

AUGUST 13, 2009
TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held its monthly meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. In attendance at the meeting were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Ronald Knott, and Councilman Bradlee Webster, Councilman Edward Scott, Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski, Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli and Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea. Councilwoman Rosalind Gumaer 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 Bradlee Webster. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from the Columbia County Council on the Arts regarding the Art Show begin held in the Town Hall during the weekend of Sept. 19th & 20th in conjunction with the Quadricentennial Celebration. The letter outlined the schedule for set up, showing and clean up. The cover artwork for the post card is a piece done by Town Resident John Morra. The Council also requested \$500 in matching funds for the art show. A motion was made by Councilman Edward Scott to approve the \$500 donation to the Arts Council for the show. His motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and it was approved unanimously.

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

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

SPECIAL GUEST

Representatives from Scenic Hudson came to present new maps and information to the Town Board. Cari Watkins-Bates, Charlie Lang and Megan Kirkpatrick were in attendance to explain that their organization is a 46 year old non-profit environmental organization along the river corridor. They also explained that they have been working with Stuyvesant since 2001 and that 3200 acres have been preserved with conservation easements. It is the intention of Scenic Hudson to begin working more closely with the local governments.

They showed some full color maps that they had prepared for areas in the Town that had been preserved. They also showed other maps that had soil types outlined as well as a full-color poster with a map and various pictures from around town.

Councilman Knott explained that the Greenway Committee has been working closely with them on identifying soil types and mapping those areas to aid in agricultural and zoning issues. Seeing the resources on these maps helps to better understand our resources.

Mike Naegeli, of the Greenway Committee, added that all of the work has been done voluntarily and that we wouldn't be able to put a price tag on the amount of help they have given the Town.

Lee Jamison asked if the posters were available digitally. Ms. Watkins-Bates said that they could work on a way to make it work for the Town Website.

Supervisor Bertram thanked them for the presentation, for the maps and for their assistance over the years.

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Supervisor Bertram told the Board that there was a Budget Amendment that needed to be reviewed. It was for a total of \$4750.00 and was transferring \$4500 to Celebrations and \$250 to Aging. A motion to approve the

REPORTS:

Town Clerk

Melissa Naegeli read her report and it is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Melissa reported that the 3rd Annual Ken Hummel 5K was another successful event. The race has raised close to \$3000 in the 3 years it's been run. The date for the 2010 race will be August 14th. She thanked the Recreation Committee, the Boy Scout Troop #113, the Town Board members and all other volunteers that worked to make the day a success.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Bernie Kowalski reported that there was an estimated \$200,000 in damage from the flooding.

Superintendent Kowalski addressed the complaints from some residents that the "junk pile" at the Sharptown site took a long time to be removed. He explained that the pile wasn't enough to be a priority to be picked up from the company that does that. He also explained that if the dumpsters were there on clean-up day it would be an additional \$3000.

Supervisor Bertram explained that our \$200,000 was part of the County's \$5 million estimate. She also explained that it was twice the amount from the ice storm. The State has included Columbia County in its emergency declaration for Federal funds. She also thanked the Highway Dept., the Fire Companies and anyone else who assisted during the flooding.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

Report on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Gerry Ennis reported that his office had taken in approximately \$1400 in July due to his "permit renewal program".

Mr. Ennis also reported that he had recently attended a wood boiler seminar in Kinderhook. Some towns have banned the boilers, some have established moratoriums and others have set restrictions as to the acreage or area where they can be located. Gerry explained that the issue with these boilers is the fine particulate matter – the boilers give off approximately 72gph where a woodstove is 18.5; a certified woodstove is 8 and a gas furnace is only .04gph. Some people are using the wood boilers during the summer season to heat their pools. He reminded everyone that they do need a building permit to install one in the Town.

Supervisor Bertram reported that she had recently spoken to Gene Kelly (DEC) about these boilers and had asked if the State was going to do something about regulation of them. He indicated that the State is leaving it to the Towns to decide. The Board will begin discussions soon as to whether or not the Town will implement a regulation regarding wood boilers.

Lee Jamison asked if the manufacturers offered any ideas to clean up the exhaust. Mr. Ennis replied that their answer is a higher chimney.

The Board will revisit this issue in September.

Dog Control Officer

No Report.

Planning/Zoning Boards

No report.

Greenway Committee

Councilman Ronald Knott reported that the surveys are being completed and will be circulated to residents. He will be getting mailing lists from both the Columbia County Office of Real Property Services as well as the Board of Elections to try to target as many interested parties as possible. The survey will also be available on the website.

Mr. Knott explained that to do the distribution there will be approximately \$600 in costs for copying and postage. A motion was made by Councilman Knott that the Board approve the \$600 expenditure to go ahead with the survey and get it mailed out. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster and was approved unanimously.

Sean Cummings reported that he had been attending the Trails Committee Meetings in Kinderhook. He explained that there is an idea to develop a trail that went from Kinderhook through Stuyvesant Falls into Stockport. The Committee would like to apply for a \$10,000 planning grant. The Towns of Kinderhook and Stockport have already approved the application request. Each town would be responsible for pledging 1/3 of the total amount (\$3,333). Mr. Cummings also explained that volunteer and in-kind services may be used toward the matching funds amount. The volunteer hours can be billed back at \$15/hour for non-professionals and \$90/hour for professional services.

Mr. Cummings explained that the Kinderhook Trails Committee has done a lot of work on this plan already and are very enthusiastic. The trail will follow the old trolley trail where there are National Grid lines now and would be a crushed stone path. Supervisor Bertram asked if there are any private owners involved. Sean explained that National Grid already has easements across those properties. The trail from Stuyvesant Falls to Lindenwald would require private easements, however.

The grant deadline is September 4, 2009 and Mr. Cummings asked the Board to approve the \$3,333 portion of the grant – and explained that at the most \$1000 would have to be allocated at one time. A motion to approve the request for the Town to enter into the grant with the Towns of Kinderhook and Stockport and to pledge 1/3 or \$3333 was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster. His motion was seconded by Councilman Ron Knott and was approved unanimously.

Mr. Cummings will provide Committee updates regularly.

Agriculture Committee

No Report.

Town Hall Committee

Councilman Edward Scott announced that the woodwork on the Landing Playground pavilion was sealed. The blacktop will be sealed and the holders for the garbage cans will be built.

Railroad Station Restoration Committee

Marilyn Burch reported that the Farmers' Market is doing very well. She has posted the August schedule of events on the board in the Town Hall and that the coming Friday will be a 70 year celebration for the Stuyvesant-on-Hudson Garden Club.

September 25th will be the final day for the Farmers' Market and will be "Historic Stuyvesant Dairy Day" and will highlight Gumaer's Farm in Stuyvesant Falls.

Cemetery

Councilman Bradlee Webster reported that all is quiet. Mr. Webster said that there had been a concern about the mowing but that it has been taken care of.

Historian

Juanita Knott reported that Historic Stuyvesant Day was held on August 8th and began with the Ken Hummel 5K. There was the Ken Hummel Park dedication and lunch followed by the kiosk dedication at Overlook Park in Stuyvesant Falls.

Supervisor Bertram thanked Juanita for all of her hard work to organize Historic Stuyvesant Day.

Mrs. Knott's next project is the Quadricentennial Celebration being held on September 19th & 20th. She is currently working on the 2010 calendars, the Quadricentennial Pamphlet, a booklet on the area history and the final schedule of events. She announced that the pins are in and that the next Quad. Committee will be held on Saturday 8/15 at 10:00 and they will be discussing traffic and parking.

Assessor's Office

Cathy Knott reported that all is quiet in the Assessor's Office.

Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Gumaer was not in attendance at the meeting but had sent a report. Her report was read by Michelle Richardson and is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12th at 9:00am.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney for the Town, Tal Rappleyea, reported that he had spoken with DOT regarding the CSX Bridge. DOT is currently working on a list of other towns that have had similar problems with CSX regarding their bridges. He will report again when he has additional information.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Bertram reported that there was a proposed Resolution #09-02 from the Town Justice approving the Court to apply for a \$2024 Justice Court Assistance Program Grant for scanning documents and destruction of documents in accordance with State Retention schedules. There are no matching funds necessary. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kristina Kwacz asked if there could be some consideration given to the enforcement of the speed limit on Route 26A near her home. Supervisor Bertram said she will speak with Deputy Bray.

Supervisor Bertram reported that in response to numerous complaints about speeding and other law-enforcement issues in Stuyvesant Falls, she has directed Councilman Scott to begin looking into setting a neighborhood watch group. She will ask Deputy Bray to meet with interested residents to explain how the guidelines of such a group.

Ned DePew asked if the Town would be able to borrow the "speed sign" from the Town of Kinderhook again to help with the problem near Ms. Kwacz' home. Supervisor Bertram said she would contact Kinderhook to ask.

Cathy Knott announced that the Children's Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 24th.

Lee Jamison asked about the "P" signs at the Ken Hummel Park that she had seen during the dedication and asked if they were parking signs. Councilman Scott explained that they were boundary signs and that the "P" was for Park.

Councilman Scott also reported that the kiosk will be completed soon and they the hunting permits are being worked on.

Ned DePew asked the air monitor reports and asked why there was a spike on August 3-5. Mr. Ennis said his wife had been concerned about the same thing and called the number listed for DEC. She said the person on the telephone seemed to be confused as to why that number was being given out and that she had no information. Supervisor Bertram said she will look into it.

Supervisor Bertram said that the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Edward Scott and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The motion was approved unanimously and the Board adjourned to Executive Session with Tal Rappleyea, Attorney for the Town at 8:22pm.

A motion to reconvene the meeting was made by Councilman Ronald Knott and seconded by Councilman Bradlee Webster. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting reconvened at 8:35pm.

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Knott to authorize Attorney for the Town Tal Rappleyea to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. His motion was seconded by Councilman Edward Scott and was approved unanimously.

There were several questions from the public regarding the purpose of the Executive Session and Supervisor Bertram explained that the Board was discussing pending litigation.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Bradlee Webster and seconded by Councilman Ronald Knott. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recorded this 13th Day of August 2009

Approved this 10th Day of September 2009

TOWN CLERK

SUPERVISOR

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON

COUNCILPERSON