

**TOWN OF STUYVESANT
TOWN BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 14, 2022**

The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 14, 2022. In attendance were Supervisor Knott, Kelley Williams, Brian Chittenden, Tom Burrall, David Quinn, Charles Stiffler, Melissa Naegeli, and Tal Rappleyea.

Supervisor Knott opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm and asked the Town Clerk to read the Notice as published in the Register Star:

April 6, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE Town of Stuyvesant

Public Hearing April 14, 2022

Please take Notice that the Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00pm for the purpose of taking public comment on the proposed Amendment to the Town of Stuyvesant Zoning Law relating to Solar Regulations. The Hearing will take place the Stuyvesant Town Hall, 5 Sunset Drive, Stuyvesant, NY 12173.

Supervisor Knott reviewed the law and impacts on land. He said the proposed Amendment is to protect soils of statewide significance. The Law had been sent to and approved by the County Planning Office. He asked if anyone on the Board had any comments.

Kelley Williams said she was okay with the Amendment as it was written.

Brian Chittenden said he had found residents prefer the agriculture uses over solar farms.

With no further comments from the Board, Supervisor Knott asked if there were any comments from the public.

Lee Jamison – referenced Section 5 of the Amendment regarding roof top solar panels and asked if the installation at the firehouse conformed. Tom Burrall explained that it's the brackets and the wording is unclear. Tal Rappleyea said it's covered under the wording in Section A. Tom Burrall suggested the wording be changed to NYSERDA wording and Supervisor Knott explained that this is the NYSERDA wording.

Robert Gibbs – Asked if residents have to go to Planning or Zoning Board for rooftop solar. Supervisor Knott explained that individual homes only had to

get a building permit. Mr. Gibbs asked if it would be inspected by the Town and Tom Burrall replied it would be inspected by the Building Department.

John Morgan – Asked if the Board had any information on the proposed solar farm on Schoolhouse Road. Supervisor Knott explained that a company has a lease on land and had submitted paper for the Planning Board but that it was held up due to the Moratorium passed earlier in the year. Lee Jamison asked if it was the same company that had previously made a presentation at a Town Board Meeting and Supervisor Knott said it was.

With no further questions or comments a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and the Hearing was closed at 7:19pm

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The Town Board of the Town of Stuyvesant held their monthly meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022. Supervisor Knott opened the monthly meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance following the Public Hearing.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

A motion to pay the vouchers as submitted was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- A thank you letter from the Stuyvesant Falls VFW;
- A letter from CLC regarding a data breach and the possibility that some information could be affected; and
- A letter from DEC regarding the Climate Smart Community designation

Old Business

Solar Law – Supervisor Knott asked the Board what they would like to do following the Public Hearing, A motion was made by Tom Burrall to adopt the Amendment to the Solar Law as it relates to Solar Arrays. The motion was seconded by David Quinn and was approved by unanimous vote.

Trash Containers @ Sandbar Park – Supervisor Knott reported that he had reached out to Jim Besha at Albany Engineering and they agreed to buy/build the cans and place them at the park. The Town Highway Department will maintain emptying them.

Street Lights to LED – Supervisor Knott is still getting prices for the work. He explained that the lighting district will be over budget due to cost increases.

Speed Limit Requests – Supervisor Knott explained that there are new forms to file requests so the Town Clerk will process them again.

Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Reports are on file. Melissa Naegeli gave an update on the upcoming Community Night & Cruise In to be held on Saturday, May 14th, 2022.

Recreation Committee: Kelley Williams reported that there was a meeting and there were discussions about the park in Stuyvesant Falls. The next meeting will be May 21st at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

Environmental Management Council: The report was about the County-wide Climate Smart Committee and an upcoming Climate Carnival.

Dog Control Officer: No report.

Kinderhook Memorial Library:

- Matt Pavlov has been named the new Director;
- Emily Kenny is the new Teen Director
- Visitor masks are optional
- Sustainable library initiative;
- Kids' program returning to the Town Hall; and
- The newsletter is out.

Office for the Aging – Supervisor Knott announced that Marilyn Burch had stepped down as the Meals on Wheels Coordinator and Melissa Naegeli has agreed to take the position over.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler reported:

- The snow fence has been taken down;
- The roads have been swept;

- Cleaning out ditches and identifying culverts that need to be replaced;
- New tractor being purchased for roadside mowing;
- The water system at the garage is being changed with a new water softener;
- Changing the lights at the garage to LED lights; and
- Working on the plan for paving for the year.

Assessor's Office: Cathy Knott reported the Assessor has noticed special hours to "sit with the roll". The Board of Assessment Review (Grievance Day) will be Thursday, May 26th 4pm – 8pm.

Planning / Zoning Boards: Supervisor Knott announced that Gale Bury had stepped down as the Chair but has agreed to remain on the Board. A motion to appoint Tim Hotaling to the position of Planning Board Chair was made by Tom Burrall. The motion as seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

Historian: Cathy Knott reported that the Historian's Office had been awarded a \$200 grant to purchase metal shelving to be installed in the attic space.

Cemetery – David Quinn reported that there was a Grant available for the removal or repair of monuments in disrepair. He will investigate if we can apply due to the Not for Profit requirement.

Building Department: Report on file.

Broadband Committee: Supervisor Knott reported that he had made a presentation to the Committee after attending the NYSAC Conference.

County Government

Supervisor Knott reported that the weight limit on the Stuyvesant Falls Bridge has been reduced to 12 Tons. He added that this is the largest County bridge. He reviewed the history of problems and previous repairs to the bridge. It is estimated to cost \$250,000 - \$300,000 to repair enough to restore the weight limit and it was not budgeted. They had previously applied for Federal Aid but it could be another couple of years for that to be awarded; but the County is meeting with representatives from the State and Federal governments. Even with the money for repairs, the end of the year at the earliest would be when the work could begin.

There was a discussion regarding the types of vehicles that could be barred from crossing the bridge. Charles Stiffler explained that the County has put up signs letting people know the new weight restriction and those signs are placed in accordance with the laws governing the distance.

Supervisor Knott reported that he is working with Charles Stiffler to get new maps drawn for the Fire Districts. He explained that the maps were never updated after the fire protection district had been dissolved.

Supervisor Knott reported that the County is looking at a new roof and solar panels at the County Highway garage.

State Budget – Gas Tax reduction sales tax give up – the County is looking at the financial impacts of the County giving up 4% or allowing a cap.

New Business

Supervisor Knott reported that the appointment to the EMC was expiring and recommended the reappointment of Christian Sweningson. A motion to reappoint Christian Sweningson to as the Town Representative to the County Environmental Management Committee was made by Tom Burrall. The motion was seconded by Brian Chittenden and was approved by unanimous vote.

Supervisor Knott said he would like the Zoning Revision Committee to review the Zoning Law regarding “tiny houses”.

Flyers for the County Hazardous Waste Day and the new Composting Program are available in the Town Hall.

Upcoming Events:

- 5/7 Trash Day – tickets available beginning April 15th
Riversweep Day
County Hazardous Waste Day – this year they are participating in a new program and accepting latex paints
- 5/14 Community Nite & Cruise In
- 5/21 Fire Training Center Open House & Dedication

Board Comments

Melissa Naegeli announced the new partnership with the Bottle & Can Depot in Columbiaville. Anyone can take their returnables there and the money can be donated to the Town’s Bicentennial Celebration being planned for 2023.

Public Comments

Robert Gibbs asked why Board members didn't have individual town emails. Supervisor Knott explained that they have all had them for a while and were costing the Town \$9/address per month. Since they weren't being used they were eliminated. Anyone can email the Town Clerk and she will get the messages to the Board members.

Christian Sweningson commented that he was surprised at the cost.

Hannah Shepard asked about the fence at the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company and why it was installed. Tom Burrall answered that the fence was installed as a courtesy to the neighbor. Ms. Shepard said she is concerned about the upkeep around the fence and asked that they not use weed killer. Councilman Burrall said the Fire Company asked the groundskeepers to not use chemicals.

Lee Jamison asked why the meeting had been advertised as hybrid on the website. Supervisor Knott said that was an error and that all meetings will be in person going forward.

Lee Jamison announced that a trail clean up at Hummel Park in observance of Earth Day would be held on April 23rd at 10am and asked volunteers to bring their own equipment. She announced that there would also be a clean up along the Rail Tail from 9am – 11am. Riversweep shoreline clean ups will be held on May 7th.

Highway Superintendent Charles Stiffler reported that picnic tables needed to be replaced at the Ken Hummel Park and the playground. A motion to purchase 2 new picnic tables was made by Brian Chittenden. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote.

With no further business before the Board, Brian Chittenden made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kelley Williams and was approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

The following abstract of vouchers was presented at the April 2022 meeting of the Stuyvesant Town Board for approval:

	<i>April 2022</i>			LIGHTS	
<u>CLAIM</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>A/C#</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>LND/FALLS</u>	<u>HIGHWAY</u>
22-105	Lowe's	5130.4	401.41		
22-106	CDPHP Universal Benefits (\$1935.57)	9060.8	645.19		1,290.38
22-107	National Grid (\$2092.20)	5182.4		1,014.47	
				1,077.73	
22-108	NYS Office of State Comptroller	A2610	10.00		
22-109	The Association of Towns	1010.4	700.00		
22-110	National Grid	1620.4	22.70		
22-111	National Grid	1620.4	25.88		
22-112	National Grid	5132.4	235.18		
22-113	Nolan Bottle Gas, Inc.	1620.4	168.31		
22-114	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc.	1620.41	203.79		
22-115	Marlin Leasing Corporation (\$264.99)	1410.4	87.25		
		1620.41	177.74		
22-116	Paychex of New York LLC	1320.4	411.39		
22-117	Repeat Business Systems (\$62.64)	1410.4	26.31		
		5132.4	5.45		
		1620.41	29.88		
22-118	Johnson Newspaper Corporation	1010.4	39.84		
22-119	Verizon Wireless	5010.4	62.76		
22-120	County Waste	5132.4	190.50		
22-121	Culligan	5132.4	30.09		
22-122	Rainbow Distributing Co., Inc.	5132.4	78.94		
22-123	Main Care Energy	5132.4	955.40		
22-124	Grainger	5110.1			643.88
22-125	Main Care Energy	5110.4			2,099.96
22-126	Colarusso Blacktop	5110.4			266.40
22-127	Zwack, Inc.	5110.4			1,725.00
22-128	Allegiance Trucks	5130.4			484.52
22-129	Northeast Automotive Parts	5130.4			9.78
22-130	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equipment Co, Inc.	5130.4			30.00
22-131	Air Gas USA LLC	5130.4			72.50
22-132	Mario's Home Center	5130.4			238.14
22-133	H.L. Gage Sales, Inc.	5130.4			282.76
22-134	Association of Towns	5010.4	110.00		
	<i>7-Apr-22</i>		<i>4,618.01</i>	<i>2,092.20</i>	<i>7,143.32</i>
22-135	SL Empire Solar I, LLC	1620.4	131.57		

22-136	Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill CPAs	1320.4	8,054.96		
22-137	Charter Communications	1620.4	389.93		
22-138	Charter Communications	5132.4	293.11		
22-139	Visa (\$133.43)	1620.4	17.27		
		3620.4	55.07		
		7510.4	61.09		
22-140	Staples, Inc. (\$509.51)	5132.4	71.99		
		3620.4	399.99		
		1110.4	37.53		
22-141	Looseleaf Law Publications, Inc.	1110.4	301.50		
22-142	Columbia County Treasurer (Sheriff's Office)	1110.4	58.50		
22-143	E Biz Docs, Inc.	1110.4	720.00		
22-144	Carlos Araoz	1110.4	120.00		
22-145	Shocker Electric, LLC	5132.4	200.00		
22-146	Viking Vector	DA90898			518.00
22-147	Wex Bank	5110.4			4.00
22-148	Tractor Supply Credit Plan	5130.4			79.98
22-149	Lowe's	5130.4			27.06
22-150	CarQuest of Valatie	5130.4			613.34
	14-Apr-22		10,912.51	-	1,242.38
	April Totals		15,530.52	2,092.20	8,385.70