

JUNE 11, 2009
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Councilperson Ronald Knott, and Councilman Bradlee Webster, Councilman Edward Scott, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea.. Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski was not in attendance.

Supervisor Bertram called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve previous minutes was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from Robert Gibbs regarding the successful launch of the Children's Community Garden.

A letter from the NYS Office of Parks & Recreation notifying the town that the application for the grant for the Ken Hummel Park was not selected for funding.

A motion to approve the communications as read was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Supervisor Bertram presented Quadricentennial Flags to the Postmasters of the Stuyvesant Landing and Stuyvesant Falls Post Office, Susan Fontaine and Bill Packet, respectively.

Supervisor Bertram also announced that both Post Offices will be doing stamp cancellations the weekend of the Town's Quadricentennial Celebration.

SPECIAL GUEST

Jim Beshu, Albany Engineering Corp., came to the meeting to give an update on the Stuyvesant Falls HydroElectric Plant project.

Final relicensing application for a new 50 year license will be submitted on July 31. The plant has applied for a permit to remove sediment from the pond and expects that to be approved soon. They will notify the neighbors when they are going to begin the work.

Received initial approval from "FERC" – the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the inspection and analysis that's been done. Awaiting final approval now on design elements and expect that within a month.

National Grid will be rerouting the high voltage lines. The 3 rusted metal tanks on the property have been removed and they have purchased 2 new generators – they expect to be delivered in September.

Over the next 3-6 months there are several projects planned. There will be a mock-ground breaking ceremony (originally built in 1899), penstock replacements, cleaning out the pond, and reconfiguring the turbines. Over the next year it is anticipated that they will be installing high voltage and connecting to the grid and cleaning and coating more penstock.

Mr. Beshu reported that they hope to be online by the second quarter of 2010.

There will be a kiosk built at Overlook Park and will explain the power plant and the history of hydro power in Stuyvesant Falls. The dedication will be held on August 8.

Councilman Webster asked if people can ride down and see the factory. Mr. Beshu asked that anyone who wants to come to the plant to please call first.

SPECIAL ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Howard Gleason announced that the 2009 ReEvaluation Project is done. He wanted to thank Mike Naegeli and the other members of the Board of Assessment and Review for a great job. The Board had 80 parcels presented to them this year – 17 were stipulations; 19 were reduced and 44 remained the same. Mr. Gleason will meet with GAR to finalize all of the paperwork.

Preparing the application for the Triennial Aid program. The final roll will be final on July 1st. We will be paid \$5/parcel minus 2%. In year 2 – beginning in September – a process of analyzing the sale and building permits will be done. Mr. Gleason also reported that we have had our first sale under the new assessments.

Supervisor Bertram added that she liked the fact that GAR and the Assessor's Office held multiple workshops and were available to help people understand the process. She added that everyone will benefit from the Town being at 100% with being able to get full exemptions for STAR and other exemptions.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

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

Highway Department

Superintendent's Kowalski was absent due to an injury. Supervisor Bertram read a report submitted by Mr. Kowalski. His report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

Report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Control Officer

No Report.

Planning/Zoning Boards

The special meeting that had been scheduled for May 19th was rescheduled.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that there was no committee meeting in May as they are still working on the proposed survey. The next meeting will be held on June 25th.

Office for the Aging

Mary Leighton gave a report that HEAP Applications will be accepted beginning in November. The County is looking more volunteers for Meals On Wheels. If someone needs a ride for doctor appointments, etc. they can contact the Health Care Consortium. The County is looking for nominations from each Town for people who do volunteer work for a ceremony to be held next May. Sr. Citizens needing a lawyer can contact the Office for the Aging to get a referral at a considerable cost savings.

Agriculture Committee

No Report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Edward Scott announced that work on the pavilion roof at the Landing Playground had started.

Supervisor Bertram thanked Councilman Scott for taking care of the weeds around the perimeter of the building. She also reported that at the Workshop meeting there was a discussion regarding hiring a groundskeeper. Councilwoman Gumaer had put forward the name of Jean Hewig. Ms. Hewig's proposed contract included an initial clean up of the grounds for \$500 then an \$80/month fee for maintenance to include weeding and pruning. Councilwoman Gumaer made a motion to hire Jean Hewig. Her motion included that Ms. Hewig offered that any balance that may remain from the initial \$500 will be applied toward the monthly charges. Councilman Edward Scott seconded the motion. Supervisor Bertram asked for a vote, everyone voted in favor of the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Supervisor Bertram asked Councilwoman Gumaer to have Ms. Hewig come in before any work was started to sign a contract.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Marilyn Burch reported that the Farmers' Market was underway and gave a schedule of events (available in the Town Hall).

There was a question whether the Farmers will accept the WIC coupons this year. Mrs. Burch said that the vendors had not been approved so they will not be accepting them this year.

Cemetery

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that the trees had been cleaned up.

Historian

Town Historian Juanita Knott reported that the Tall Ships are coming up the River on Friday, June 12th. She added that there will be activities in the Town of Schodack for families at the Schodack Park.

The City of Hudson will have "waterfront days" on July 25 & 26 with fireworks. The Town of Stuyvesant has been invited to participate and has been offered a table. Mrs. Knott is asking for volunteers to work 2 hour shifts and would like 2 people per shift.

Mrs. Knott reported that the next Quadricentennial Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13th. She has asked that if there are any groups that are planning to participate in the Quad. Weekend Activities to please let the Committee know so they can be included in the programs.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer reported that the Committee met on Saturday, June 6th. They discussed the 4th of July plans at the Park and the Historic Stuyvesant Day and Ken Hummel Run plans. The Committee is hoping to organize an informal ball game at the VFW following the parade on the Quad Weekend and other children's activities.

Councilwoman Gumaer asked if a porta-potty could be put at the Park by July 1st. Supervisor Bertram asked Melissa Naegeli to order a porta-potty and have it placed by July 1st. Mrs. Naegeli will contact the company and make the necessary arrangements.

Councilwoman Gumaer reported that she had been in contact with Assemblyman Gordon's office regarding the \$5000 for the Ken Hummel Park. They told her they didn't have the paperwork. Supervisor Bertram said she would send it to them again.

Councilwoman Gumaer said Michelle Richardson will be getting pictures together from the Children's Garden Day project. Councilman Edward Scott reported that the order for the signs for the Ken Hummel Park has been given to the County and that work should begin shortly. Jim Romanchuk will be building the kiosk for the Ken Hummel Park – the Town will purchase the supplies and Mr. Romanchuk will donate his time. He will use the same basic design that will be used for the kiosk at the Overlook Park in Stuyvesant Falls.

Old Business

Supervisor Bertram reported that the Air Monitor on the Town Hall grounds still was not hooked up. She explained the fiasco with DEC and National Grid and had hopes that the monitor would be hooked up by the end of the following week.

There was a question about how long the monitor will be here and Supervisor Bertram responded that the monitor will be here for 12 months.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had spoken with the Attorney General's Office new County Representative and had faxed him all of the documentation regarding the CSX Bridge on Schoolhouse Road. She and Tal Rappleyea (Attorney for the Town) will meet with the Attorney General's Executive Staff next week.

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that he had recently attended a workshop presented by NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the Columbia County Land Conservancy. The first session was on conservation and local planning. The second session will be on the SEQRA Process and conservation. Those attending from Stuyvesant in addition to Councilman Knott were Bill Vick, Pat Casey, Marilyn Burch and Sean Cummings. Councilman Knott thanked those that attended.

Councilman Knott also reported that he had spoken with Ron Raider (Regional Grand Administrator) at NYS Parks & Recreation. Mr. Raider assured Councilman Knott that there will be a 2nd round of grant funding at the end of the summer or perhaps not until late Fall. Our Town is on the contact list for additional information. Supervisor Bertram asked if we would have to write a new grant. Councilman Knott said he thought we would have to just change the dates. He added that there is no confirmation right now that the same grant will be available this year.

There was a question as to whether the Park project could be considered for Stimulus Money. Supervisor Bertram said she will ask at the County level.

New Business

Councilman Knott reported that the Landing playground has been getting a lot of use and that he had been approached by a resident about having a porta potty reinstalled at the playground for the summer. Supervisor Bertram asked Councilwoman Gumaer about the playground in Stuyvesant Falls. Councilwoman Gumaer said she would keep an eye on the playground in the Falls. A motion was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster to place a porta-potty at the Stuyvesant Landing Playground. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michelle Richardson resigned as the Stuyvesant Liaison for the Kinderhook Trails Committee. A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to appoint Sean Cummings to the Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and was voted on. The motion was approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had been approached at the Workshop meeting by residents who had concerns about the dirt bikes on Summerset Road. She reported that she had contacted Scenic Hudson and the problem has been resolved.

Melissa Naegeli reported that the sponsor letters for the Ken Hummel 5K Race are going out. She asked that if there was anyone interested in being a sponsor or volunteering or knew someone who would please let her know. She also reported that St. John's Church has offered to donate the water and that the Boy Scouts will be helping along the route. Councilman Edward Scott said he will again donate the bananas for the post race.

Public Comments

Cal Burch asked why the boat launch was closed and about being able to put boats in the water during the boat parade. Supervisor Bertram said that any boats in the water during the boat parade need to be coordinated with the State.

Stuyvesant Fire Co. #1 Chief Steve Montie explained that the reason for the length of time of closure for the boat launch is to deter people from bringing boats and vehicles and leaving them for the week. The parking area has to be kept clear to allow for emergency access.

Lee Jamison asked Chief Montie to talk a little about the new boat purchased by the Fire District. Chief Montie explained that the Town of Stuyvesant has the most shoreline to protect. He explained that money had been donated in memory of Warren Leiser, money had been received from the FEMA for the 2008 Ice Storm relief and money had been given by Assemblyman Gordon. There was no tax money spent on the purchase of the new boat.

Mark Burch reported that he has been attending the Environmental Council meetings and is reviewing the Energy Subcommittee proposals.

Town Historian Juanita Knott pointed out the 350th anniversary flag on display in the meeting room.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ronald Knott. His motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Abstracts for June are attached.

Recorded this 11th Day of June 2009

Approved this 9th Day of July 2009

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON