

TOWN OF RED HOOK BOARD MEETING

April 10, 2007

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, at 7:25 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump
Councilwoman Sue Crane
Councilman Harold Ramsey
Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro
Town Clerk Susan McCann
Absent: Councilman James Ross
Also present: Deputy Supervisor William O'Neill
Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Blum Bump welcomed the public and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. To hear all interested persons on a proposed local law amending Article IX of Chapter 143 of the Code of the Town of Red Hook entitled Administration and Enforcement.

Supervisor Blum Bump read the public hearing notice then opened the hearing for comments at 7:25 p.m.

There were no comments.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilman Ramsey move to close the public hearing.

Adopted	Ayes 4	Blum Bump, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Ross

2. To hear all interested persons regarding the acquisition of an interest or right in real property to preserve open space pursuant to Section 247 of the General Municipal Law, including the purchase of a contractual right necessary to achieve the purposes of such provisions, for the Wil-Hi Farm property. Supervisor Blum Bump read the public hearing notice aloud then opened the hearing for comments at 7:35 p.m.

Michael Haggerty, Executive Director of Winnakee Land Trust...voiced support and told the Board how grateful they are to be considered for holding this conservation easement. They are looking forward to partnering with the Town as they have done in the past. They visited the site and would like to develop a conservation easement for the property. He commended the Town Board.

Marcy Appell, supports the Town. This property has everything going for it. It is an active farm and is a wonderful operation. It is in the breadbasket, the center of other farms that have sold their development rights. It opens a whole area that will never be developed. Visually, it is a gorgeous piece of property. She supports the Town in this.

Robert McKeon, Chair of the Ag and Open Space Committee...thanked the Simmons' for participating in the program. This program can be very successful and thanked them for their patience with the application process they started in 2005.

Supervisor Blum Bump asked Robert McKeon to expand on who is partnering and the funding for the sake of PANDA.

Robert McKeon... the Town of Red Hook is hoping to partner with Dutchess County who has a matching open space manageable growth program whereby twice a year applications are received and considered. They go through a process through the County Planning Board, and then they recommend to the County Legislature who authorizes the funding. In Red Hook we have a three step process. Ag & Open Space works with the applicant, and then the application is sent to the Farmland Protection Committee where a separate body reviews it and makes a recommendation for funding.

MaryAnn Johnson, Chair of the Farmland Protection Committee... it is a beautiful spot in Town and has all the criteria of a farm that needs protecting.

Ann Gabler... Wil-Hi Farm is a gateway property from the north as you approach Red Hook and it is a treasure for all residents. I hope the Town Board will support.

Christine Kane added her support for the application presented. This property abuts almost 200 acres of already protected farmland and it's very important to maintain farm neighbors. We should encourage that.

Harry Colgan... as a resident he said that preserving this farm is important.

Supervisor Blum Bump thanked everyone for their comments.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilwoman Crane, move to close the public hearing.

Adopted	Ayes 4	Blum Bump, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Ross

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McCann, Town Clerk