

AUGUST 14, 2008
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Stuyvesant Town Board held their monthly meeting on August 14, 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, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski and Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Bertram called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:05 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 Edward Scott, seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and voted on unanimously. The minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ✧ Letter from Habitat for Humanity looking for sites.
- ✧ Letter from David McMillan regarding the CSX Bridge on Schoolhouse Rd.
- ✧ Letter from Robert Gibbs regarding traffic at bus stop on Lindenwald Avenue.

A motion to approve the communications was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and approved unanimously.

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

A Budget Amendment was presented for approval transferring money to the highway fund. Councilwoman Gumaer raised a question about the \$4,000 in the parks fund. Supervisor Bertram said she will ask Town Accountant Mark Fitzgerald about that. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the Highway Fund transfer of \$15,336. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and passed all in favor.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

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

Melissa Naegeli gave a report on the Ken Hummel Memorial 5K Run. Attendance more than tripled this year over last and everyone had wonderful comments. The committee took in \$3331 and after expenses of \$1,465.56 netted \$1865.44. Melissa thanked the Board, the committee (Sara Murray & Allison Webster) and everyone else that helped to make the race a huge success. The committee has decided that the race will continue to be held on the 2nd Saturday of August in conjunction with Historic Stuyvesant Day.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that most of the paving is done. The Department will be 1 employee short for a few weeks due to an injury. Superintendent Kowalski said he has looked into the road situation that was referred to in Mr. Gibb's letter. He said that there is a very large dead tree on Mr. Gibbs' property that is contributing to the site problems and that it should be removed. It was also suggested that Mr. Gibbs contact the school district regarding the bus stop questions. Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer will contact him to let him know the suggestions made at this meeting.

Superintendent Kowalski also reported that the resealing and striping of the parking lot will begin. Gorman Brothers will do the work being the lowest bid at \$1500. There was a question about why it had to be done and Supervisor Bertram explained that it was a HAVA recommendation that had to be completed by Election Day. Superintendent Kowalski said that the firehouse parking lot will be done at the same time and will split the cost.

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector

Report was given and 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 that in July the committee met with a planner from NYS Greenway, Mark Castiglione (Acting Director). Mr. Castiglione commented that the committee is doing a good job with a plan and the next step should be to reach out to the public. Councilman Knott said the committee is concentrating now on the river front and our natural resources. The committee would like to hold a public information meeting on a Saturday morning. Supervisor Bertram asked if there should be a mailing and Councilman Knott responded that yes, one should be done. He also suggested that a grant could be applied for to do a survey. A grant could also be applied for to do a Ground Water Study and that the Town would be responsible for ½. Councilman Knott asked for approval to apply for a grant. Supervisor Bertram recommended approval and the Town Board voted all in favor.

Agricultural Committee

No report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the weeding and mulching had been done around the Town Hall. On Saturday, July 19th – Cal Burch, Lissane Jensen and her son and Mimi Asbornsen worked at it and on Sunday, July 20th – Supervisor Bertram, Councilman Scott, Councilman Knott and the Naegeli family finished up the job. The Board also thanked the Highway Department for the extra care they took in getting in the grounds ready for the Historic Stuyvesant Day and 5K Race festivities.

Councilman Knott also reported that we are still trying to locate the original map of the plantings around the building.

Supervisor Bertram said that we have to look for someone to clean the Town Hall. COARC had been doing it but they no longer offer that service. We would need someone a couple of times per month to clean the windows, the bathrooms, and do the vacuuming. Councilman Webster asked what the payment and other criteria would be. The Board decided that everyone will think about it and look into what the going rates are and tabled the discussion to the September meeting.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Marilyn Burch reported that there was a painting class with John Morra in July that earned \$770. The Harvest Dinner on August 8th at the Farmers' Market made \$110. There will be a bake sale starting at the Farmers' Market and the Railroad Station is open every week. Mrs. Burch reported that to date the committee has turned in \$2152.19 and there is another \$300 to be turned in. She also reported that the date of the last Farmers' Market will be September 26, 2008 and Tim Gordon will be there.

