

MAY 8, 2008
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on May 8, 2008 at the Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilman Ronald Knott, Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer, Councilman Bradlee Webster, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Shirley Narzynski took minutes in place of Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli and Councilman Edward Scott was not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:02 pm 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 Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and voted on unanimously. The minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Bertram read the communications:

- ✧ A letter from the Columbia County Office Fire Coordinator regarding Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company response to a structure fire on April 9th.
- ✧ A letter from the Town of Kinderhook regarding May 19th information meeting on energy use and conservation at the Senior Center.
- ✧ An email from Mike Kipp, Councilman from Town of Kinderhook, regarding working together on trails projects. The Kinderhook committee meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7pm at Volunteer Park.
- ✧ A letter from the Columbia County Office Real Property Tax Service Agency regarding requests for assessment data accessibility. They would like to start with the final roll of July 1st on the Columbia County website. Supervisor Bertram went on to say that the Board of Supervisors have been discussing this and that since there is no cost involved, it would be a great idea for people to be able to access the information. She asked if there were any objections from the Board to her contacting the ORPS office and telling them we would participate and could put a link on our website. There were no objections as it is already public information.

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

A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk was absent from the meeting. This report is on file in the office.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernard Kowalski reported that the parking area at the Sharptown Road site is complete. Superintendent Kowalski asked if residents would wait until someone was at the site on May 10th to begin bringing trash for the trash day (hours are 8 – 4).

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector

Report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

No report.

Planning & Zoning Boards

There has been no ZBA business in the last few months so there is no report. The Planning Board met on April 28th and reviewed a sketch plan submitted by Richard Eckel and gave him a list of things to be completed and he will return to the May meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for May 19th because of the Memorial Day Holiday.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that he met with the Town Engineer, Ray Jurkowski, to see how the committee should proceed since they have just about completed the review the Comprehensive Plan. The committee has determined that the Plan is valid and is working on a list of goals that have yet to be completed - the issue of river access has to be reviewed in light of DEC's actions over the years; the committee is considering adding another piece to The Plan regarding Open Space and Recreation planning. They are going to send a letter to the NYS Greenway regarding some of these concerns. Councilman Knott has sent a letter to Roland Vosburgh, at Columbia County Planning, for some input from the County on some the issues facing the Comprehensive Plan that the Committee is addressing. Mr. Knott has spoken with Steven Wickley of NYS Rural Water Association (Claverack) – they do groundwater mapping. Mr. Wickley said that part of Stuyvesant has already been done and will put together some ideas and costs to make a complete plan for Stuyvesant. The next meeting will be May 22nd at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Agricultural Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

Supervisor Bertram asked about the status of the mulching of the grounds. Councilman Ronald Knott said spoke with Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and they are going to hand this project over to the Beautification Committee. Councilman Edward Scott was going to get prices but he was not in attendance at the meeting. Supervisor Bertram suggested that the Highway Dept. get a bulk load of mulch and leave it on the grounds then volunteers can spread it around. Councilwoman Gumaer announced to the public that anyone who wants to help will be more than welcome to get the jobs done around the grounds as well as other jobs.

Lee Jamison spoke up and said that has seen some of the tree plaques lying around on the ground. There was a discussion regarding whether or not there was a map of where the trees are planted and who donated them to relocate the plaques. Supervisor Bertram will look for the map. Councilwoman Gumaer said she would put a sign-up sheet on the back table following the meeting for anyone who would like to help on either the Town Hall or Beautification Committees.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Marilyn Burch reported that the Farmers' Market will open on May 9th and there will be live music that night. That will also be the movie night at the Station – Hitchcock's "Stranger on a Train", free of charge – there will be popcorn and snacks.

Plans are being made for a slide show at the Station on June 6th of old post cards, courtesy of John Meredith. There is a poster outside of the Town Hall with all of the information. Every month there is a different "show" planned.

There was a request for chairs and a screen for the movie night. Supervisor Bertram suggested that the Committee decide what they need from the Town Hall and someone could be here to help them get it down to the Station.

Cemetery Committee

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that the grounds have been mowed once. Andy Brockman will be doing the mowing for the summer.

There was a question about the status of the fence requested by a neighbor of the cemetery. Councilwoman Gumaer reported that she met with the homeowner regarding the issue and to look at why he was requesting a fence. The homeowner removed the trees that were the buffer. Supervisor Bertram said that since she hasn't spoken with him personally, she doesn't know the full issue.

Town Historian

Juanita Knott reported that Historic Stuyvesant is coming up on August 9th. Originally it started because we wanted to educate and celebrate. This year's Historic Stuyvesant Day's theme will be "The River and its People - Before 1609". Next year the Quadricentennial Celebration will be about when the Europeans arrived. Roy Shannon is working on the design for this year's shirt. Historic Stuyvesant Day meetings will be scheduled soon. Some of the ideas planned for the day are lectures on Native American culture, crafts (corn husk dolls), and information on American food. David Cornelius is a Native American Educator who will be contracted with to come and give a program as part of the Historic Stuyvesant Day activities. Mrs. Knott requested permission from the board to pay Mr. Cornelius the \$100.00 for his participation in the Historic Stuyvesant Day program. A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to approve the request of \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. Votes to approve the motion were made by Supervisor Bertram, Councilman Knott and Councilman Webster. The motion was carried.

Assessor's Office

Assessor's Clerk Catherine Knott reported that there was a very good return on the Re-Evaluation Surveys. GAR is coming to the town on Monday. Grievance Day will be on Tuesday, May 27th at the Town Hall from 4:00pm – 8:00pm.

Supervisor Bertram said that she thought the Public Information Sessions presented by GAR have been very informative and well attended. She asked if there was going to be another one and Catherine Knott replied that there probably won't be another one until the Fall.

Supervisor Bertram said she has had a lot of questions about if GAR knows what areas of Town they will be reviewing and when. Mrs. Knott said they are going to be starting in Stuyvesant Falls because there is more of a density of houses. Supervisor Bertram asked if we could get a tentative schedule of where they'll be. Catherine Knott said she can ask them about it when they come in.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported the Committee met on May 3rd and discussed the letters going out to the parents of children participating in the Summer Program and that the deadline is June 15th. Follow-up calls will be made by Committee members. There are additional letters available in the Town Clerk's Office.

After speaking with Highway Superintendent Kowalski, Councilwoman Gumaer reported that the Committee can go ahead and level up the ground at the Stuyvesant Falls Playground where the ice rink was over the winter and put down some grass seed.

There was a clean-up day at the playground last week and the Highway Dept. has been there mowing. Councilwoman Gumaer said someone has been there cleaning up because there was very little to do. Stuyvesant Falls Playground will be done on May 10th.

Sean Cummings and Councilman Ronald Knott have been working on the Parks & Recreation Grant Application for the Sharptown Road property.

The Committee has collected information on public hunting sites from Bob Reading, a member of the Stockport Hunting Club. Councilwoman Gumaer has copies available for anyone who is interested.

Other Reports

Supervisor Bertram read a note from Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli regarding the 2nd Annual Ken Hummel 5K Run. Registration forms are on the Town Website, will be given out at the OK 5K, through the schools and at all of the National Union Bank of Kinderhook Branches. The run will be held on August 9th – starting the Historic Stuyvesant Day festivities.

Melissa also attended a NYS Town Clerk's Conference at the end of April where she took and passed the Notary Public exam so there will be another Notary in the building. The service will be provided free to residents.

Mark Burch spoke as the Town Representative of the Columbia County Environmental Council. Their next meeting will be June 2nd. One of the issues the Council has been reviewing is the Air Quality Monitoring. Mark said that things are looking promising – although there aren't any specific decisions yet, they are moving forward and looking at different options. Ned DePew asked if the Council's meeting were open to the public. Mr. Burch responded that they are and they meet at the County Building in Hudson at 401 State Street at 7:00pm.

Some of the things the Council is working on are alternative energy sources and lighting standards for Towns; public transportation in Columbia County in the long-term; Information Clearinghouse/Website for County-wide information; and a Good Earth Keeping Award for 2008. Recommendations (businesses, individuals or not-for-profits that are doing very well in the conservation area in the County) are due by August 1st.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram opened the discussion on the Parks & Recreation Grant Application for the Sharptown Road Property will need a Long Form EAF form prepared. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea explained the form and why a Long Form was necessary – because it is a type 1 action because we will be disturbing 5 acres of land and also because we are disturbing more than 2.5 acres in an agricultural zone. He then proceeded to explain each page and complete the form with the Board. A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer for a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Valerie Bertram and voted on all in favor. Motion passed unanimously. A copy of the form will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Bertram told everyone that the Grant Application is being worked on and the deadline is June 29th. Ray Jurkowski, the Town Engineer, is working on parts of the application as well as different members of the Recreation Committee in addition to the Town Board. Councilman Edward Scott is looking into prices for a sign for the park.

Councilwoman Gumaer said that the Recreation Committee is trying to come up with ideas for events to hold at the new park so everyone can see it. Supervisor Bertram asked for an update on the trails and Councilwoman Gumaer said that the first trail clean up day was cancelled due to the weather. It was rescheduled to June 15th. Trail work days will continue through the summer and if anyone is interested they should contact the Recreation Committee.

Supervisor Bertram reported that Jim Besha from Albany Engineering Corp. was not able to attend this month's meeting and will try to be at the June meeting. There isn't a lot going on at the Hydro Plant beyond cleaning right now.

Councilman Bradlee Webster asked if there were any updates on the combined police protection idea with Stockport. Supervisor Bertram said there was no new information from Stockport.

Councilwoman Gumaer received a phone call from a Kinderhook resident alerting residents in Stuyvesant about damage done to his home because of the truck traffic on Route 9. He wanted to let residents in Stuyvesant know that if the new mall continues in Greenport there will be increased truck traffic and it could affect Stuyvesant.

Supervisor Bertram reported that the "Quad 2009" Committee has met a couple times and the next meeting will be May 10th at 10:00am. Hopefully, the meeting will be with representatives from Kinderhook and the Town of Stockport Historian will be there. The Committee is considering doing a joint celebration on one of the days since Stuyvesant, Kinderhook and Stockport were all one back then. There will be fireworks on Sunday night to end the weekend. The County Committee met in April and we are trying to figure out how much grant money we will be getting from the State, what we can use it for and whether it can be held until next year. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting is welcome.

A member of the public asked if there any updates on the CSX bridges. Supervisor Bertram said there has not been any additional communication. There are bridges in the Town of Chatham and Hudson and we are pooling our resources and preparing pictures of the spans and will be working together toward a resolution. Supervisor Bertram was asked if there was a County Committee handling this situation. She said there was and that is who she has been in contact with regarding the CSX bridge situation in the County.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster.

MAY 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

126	National Grid	1862.61	152	Charlene Leach	62.00
127	Fairpoint Communications	324.14	153	George Knott	70.08
128	US Postal Service	104.00	154	Robert Allen	27.60
129	Schodack Septic Service	108.00	155	Juanita Knott	54.00
130	Sausbier's Inc.	20.00	156	HSBC Business Solutions	199.98
131	Mark Kelly	150.00	157	Mario's Home Center	464.18
132	Empire Alarms	21.95	158	NexTel Partners	46.43
133	Zee Medical, Inc.	47.17	159	Rainbow Distributors	5.94
134	Air Compressor, Inc.	25.00	160	Culligan	26.00
135	Columbia Co. Treasurer	4882.30	161	Knott's Heating & A/C, Inc.	450.00
136	Ronald Knott	200.00	162	Colarusso Quarry Co.	5081.90
137	Col. Co. Sheriff's Office	148.68	163	ATR Trucking	878.40
138	Carrie O'Hare	36.71	164	Hudson Valley Tree Service	300.00
139	GAR Associates	15,000.00	165	Main Care Energy	2928.13
140	Howard Gleason, Jr.	25.25	166	Applied Industrial Technologies	139.74
141	Catherine G. Knott	78.19	167	Ben Funk, Inc.	322.32
142	Johnson Newspaper Corp	40.07	168	Tractor Supply	91.21
143	Hudson Valley Newspaper	28.18	169	Unifirst Corp	74.56
144	ProPrinters	63.50	170	Northeast Auto Parts	239.85
145	Xerox	124.92	171	Mooradians	150.59
146	Business Automation Svcs	510.00	172	Sam's Club	37.80
147	Melissa Naegeli	65.00	173	Capital Tractor, Inc.	2330.14
148	NYS Dept. of State	60.00	174	Farm Plan	51.00
149	Staples	82.71	175	Columbia Tractor	141.44
150	Tal Rappleyea	3250.00	176	CarQuest of Valatie	165.07
151	Col-Grn Humane Society	610.00			

Recorded this 8th Day of May 2008

Approved this 12th Day of June 2008

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON