

**MARCH 13, 2008**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on March 13, 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 Rappleyea. There were approximately 25 members of the public in attendance.

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 Town Justice Carrie O'Hare letting the Board and residents know she was included in a book that has been published \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✧ An email from Lee Jamison regarding a sign for the Kinderhook Library to announce events happening in the town.
- ✧ Letter from NYS Environmental Conservation regarding the Dam Safety Public Hearings schedule

A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to accept the communications as read; it was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS:**

#### ***Town Clerk***

Report is on file in the Clerk's Office.

#### ***Highway Department***

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that they have used 1600 tons of material and can get 1 more load of salt.

He has reserved 2400 ton of stone for paving this year and the prices are going up by 10%.

A clean-up day will be held in May but there is no final date yet. A date will be announced at the April meeting.

***Due to a special presentation from the Assessor's Office, no other reports were read. All committee reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.***

#### ***Assessor***

Assessor Howard Gleason thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to introduce the representative from GAR for the presentation on the upcoming re-evaluation of properties in the Town. Mr. Gleason went on to explain that the last data collection and update of information was done in 1992. There was a re-evaluation performed in 1994 and 2000 but no new data had been collected. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 assessment amounts were not altered and the equalization rates in those years were 90%, 82% and 75% respectively. Bringing the town to 100% equalization rate will help in making our portion of the school taxes go down.

Mr. Gleason then introduced David Barnett, an Associate Appraiser with GAR Associates, Inc. Mr. Barnett explained that we are entering the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the reevaluation process – the data collection phase. Property survey questionnaires will be mailed out to all property owners. He stressed the importance of filling these questionnaires out and returning them as complete as possible. The surveys will be due back by April 11<sup>th</sup>. GAR Associates will also be starting to go door to door to collect data as

well. Their cars will be clearly labeled and they will have photo identification. They will complete an exterior review only. Any interior inspection requests will be completed by the Town Assessor.

Mr. Barnett also notified the Board and public in attendance that there will be public information workshops held throughout each phase. Howard Gleason explained that there will be separate workshops held for the farmers because there are considerable differences in the properties. The first general workshop is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> and if anyone is interested in attending they should contact the Assessor's Office for reservations.

Supervisor Bertram asked Mr. Barnett to explain what will happen in the 1<sup>st</sup> visit. He said that they will be measuring the property, verifying if the survey information is correct and also taking the information from Town records. They will also note any outbuildings or other physical aspects of the property. After the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase another mailing will be sent with the results of the inspections asking property owners to make any necessary corrections and return to the Assessor's Office. After the completion of data collection sales history review of the area will begin in the fall.

Mr. Barnett, Mr. Gleason and Tal Rappleyea all reiterated to the public that it was very important for them to cooperate in order to get the best information to work with.

Supervisor Bertram thanked Mr. Barnett for his presentation and continued on with the meeting. She gave the dates for the Town Spring Clean Up as follows:

Mill Creek	April 19
Stuyvesant Landing	April 26
Nuttenhook	May 3
Stuyvesant Falls (Sandbar)	May 10 (a picnic will be held at the completion)

All clean-ups are scheduled for 10:00am – Noon. If a raindate is necessary it will be the next day at Noon.

Trail work at the Sharptown Road trails will be on April 12 and June 14 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Supervisor Bertram then asked if the Board had any comments on the request from Ms. Jamison regarding the sign for the Kinderhook Library. A motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram went on to give updates on some of the ongoing issues. Since the last meeting LaFarge has been in the news. Supervisor Bertram has been in contact with Congresswoman Gillibrand's and Assemblyman Gordon's offices. Ms. Gillibrand is meeting with DEC to request air quality monitoring for the southern and northern ends of Columbia County.

Supervisor Bertram has asked the other county supervisors with CSX bridges in their towns to start taking an inventory and pictures of them. The Board of Supervisors is beginning to look at this issue. She reported that she felt encouraged after speaking with the Congresswoman's Office.

Mr. Ned DePew was involved in a news conference regarding the LaFarge Plant and mercury issue. He encouraged people to write letters to the Commissioner of DEC and their elected officials urging that strict mercury level language be in the new permit being negotiated. He also asked that the Board write a letter on behalf of the Town residents.

Councilman Ronald Knott thanked Mr. DePew for his involvement in the press conference. He then made a motion to send a letter to the State incorporating the following comments:

*Due to the concerns from the recent release of information regarding mercury emissions from the LaFarge Cement Plant in Ravena, we the Town Board of Stuyvesant respectfully ask that DEC provide monitoring of this situation and take steps to help LaFarge achieve better emissions standards while continuing to operate at this location.*

*I also would like to ask Supervisor Bertram to share our concerns with the County Board of Supervisors and ask that they join us in asking DEC to provide monitoring in Columbia County.*

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and was carried unanimously. Supervisor Bertram will prepare a letter.

**Recreation Committee**

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that new information had been received after the public information meeting that was held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee is still collecting estimates.

Councilman Ronald Knott read the following prepared statement offering his opinion on the proposed project at the Sharptown Road site:

*As we have discussed the park issue for some time now, I am prepared to offer my opinion. The plan that has been presented to the board last month and the public last week, is more park development than I feel we currently need in the Town of Stuyvesant. The addition of this parkland to the town is a great asset that we should continue to enjoy in its natural state. We often hear of the concern that we no longer have resource areas like this available for the public. This new parkland along with other recreational areas that exist in our town offers many opportunities. As development progress and our town grows in population, we have plenty room for future park expansion. The Asbornsens have set the stage with this gift and I am sure many future generations will enjoy the opportunities.*

*I feel it is a great opportunity for current and future residents to have access to this natural area. Coming from a scouting background, I can speak for the importance of providing, not just for our youth, but for all residents with an area such as this park offers right now.*

*Having that said, I could support the future development of an improved multi-use field in the front parkland area. An improved field could easily be maintained while providing opportunities to organized soccer teams, unorganized football, baseball, volleyball, or even golf practice.*

*There has been some talk that the grant offered by OPR, would require that we include amenities, such as restrooms. I can not find that statement in the application, but if that is so, perhaps this is not the correct grant for our current needs.*

*I would urge the recreation committee to continue its efforts in trail building, and utilizing the natural resources that this park presently offers.*

*There are currently two baseball fields located in the town, and I suggest that we continue talks with little league organizations to see if improvements to these current areas would be beneficial. While the falls field is not in the ownership of the town, possibly reaching out to the VFW, we could achieve needed goals together.*

*As information on this years OPR grant becomes available, we should get specifics understood, and if we could meet the criteria, apply for a grant to establish the ADA area in the park, get the engineering studies, SEQRA compliance completed so that we may establish an improved 3 acre field, while maintaining the natural open space that we all enjoy.*

Councilman Ronald Knott then made a motion to apply for grant funds if they become available to improve the property for drainage and build one multi-use field. After extensive discussion between the Board members and the public, the motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. A roll call vote was then held and the results were recorded by the Town Clerk as follows:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Councilman Edward Scott	X	
Councilman Bradlee Webster	X	
Supervisor Valerie Bertram	X	
Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer		X
Councilman Ronald Knott	X	

The motion was carried with a vote of 4 Ayes and 1 Nay.

Supervisor Bertram asked if there was any other business to discuss.

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

**MARCH 2008 ABSTRACTS**

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

52	National Grid	2350.34	70	Col Co Highway Dept	60.30
53	Fairpoint Communications	311.14	71	NexTel Partners	49.01
54	Col Co Treasurer	4882.30	72	Bernard Kowalski	424.84
55	Johnson Newspaper	64.89	73	Northeast Automotive Parts	199.00
56	The Independent	38.75	74	Unifirst Corp.	93.20
57	NY Planning Federation	150.00	75	Albany Spring Service, Inc.	1520.00
58	Matthew Bender & Co	64.85	76	Zwack, Inc	251.71
59	Carrie O'Hare	18.15	77	CarQuest of Valatie	111.96
60	Howard Gleason, Jr.	17.50	78	VanKleeck's Hudson	522.91
61	Catherine G. Knott	55.10	79	Day's Repair	200.00
62	Staples Business Advantage	262.86	80	Dolan's Welding & Repair	120.00
63	Melissa Naegeli	46.94	81	Mario's Home Center	402.49
64	Col Co Sheriff's Office	48.60	82	Colarusso Blacktop Co	7967.67
65	Xerox Corp	124.92	83	Hudson Valley Tree Service	300.00
66	Tal Rappleyea	3031.25	84	Main Care Energy	3761.26
67	Empire Alarms	21.95	85	Culligan	28.00
68	Col Greene Humane Society	380.00	86	Rainbow Distributors	17.82
69	Schodack Septic Service	108.00	87	Cargill, Inc.	6785.17

Recorded this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2008

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCILPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCILPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCILPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCILPERSON