussing agricultural issues. He read a resolution expressing the Town's support of PDRs - it is the policy currently in existence for the Town. There were also discussions regarding well placements and the effect on farms. The committee would like to invite the Town Engineer to a meeting to discuss these concerns.

Committee Members Charlene Leach and Councilperson Ronald Knott will be attending the Hudson River Valley Greenway meeting in Albany on March 14, 2007.

The next meeting will be March 29, 2007 and the topic will be Economic Development.

Motion made to adopt the resolution as read was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, carried.

Recreation

The recreation committee had two meetings since the last Board meeting. The approved minutes from the meeting on February 17th are on file in the Clerk's Office.

At the meeting held on March 3rd, plans for the new Town Park were discussed. Assemblyman Gordan's office has awarded a member-item grant of \$5000 to be used for the road and parking area. Money will be disbursed upon the passage of the State Budget. Superintendent Kowalski and the highway department will do the work. It is estimated that it will cost between \$10,000 - \$12,000.

Brian Frick came to the meeting, was very helpful with information on making fields, and will get an estimate together.

Sean Cummings has been researching a grant from the NYS Department of Parks & Recreation. The value of the land can be used as our portion in the grant request. Brian Frick has agreed to help Sean work on this grant request. The deadline for the grant request is June 1, 2007.

The committee has put together a one-page piece for the Town Newsletter that will be going out.

The possibilities for the summer recreation were also discussed. Feedback has been requested via the newsletter on the summer program. The committee will also be contact surrounding towns to see what could possibly be offered by them.

The committee thinks it would be a good thing to have an inventory of public lands.

An extensive discussion between Board members and the public ensued regarding a motion to go ahead and start the road and parking area since we have a promise from Assemblyman Gordon's office for the \$5000. A motion was made by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer to give Superintendent Kowalski the permission to go ahead to start the access project. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, with a warning to the committee to keep an eye on the expenditures. Councilperson Bradlee Webster asked that stipulation be added that if they member item money doesn't come through that the money will be included in the Grant Request to the NYS Department of Parks & Recreation. The motion was carried.

Supervisor Bertram took this opportunity to update everyone on the vandalism at the Stuyvesant Falls playground. She has spoken with Captain Benzinger of the State Police as well as the original Trooper involved. After clearing up a misunderstanding of the situation, it was decided that when the weather warms up the Trooper will escort the offending teens to the playground to clean up the vandalism.

Railroad Committee

Karen Hummel started with expressing her regret over the resignation of Councilperson Richard Cummings and mentioning that he and his wife, Kelly, were original members of the Railroad Restoration Committee and they will be missed.

Mrs. Hummel reported that there will be an Art Show at the Railroad Station June 8, 9 & 10th. Most of the 30 local artists invited have said yes and will each provide 2 works of art. There will be a reception on Friday night (8th) that will coincide with the Farmers' Market. John Morra will be offering a workshop on Saturday (9th) with all of the money collected being donated back to the project. On Sunday (10th) Lee Jamison will host a reception for the participating artists.

Kate MCleoud is working on a book signing, lecture and reception on May 19th. The author of the book "Hudson River Ruins" will be on hand. The Stuyvesant Railroad Station restoration is mentioned in the book. The price of the book is

Sharon Hall reminded everyone of the Kinderhook Library Book Sale being held April 20th & 21st at the Railroad Station (weather permitting). Councilperson Ronald Knott said there are hopes the electricity will be in by then.

A porta-potty will be ordered to be delivered by April 1st.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram gave an update on the Survey/Newsletter that was discussed at the February Board meeting. The letter will go out to every parcel and will describe the three major projects that the town is working on: 1) Railroad Restoration; 2) Proposed Recreation Area on Sharptown Road; and 3) The review of the Comprehensive Plan. There will have to be public hearings and informational meetings specific to the Comprehensive Plan.

The Board feels it is very important to get the views from other people in the Town on the projects that are going on. Supervisor Bertram gave an overview of the pages that will be included in the newsletter. There will be a cover letter introducing the newsletter and each committee has put together a page describing their project and asking for feedback. The survey will also be on the website in a way that people can respond via the internet. Surveys can be mailed back or dropped off at the Clerk's Office.

The newsletters should be ready to go out in 2 weeks.

New Business

Supervisor Bertram discussed the resume of Erin Carroll. She reported that the Board had interviewed her on the previous Saturday and they were impressed with her enthusiasm and think she would be a good fit for the position.

Councilperson Ronald Knott made a motion to appoint Erin Carroll to the position of Dog Control Officer, seconded by Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer. Motion carried.

Due to the resignation of Councilperson Richard Cummings, a motion was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to appoint Edward Scott to the seat for the remainder of the year. Councilperson Bradlee Webster seconded the motion and it was carried. Supervisor Bertram explained that Mr. Scott was the best candidate to fill the position as he was the 3rd highest vote getter in the November election.

Councilperson Bradlee Webster asked, on behalf of the Stuyvesant Fire Company and the Columbia County Association of Firefighters if a clothing collection bin could be placed in the parking lot at the Town Hall. The bin will be emptied weekly and the donations are used for the victims of fires. The bin would be placed on or about April 1st. There was no objection.

Supervisor Bertram met with Mark Kelly regarding the webpage and there will be future meetings to discuss changes and updates. Sub-domain webpages will be made available, free of charge, to the Town churches and fire companies. Each committee will also have a page and a separate address. The changes are expected to happen in April.

Public Comments

Theresa Maul told the board that the horse farm that borders Stuyvesant Manor has large trucks and horse trailers using the development roads for access.

Sean Cummings told everyone that there are dates for the annual litter clean-up dates for the Town. They are: 4/21 for Sawyer Preserve; 4/28 for Newton Hook; 5/5 for Stuyvesant Landing and 5/12 for the Sandbar at Stuyvesant Falls.

The Board was reminded that the check needs to be sent to the Kinderhook Library for the amount budgeted. Supervisor Bertram will ask the Town Accountant, Mark Fitzgerald, for a check.

Doctor Matthew Asbornsen spoke about the LeFarge Tire Burning Plant.

Lee Jamison asked about the Air Quality Monitors at the County-level. Supervisor Bertram said that conversations are continuing at the County-level but nothing had been decided yet.

Sean Cummings told everyone that he had had a conversation with a Public Relations person from LeFarge. There are no plans to burn tires until June 2008. He told everyone that the EPA has a website with the pollution numbers.

Lori Ennis asked if there was going to be an Easter Egg Hunt this year. Supervisor Bertram explained that the Stuyvesant Republican Club will put one on at the Town Hall on March 31.

Sharon Hall asked about the discussion from February regarding the equalization rate versus the rate in Kinderhook. Although we don't know what the Kinderhook number is yet, we are at 84. Supervisor Bertram reported that there will be a town-wide revaluation in 2008. GAR, the company that will be doing the reval, will be at the Town Board meeting in May to discuss the process.

Lee Jamison asked if there could be an agenda item for the April meeting to discuss the equalization rate and the Kinderhook rate. Supervisor Bertram said she would ask Sole Assessor Howard Gleason to prepare something.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Richard Cummings, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

2007 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

63	National Grid	2418.73	81	HSBC Business Solutions	94.98
64	NYS TCA	148.00	82	Dolan's Welding & Repair	95.00
65	Hyatt Regency Rochester	571.00	83	Unifirst Corp.	231.43
66	Melissa Naegeli	51.60	84	Kivort Steel, Inc.	366.42
67	T/O Stuyvesant & Stockport Sr. Citizens	2000.00	85	Ben Funk, Inc.	701.00
68	Stuyvesant-on-Hudson Garden Club	200.00	86	Northeast Automotive Parts, Inc.	8.45
69	Xerox	96.50	87	Columbia Tractor, Inc.	154.74
70	International Code Council	96.50	88	Carquest of Valatie	45.60
71	Sausbier's Awning Shop, Inc.	20.00	89	Main Care	1575.87
72	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	6.47	90	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip. Co., Inc.	60.21
73	The Independent	31.50	91	Power Plan	121.45
74	Empire Alarms	2195	92	Farrell Oil Co., Inc.	483.80
75	Columbia County Treasurer	4133.96	93	Colarusso Quarry Co.	156.74
76	Tal Rappleyea	2062.50	94	Cargill, Inc.	3103.33
77	Staples	1173.84	95	Culligan	27.00
78	Howard Gleason, Jr.	95.00	96	Columbia County Solid Waste	23.21
79	Bonnie Sutherland	38.40	97	Nextel Partners	53.25
80	Mario's Home Center	73.48	98	Berkshire Telephone	327.19

Recorded this 8th day of March 2007

Approved this 12th day of April 2007

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON