

JULY 12, 2008
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on July 12, 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, Councilman Edward Scott, and Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea were not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:05 pm and the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were approximately 24 people in attendance.

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

There were no communications to be read.

A motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk read her report and it's on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Highway Department

Due to Highway Superintendent Bernard Kowalski's absence, there was no report.

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector

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

Dog Control Officer

No report.

Planning & Zoning Boards

No report.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported there was no meeting in June due to a special guest from the NYS Greenway coming to a meeting on July 17th. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 7:00pm.

Agricultural Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

Supervisor Bertram said that she would like to see the weeding and mulching completed before Historic Stuyvesant Day on August 9th. It was agreed that there would be a "weeding & mulching project" held on Saturday, July 13 at 9:00. Councilman Ronald Knott will look into getting the mulch delivered.

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that he has contacted some electricians to get estimates on putting the outside lights on timers. He will have the quotes at the next meeting.

Supervisor Bertram said for HAVA Compliance we will have to repaint the lines in the parking lot before Election Day. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski had previously suggested we also resurface the parking lot and driveway.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Town Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the Farmer's Market is going well, the grant is still under review at NYS, there will be an art workshop with John Morra on July 12th and there are 7 people signed up.

Supervisor Bertram asked if the Railroad Station Restoration Committee is planning anything for Historic Stuyvesant Day. Councilman Knott said they are currently discussing it and any plans will be announced.

Cemetery Committee

Councilman Bradlee Webster said there is nothing new to report.

Town Historian

In the absence of Juanita Knott, Supervisor Bertram reported that money is being released from the State to the Counties then passed out to the Towns. We will be expected to provide a 50% match.

Lee Jamison said that the Kinderhook Library has offered in helping with Historic Stuyvesant Day. Ms. Jamison was asked by the Board what the status of the sandwich board requested by the Library was. She said that there was an issue about where it would be kept when not in use. The Board suggested that it could be kept in the shed behind the Town Hall. Lee Jamison will report that information back to the Library Board of Directors.

Assessor's Office

Assessor's Clerk, Cathy Knott reported that the re-evaluation process is going well and on schedule. A meeting will be scheduled in August with the Town, GAR and NYS to get the full status.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that the grant has been submitted to NYS Parks & Recreation. The deadline for the playground sign-ups had been extended to the end of June. There are 62 kids on the list and the waiting list has been activated.

There was no meeting on July 5th because of the holiday. The next meeting will be July 12th at 9:00am.

There are on-going discussions about having activities for kids at the playground during Historic Stuyvesant Day and the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Run. They will coordinate activities with Town Historian Juanita Knott.

Supervisor Bertram reported that a local family has offered to set up the fields if the Town purchased new equipment for the baseball field at the Stuyvesant Landing playground. She said that after looking into the prices it seems to be about \$300.00. A motion was made by Bradlee Webster that the Town purchase the necessary equipment to set up a baseball field. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michelle Richardson was introduced by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer. Ms. Richardson is Stuyvesant's representative to the Town of Kinderhook's Trails Committee. She gave a brief report of her meeting and that report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram gave an update on the Ferry Road situation. After her meeting with DEC to discuss the dangerous crossing she had been contacted by several residents. Supervisor Bertram spoke with Mr. Kelly from DEC who said that after speaking with a representative of DOT, there are no immediate plans to close the crossing at Ferry Road nor are there any plans for an eminent domain action.

A meeting will be scheduled in August with the Town, DEC and DOT to make a plan for Ferry Road.

Supervisor Bertram gave an update on the Air Monitoring concerns. There are discussions about the monitors being put in Kinderhook, Stuyvesant or Hudson. There is a filter that will pick up mercury readings as well. The monitor would be set in January 2009 and it would be there for 1 year. There are discussions at the County level as to where it should be, it has to be on municipal property and have it's own, separate power source. At the Columbia County Board of Supervisors Meeting they adopted a resolution to support the NYS DEC in establishing a monitoring station in Columbia County. Supervisor Bertram also said that there would be no cost incurred by the Town, DEC pays all the electric bills.

New Business

Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone of the Public Forum scheduled for August 7, 2008 at 7:00pm to be held at our Town Hall. The meeting will be with Assemblyman Tim Gordon and LaFarge. She encouraged those who plan to attend to arrive early as it will probably be a full meeting.

Supervisor Bertram was asked about the tour she had been invited to at the LaFarge Plant. She said they were given a presentation and a brief tour. LaFarge said they have started the stack testing process. Supervisor Bertram had asked LaFarge about the tiring burning issue and let them know about the concerns from the residents of Columbia County about the mercury emissions. LaFarge explained that they cannot make cement and burn tires at the same time. Since they are currently making cement there are no immediate plans for tire burning.

Supervisor Bertram reported that Supervisor Pulcher from the Town of Stockport had attended the Board Workshop held on July 7th. There was a discussion about shared police services. There are questions regarding availability and hours, where they would patrol, and the cost per officer (it would be based on the seniority of the officer doing the shift). There would be a cost range of \$15.53 to \$17.05 per hour and we would also pay \$.25 per mile. Fuel costs are to be determined. At an estimated 20 hours/week it would result in approximately \$22,000/year for salary, mileage and fuel. The Board will have to discuss to determine if there is a real need and where that need is. A decision should be reached before the budget process begins in September.

There was a suggestion that the Board should reconsider spending \$5,000 on a speed-reading sign. The discussion was tabled for a later date.

Supervisor Bertram had asked Town Historian Juanita Knott for a list of all the Town Supervisors to date. Supervisor Bertram would like a plaque made for the Town Hall with all of the names and terms of service on it. She has gotten a price from Steiner's of approximately \$300 for a plaque with 43 names. Additional names can be added with tags.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer to have Steiner's make the Supervisor plaque. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and was voted in favor of unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram reported that there will be a new voting machine at each polling place this November. It will be strictly for use by those who are physically disabled. She is hoping to be able to have one here at Historic Stuyvesant Day for everyone to see. There will be regional training sessions scheduled for the inspectors and general public – at least one will be held in Stuyvesant.

Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli announced that she is now a Notary Public and is available during office hours.

Councilman Ronald Knott has drafted a new local law regarding wind turbines. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea has not yet reviewed the draft and there is a long approval process but Councilman Knott said this draft will hopefully get the ball rolling. The new law addresses the heights and setback requirements for windmills. This issue is being discussed at the Greenway Committee level.

Public Comments

Mike Naegeli, of the Greenway Committee, said he will look into what the setback requirements are for radio towers. Mr. Naegeli asked if there a porta-potty could be put at the playground if the plan is to encourage people to use the baseball field – the Board said there could be.

Councilman Knott also suggested an additional porta-potty for Historic Stuyvesant Day/Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Run.

Michelle Berjeron, a resident from Gypsy Rock development, said that she has spoken with DOH regarding the water issue she brought to the last Board meeting. She also wanted to let the Town know that they will begin work on the ditch and shoring up their house. Ms. Berjeron reiterated her opinion that the Town should take care of the ditch and water situation. Supervisor Bertram reminded Ms. Berjeron that the Town does not have an easement to go onto her property and that she had been given her options at the last Board meeting by the Town Attorney, Tal Rappleyea.

A resident of Ferry Road asked about the rumors of closing Ferry Road. Supervisor Bertram told him that our contact at DEC has been told by DOT that there are no immediate plans to close the crossing at Ferry Road.

There was a question about the Board passing a resolution to have a DEC Representative at the LaFarge Public Forum. A motion was made by Rosalind Gumaer to make a resolution to send a letter to DEC to send a representative to the LaFarge Public Forum being held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall on August 7, 2008. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and voted on all in favor. Supervisor Bertram reminded everyone that the meeting isn't a Public "Hearing" but an informational Public Forum.

A motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott and voted on all in favor. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Recorded this 10th Day of July 2008

Approved this 14th Day of August 2008

TOWN CLERK

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

JULY 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

227	National Grid	\$1785.80	238	Col. Co. Highway Dept.	\$3125.00
228	Mark Kelly	150.00	239	Stuyvesant Falls VFW	600.00
229	Empire Alarms	21.95	240	Ronald Knott	56.80
230	Col. Co. Treasurer	4882.30	241	Andrew Broockmann	700.00
231	Col. Co. Sheriff's Office	64.80	242	Northern Tool	199.98
232	Xerox Corporation	48.00	243	Culligan	27.75
233	Carrie O'Hare	21.18	244	Main Care Energy	1277.11
234	GAR Associates	20,000.00	245	Chemung Supply Corp.	615.37
235	Hudson Valley Newspapers	31.47	246	Stuyvesant Fire District #1	706.44
236	NYSTCA Membership	50.00	247	ATR Trucking	1725.60
237	Tal Rappleyea	3125.00	248	Tech Air	212.25