There was a question about the status of the DOT Grant for the Railroad Station. Councilman Knott reported that there was no change that it is still in progress.

Cemetery Committee

Councilman Bradlee Webster said the mowing is going well and the cemetery looks good. He has received a request to help locate someone in the cemetery.

Town Historian

Town Historian Juanita Knott reported another successful Historic Stuyvesant Day held on August 9, 2008. She offered thanks to everyone who helped and attended. Mrs. Knott said there are shirts available for \$10, postcards available for \$1.00 and there are brochures available as well.

Mrs. Knott said that we should consider the planning process for the Quadricentennial Celebration to be an opportunity to learn about our heritage.

Assessor's Office

Assessor's Clerk, Cathy Knott reported there was a meeting between Assessor Howard Gleason, Supervisor Bertram, GAR, Columbia County Real Property and NYS Real Property to discuss the status of the work being done. Mrs. Knott reported that a letter will be sent during the week of August 18th to all homeowners with the findings of the GAR staff for their properties. These surveys can be corrected, if necessary, and returned to the Assessor's Office. If no corrections are necessary they do not need to be returned.

A meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th for GAR to update the public on the status of the re-evaluation project. Mrs. Knott asked that residents contact the Assessor's Office to reserve a seat.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer began her report by thanking everyone who helped at the playground with the children's activities during the Ken Hummel Races and Historic Stuyvesant Day. There was no meeting in August. The committee will meet in September and will review the information regarding the Kinderhook Playground attendance.

There was a question about the sign for the Ken Hummel Memorial Park. Councilman Scott said that a final decision had to be made on the exact size and wording of the sign. Supervisor Bertram said she will make the final decision so it can be completed.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram gave an update on the Ferry Road situation. A meeting was held at the crossing with DEC, Joan DuPont the Regional Director for DOT, Supervisor Bertram and Councilman Knott. They discussed the 1996 ruling about the crossing and the Town was advised that a new ruling in 2006 reversed the 1996 findings and that a new paragraph had been added that said "until a connector road is built". Supervisor Bertram said she felt it was a positive meeting. The Town will send a letter to the necessary agencies requesting that the issue of the connector road be revisited. It is felt that a connector road may also help with flooding issues in that area.

Supervisor Bertram asked the board for a decision on the sharing of police services with the Town of Stockport that was discussed at the July meeting. Councilman Knott said that the majority residents he has spoken to about the issue have said we don't have the need. Supervisor Bertram said there are budgetary concerns with the prices of everything else skyrocketing, the budget is going to be very tight this year. Councilman Knott said that any issues should be reported to the County Sheriff and State Policy and that there should be one contact person on the Board to act as a liaison for the police agencies. All Board Members were in favor of this idea and Councilman Bradlee Webster volunteered to be the policy agency liaison. Supervisor Bertram will notify the Town of Stockport of the Board's decision. She will also send a letter to New York State Police Command and to Sheriff Harrison letting them know that Councilman Webster will be the Town Liaison.

Supervisor Bertram said that Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea had prepared a draft law regarding Wind Turbines but that due to various computer issues the copies were not available for the meeting. She said everyone would have a copy to review before the next meeting. Mr. Rappleyea said that Councilman Knott had prepared a draft and that he edited it to agree with the Town Zoning and to add language regarding removal of broken or those that were not in use.

Councilman Ronald Knott asked about the status of the CSX Bridge. It was his opinion that the Board has to come to decision regarding what to do about the bridge. It was also his suggestion that the Board start the grant process so it can be budgeted for. Supervisor Bertram explained that there is a package that has to be completed to "get in line" to get a grant. The Board agreed that the package should be completed. Supervisor Bertram will contact our DOT Regional Director to get advice on the best way to proceed. She will report back to the Board next month.

A Budget Workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, September 4th at 7:00pm. The Town Clerk will prepare a public notice for the newspapers.

New Business

Supervisor Bertram said that a situation has arisen that necessitates the Board appoint a Deputy Chair for the Planning Board. The Deputy Chair will only act when the Chair is unavailable. Councilman Ronald Knott made a motion to appoint to Pat Casey to the position of Deputy Chair. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer and passed unanimously. Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli will swear Mrs. Casey into her position following the Board meeting.

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer offered to work with Supervisor Bertram to finalize the wording for the sign at the Ken Hummel Memorial Park.

Councilman Ronald Knott asked Councilwoman Gumaer about the status of the sign posting for hunting season since it's hunting season is about to open. Supervisor Bertram asked Councilwoman Gumaer to pull the minutes from the Recreation Committee meeting where it was discussed to see exactly what conditions were agreed to. Councilwoman Gumaer will look for the information and report back to the Board.

Public Comments

A question arose about a DOT Grant be awarded to the Hook Boat Club for it’s crossing. Supervisor Bertram explained that the Grant had been applied for by DOT on behalf of the Boat Club and that the money had been awarded to DOT to fix the at-grade crossing by purchasing and installing state-of-the-art gates.

Cathy Knott wanted to express her thanks to the people who participate in the Meals-on-Wheels program. She said it was a wonderful program and the people really check on the recipients. There was a question about increasing the funding for Meals-on-Wheels and Supervisor Bertram explained that the money budgeted for the program is only for mileage reimbursement.

There was a question about why the CSX Bridge was closed and who made the decision to close it. Supervisor Bertram explained that DOT had ordered the bridge closed due to safety concerns.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and voted on all in favor. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Recorded this 14th Day of August 2008
Approved this 11th Day of September 2008

TOWN CLERK	SUPERVISOR
COUNCILPERSON	COUNCILPERSON
COUNCILPERSON	COUNCILPERSON

AUGUST 2008 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

249	National Grid	1894.56		274	Col. Co. Solid Waste	1104.59
250	National Grid	39.64		275	Andrew Broockmann	700.00
251	Fairpoint Communications	605.58		276	Schodack Septic	108.00
252	Empire Alarms	21.95		277	NexTel Partners	94.89
253	EA Morse & Co	18.65		278	Culligan	29.25
254	Maple Lane Nursery	612.50		279	Rainbow Distributors	11.88
255	Col Co Treasurer	4882.30		280	Grainger	357.98
256	Carrie O’Hare	74.68		281	Gorman Bros	52,195.00
257	Hudson Valley Newspapers	39.31		282	Colarusso Blacktop Co	646.15
258	The Independent	16.76		283	Colarusso Quarry Co	5998.95
259	Staples	155.60		284	Bonded Concrete, Inc.	1865.00
260	Xerox	124.92		285	Main Care Energy	6870.65
261	Looseleaf Publications	14.90		286	Rich Mulica	350.00
262	Col-Gr Town Clerk’s Assoc	15.00		287	Columbia Tractor, Inc.	26.68
263	Tal Rappleeya	3250.00		288	CarQuest of Valatie	101.57
264	Col-Gr Humane Society	305.00		289	Tractor Supply	79.49
265	Chatham Printing	225.00		290	Farm Plan	150.10
266	Juanita Knott	96.58		291	Mario’s Home Center	390.55
267	Martin Casey	55.35		292	Ben Funk, Inc.	154.07
268	David Cornelius	100.00		293	Com-Tech Electronics	71.85
269	Lisa’s Silkscreen	542.80		294	Unifirst Corp.	130.48
270	Albany Running Exchange	350.00		295	Van Bortel Ford	21,893.50
271	Oriental Trading Co	241.88		296	Heavy Hauler	3595.00
272	Sara Murray	37.77				
273	Melissa Naegeli	16.48				