

AUGUST 9, 2007
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held its monthly meeting on August 9, 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, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

- ✧ Letter from NY MIR – Insurance Carrier reporting that there were “no recommendations” after an underwriting survey was completed.
- ✧ Letter from Time Warner Cable regarding programming changes.
- ✧ Letter from Beth Cozzolino, Columbia County DA, regarding the safe phones program and asking for a drop box be put in the town Hall. Supervisor Bertram asked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli to put a box out.
- ✧ Letter from Grace Balint expressing her views on the proposed uses for the property on Sharptown Road.

Motion made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster to approve the communications as read, seconded by Councilperson Edward Scott. 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

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli reported that the Office took in \$2550.50 and after expenses turned over \$2380.75 to the Supervisor. Complete report is on file in the Clerk’s Office.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that we will be receiving approximately \$50,000.00 from FEMA for damage from the floods in the Spring. Work on the Gypsy Road culvert will start this month.

Mr. Kowalski also reported that he was involved in a walk-thru of the Sharptown Road site that was looking at the proposed parking and trail areas. Also in attendance were Willie Janeway, Ray Jurkowski, members of the Recreation Committee and other Town Board Members. He told them that his first estimate of cost for the parking area was an “in a perfect world” estimate. After looking closer at the property, it was decided that the parking area should be expanded to 140 x 60 or made to accommodate 28 cars. Due to an increase in the cost of materials, the price for the job to be done will also be higher.

There was a question as to whether or not the Town Board had to go to the Planning Board or if they could just do the SEQRA review. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea said that the Board can decide whether or not they want to go to the Planning Board due to the “immunity” they granted this project at a previous meeting. He also told the Board that they could do the SEQRA short-form at a special meeting and, as long as the information is complete ahead of time, it shouldn’t take any time at all. Input is needed from the Town Engineer and although DEC doesn’t like segmentation of projects, as long as it’s done with an approval resolution acknowledging the multi-step process there shouldn’t be a problem.

A special meeting was scheduled for Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 9:00am to complete SEQRA Review. There was a question from Ned DePew regarding how the SEQRA Review can be done without a final plan. Supervisor Bertram responded that the SEQRA Review is only being done on the parking area and road which everyone agrees is necessary.

Mr. Rappleyea said that there needs to be a calculation of the overall land being disturbed because if it's over 5 acres there will have to be a special permit from DEC. Councilman Ronald Knott said that in the easement on the property there is an established ADA area and asked if that included the road and parking area. The Town Board asked Mr. Rappleyea to get a clarification of the easement as to whether or not any parking area and road would have to be included the ADA area established.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

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

Dog Control Officer

No report.

Planning Board & Zoning Board

There was no Zoning Board meeting in July.

Planning & Zoning Boards Secretary Shirley Narzynski reported that there were two Public Hearings held by the Planning Board. The Public Hearing for Schrader was approved. There were concerns that arose during the Public Hearing for Morgan and the meeting was continued to August. Mr. Pinkowski and his attorney William Better came before the Board regarding the Fairland Farms subdivision.

Greenway Committee

The meeting scheduled for July was cancelled and rescheduled to August 23, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Agriculture Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that members of the Town Board came to the grounds on Saturday, July 21st and weeded around the building and trimmed the bushes.

The Board thanked the Garden Club for their work on the grounds and for the donation of the 2 plants in front of the building.

Councilman Edward Scott reported that the new "Town of Stuyvesant" signs should be done within the next 2 weeks. He will bring one to the next meeting for everyone to see.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

The Easement with Mr. Melville for the electricity has been signed. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski is mapping and getting approval to cut the road for running the wires. Jack Scheriff is ready to proceed.

University Press gave a credit to the Town for the return of the books from the Author signing in May. Councilman Ronald Knott asked Lee Jamison to look into getting a check instead since that was what reported to be the original agreement.

Supervisor Bertram and Councilman Ronald Knott met with the DOT regarding the grant for the Railroad Station. It's been 3 years since receiving the grant and the scope of the project has changed and we needed to make the State aware of the changes. The update has to be done in writing. There was also a discussion with DOT regarding uses for the building. Since the project is being funded by a grant, The Town cannot "make money" from the use of the building. It has to be kept as a community-use building. Supervisor Bertram will bring the Update Form to the next Restoration Committee meeting to review and complete.

There was also a discussion of composting toilets. Councilman Ronald Knott researched the idea and said that it appears to satisfy DOT requirements for a public restroom. They appear cost in the area of \$2000+ and needs to be vented. Due to the slate roof, it may need to be put in a separate building. There was a question as to whether the vent could go through the chimney. Councilman Knott said that the manufacturer wants a direct, no elbow vent.

A discussion followed whether the porta-potty currently in use could be locked during non-railroad functions since it seems to be mainly used by the boaters on the weekends.

The next meeting of the Restoration Committee will be August 25th at the Railroad Depot.

There was a question regarding the review of the Town Surveys. The individual committee pages have been copied for the committees to review at their meetings. There was a concern by the Board that the Committees get to review and compile the information before it gets into the newspapers.

Cemetery Committee

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that a price list for the Town cemeteries is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Town Historian

In the absence of Juanita Knott, Supervisor Valerie Bertram reminded everyone that Historic Stuyvesant would be held on the coming Saturday, August 11, 2007 with festivities at both firehouses. The Town will provide hot dogs and rolls and the Auxiliaries will be providing other snacks.

Pat Casey showed everyone the t-shirts and sweatshirts designed by Roy Shannon to be on sale this year. T-shirts will be available for immediate sale while they will take orders for the sweatshirts. The t-shirts are \$10 and the sweatshirts are \$20.

Town Assessor

Sole Assessor Howard Gleason reported that STAR Rebate checks should be coming in the next couple of months. Seniors should receive theirs the week of September 3rd. For people with the Basic STAR exemption, an application will come in the mail the week of September 10th. It should be filled out and returned to the Dept. of Taxation and Finance (not the Assessor's Office). It can also be completed online but not until it's received in the mail. The deadline is November 30th.

Mr. Gleason also reminded the Board that his term is ending in September. Councilman Bradlee Webster made a motion to appoint Howard Gleason to another 6 year term as Sole Assessor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Gleason also reported that his first meeting with GAR (company hired to complete revaluation of Town) will be held on August 27th. All of the paperwork has been forwarded to Tal and everything is in order to proceed.

Recreation Committee

Supervisor Bertram reported that the committee and others (see Highway report above) met at the property for a walk-thru. Willie Janeway led everyone through the trail area. Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer said that work on the trails will be happening soon. 10-16 adults will be need to help. Mr. Janeway will be getting the equipment. When there are dates decided, Councilwoman Gumaer will let everyone know. There isn't any maintenance planned beyond clipping and pruning. There will be a need for 2 bridges but they can be built by volunteers with "found" lumber. There was a discussion of signage and the need for one day of volunteers – hopefully to be held in the Fall.

Letters are going out to the families of the Playground participants asking for feedback on this year's program.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, September 8th at the Town Hall.

Councilman Ronald Knott had been asked at the July meeting to get estimates for the replacement of the pavilion roof at the playground. While looking at the pavilion, he realized that the small utility building roof also was in disrepair. Both roofs can be done with \$690 in materials from Mario's. He got an estimate of \$2800 for the work to be completed by a contractor. Councilman Knott believes the work can be completed by volunteers and Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski said that a Town dump truck could be used to dispose of the shingles. The project will be scheduled for a day in September.

There had been a mention in one of the surveys that the property on Sharptown Road could be used for a Composting Site similar to what is in Kinderhook. The Town Board was interested in this idea and said associated costs could be investigated.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone that the Public Hearing regarding the dissolution of the Fire Protection Districts into the Stuyvesant Fire District #1 will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 10:00am at the Town Hall.

Doug Mayer, Chief of the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company expressed concern over not being included in these discussions and about how this change will affect them. Both Supervisor Bertram and Stuyvesant #1 Fire Chief Steve Montie assured him that basically the only thing that would change with the dissolution would be who the

contracts would be between. Currently, the Town contracts with Schodack Landing, Kinderhook and Stuyvesant to provide fire protection services to the protection districts. While those boundaries will not change, the contracts would be between the Stuyvesant Fire District #1 Commissioners and Schodack Landing and Kinderhook. There is no redistricting planned with this proposal.

Peter Donohoe asked if it was legal for the Fire Districts to enter contracts without Town involvement. While Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea said he would double check, Councilmembers Ronald Knott and Bradlee Webster reminded everyone that Fire Commissioner Warren Leiser had a legal decision from the Fire District Attorney assuring that the proposal was completely legal.

New Business

Supervisor Bertram reported that the Town Contract with Time Warner Cable is due to expire and there will have to be a public hearing to continue that contract. A Public Hearing has been scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 6:30 before the next regularly scheduled Town Board meeting. Time Warner will be contact to ask if a representative can come to the next Board Workshop meeting as well as the Public Hearing to answer any questions or concerns regarding the contract. The next Board workshop meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6th.

Supervisor Bertram reported that the Municipal Insurance Policy is being increased from \$3001.90 in 2006/07 to \$3741.10 in 2008/09. Councilman Ronald Knott suggested we ask the insurance company to review the figures for the Railroad Station to reflect the work that has been completed on the building. Supervisor Bertram will contact the Insurance Company.

Public Comment

Ned DePew asked if there had been any movement on the resolution he had proposed earlier in the year regarding asking DEC to rescind the permit for burning at the LeFarge Plant and whether or not there had been any progress at the County-level on the air quality monitors. Supervisor Bertram said that there has not been any progress on the issue of the air quality monitors but it is still being looked at at the County level. She also said that the resolution will have to be reviewed again.

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli reported that the date for the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K run has changed to October 13th. She also reported that there will be a 1 mile run for kids and it's to be called the "Chicken Run".

Some members of the audience said they were having trouble hearing people talking from the dais. Supervisor Bertram said we can get additional microphones up on the desk to try to help that.

Mr. Cal Burch gave an overview of the history of the William See Park at the Riverfront as a follow-up to the discussion that was held earlier in the meeting regarding the boat launch and the use of the porta-potty at the Railroad Station.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster and was seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott. Motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

AUGUST 2007 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

232	National Grid	1806.20	254	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc	87.79
233	Fairpoint Communications	293.56	255	Ronald Knott	31.41
234	Columbia County Treasurer	4514.45	256	Colarusso Quarry Co.	1294.73
235	Nova Information System	15.00	257	Main Care Energy	1989.15
236	Donald R. Magill	37.00	258	Stuyvesant Fire Co.	483.70
237	Xerox Corp.	124.92	259	Rich Mulica	1331.90
238	Columbia-Greene Town Clerk Assoc.	15.00	260	Gorman Bros., Inc.	25168.50
239	Looseleaf Law Publications, Inc.	26.95	261	Bernard Kowalski	25.22
240	Staples	132.45	262	Mooradians	67.10
241	Tal Rappleyea, Esq.	3562.50	263	Unifirst Corp.	73.71
242	Empire Alarms	43.90	264	Farm Plan	120.60
243	COARC	66.00	265	Ben Funk, Inc.	336.39
244	E.A. Morse & Co., Inc.	100.63	266	Tractor Supply	29.90
245	Dell Marketing, LLP	207.92	267	Van Kleeck's Hudson	158.86
246	Johnson Newspaper	32.28	268	Marchese Ford & Mercury, Inc.	300.87
247	The Independent	60.41	269	CarQuest of Valatie	75.08
248	Columbia Co. Solid Waste	45.33	270	Columbia Tractor	7550.41
249	Fred Cohn, III	700.00	271	Mario's Home Center, Inc.	77.75
250	Marilyn Burch	33.45	272	Tech Partners	119.50
251	Schodack Septic Service	216.00			
252	Nextel Partners	48.47			
253	Culligan	54.00			

Recorded this 9th day of August 2007

Approved this 13th of September 2007

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON