

**RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**January 29, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A workshop 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 7:30 p.m.

Present:       Supervisor Sue Crane  
                  Councilman James Ross  
                  Councilwoman Micki Strawinski  
                  Councilman Harry Colgan  
                  Councilman Robert Latimer  
                  Town Clerk Sue McCann

Supervisor Crane opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then announced a public hearing on February 12, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. regarding our Disaster and Emergency Preparedness plan.

**REORGANIZATION**

Board of Assessment Review

Supervisor Crane reported on the Board of Assessment Review. She contacted Carl Dowden who agreed to stay on the committee.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Ross, move to appoint Carl Dowden to the Board of Assessment Review for a term to expire September 30, 2012.

Adopted       Ayes   5       Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer  
                  Nays   0

Zoning Board of Appeals

Supervisor Crane moved on to the Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy, and liaison.

ZBA Chairman Tim Ross told the Board that Celine Turchetti expressed an interest in serving on the ZBA and he feels she would be a great asset. Mr. Ross also received letters from Nick Annas and Craig Christensen, but he feels Celine Turchetti would be the best choice.

Councilwoman Strawinski referred to a letters of interest from Kris Munn and Pete Fenaroli.

ZBA Chairman Ross said Mr. Fenaroli expressed an interest a few years earlier but he did not receive anything from him recently. He discussed the three names he received letters of interest from with the committee at the last meeting and the consensus was that Celine Turchetti would be their choice.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to appoint Celine Turchetti to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2013.

Adopted       Ayes   5       Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer  
                  Nays   0

Zoning Review Committee

Supervisor Crane received a call from Michael Carr who asked what the charge was of that committee. His concerns were numerous. The committee was disbanded about four years ago after having worked a number of years on particular zoning code issues and had no closure on them. The committee was disbanded at the point of the launching of the Intermunicipal Task Force effort. We agreed to reconstitute that committee under Michael Carr about two years ago. The Task Force has been working diligently for the past three years and our concerns have been that there are things that need to fit in before the Intermunicipal Task Force can have closure. They can include them as they move forward so they don't get out of sync. Supervisor Crane convened a small group of people recently to try to see if we could think through some of the issues. Marcy Appell attended, the Planning Board Chair was invited but she did not attend. Because Marcy Appell brings such history to Planning and to this whole Zoning Review (she sat

on the committee) Supervisor Crane thought it might be possible to consider her for the vacant position Marcy is not interested in the Economic Development Committee vacancy.

Councilman Ross asked if Supervisor Crane is suggesting making this a ten member committee. He feels it would be better served to have four at-large community members.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if Ken Jetto was going to stay on the EDC.

Supervisor Crane answered he was not.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to make the Zoning Review Committee ten members, each having a two year appointment, and the member we are adding to be the fourth at-large community member.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to appoint Marcy Appell as at-large member number four for a term to expire in 2009.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Mike Carr as Chair of the Zoning Review Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2008.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

Zoning Review Committee liaison will be Councilman Harry Colgan.

#### EDC

Supervisor Crane received a memo regarding members who are willing to serve again. Ken Jetto withdrew from the committee. Doug Moat, Chair of the EDC, suggested Paul Fredricks, Michelle Martin from the Chamber of Commerce, Ronald Moore III from Key Bank, and Leo Sieverding.

Councilwoman Strawinski recommended Michelle Martin to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ken Jetto.

Councilman Ross will contact EDC Chair Doug Moat to find out the current make up of the committee.

Supervisor Crane suggested tabling the appointment until they hear from EDC Chair Doug Moat.

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

Liaisons to the ZBA will be Councilman Rob Latimer and Councilman Jim Ross.

#### Community Preservation Fund Advisory Council

Councilwoman Strawinski reminded the Board that they should review resumes or letters of interest for positions on the CPF Advisory Council.

Supervisor Crane would like that process to be taken care of at the business meeting. There are many people interested and she will have it put on the agenda for the business meeting.

#### Tree Commission

Supervisor Crane asked if the Tree Commission remains as a 5 member commission.

Councilwoman Strawinski said Nancy Guski and Trilby Sieverding were interested in serving on the commission.

Supervisor Crane suggested sending out a call for more volunteers.

Councilman Ross questioned if the Tree Commission was a subset of the Conservation Advisory Council.

Councilman Strawinski read Tree Commission rules. The commission will be known as the Red Hook Town Tree Preservation Commission. The commission shall be comprised of five members.

Councilman Ross asked if CAC Chair Brenda Cagle recommended anyone.

CAC Chair Brenda Cagle recommended George Vengrin and Karen Cleaveland.

Supervisor Crane suggested having letters of interest sent in to Town Clerk Sue McCann in order to keep track of them.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to appoint Nancy Guski and Trilby Sieverding as members of the Tree Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

### **PETITION**

Rich Biezynski of Northwinds Farm presented a petition signed by a number of landowners on West Kerley Corners Road who expressed an interest in entering into discussions with the Town of Red Hook to sell the development rights to their individual parcels under the Town's program of preserving open space. There are 14 landowners willing to sell their building rights totaling 867 plus acres, covering 2 ½ miles of West Kerley Corners Road. Mr. Biezynski asked the Board to look at what he presented. Parcels run from 16 acres to 194 and it is important that you understand if you decide against even one of the parcels for example the 16 acre then the deals are not going to go through. He hopes to have West Kerley Corners Road preserved and kept as a scenic road. He hasn't spoken to the Ag & Open Space Committee about this yet because he is concerned about conflict of interest. That is why he provided the petition to the Board first.

Albert Trezza told the Board that Mr. Biezynski worked very diligently on this. It is a huge proposition to the Town. When you get into the details you'll find out if you really want to preserve open space. Most of the people he spoke to are very interested in this.

Councilman Ross said this really preserves the whole road.

Mr. Biezynski is notifying the Board and asked that the Board go to his committees, the Ag & Open Space Committee and Farmland Protection Committee and present this.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked what the PDR status is on the Northern Farmland Assemblage.

Supervisor Crane recused herself.

Mr. Biezynski explained that Scenic Hudson is eager and a little upset that it hasn't gone through yet. The last Supervisor did not get it on the agenda so he asked how to get it on the agenda. From what he understands, that is part of what is holding this up.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if the applications for the program are considered by order of receipt.

Al Trezza explained that other areas of the country that are involved with this have a committee that reviews all the properties, then they list them by preference. They list what they feel are the most desirable properties to purchase and buy them that way, rather than first in, first serve. There are properties that are more desirable than others.

Councilwoman Strawinski would like to get some background information regarding the PDR.

Councilman Colgan suggested getting feedback from committees.

Albert Trezza suggested getting legal opinion from the Town Attorney.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks Scenic Hudson would be on top of that kind of thing.

Albert Trezza explained that Scenic Hudson is not the Town, and they already told the Board they don't believe it's worth the money. Don't rely on Scenic Hudson the Town has to have its own legal advice. The Town has a very competent lawyer.

### **REQUEST FOR LETTER TO SENATOR SALAND REGARDING FUNDING FOR SEWER TREATMENT PLANT**

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter she received from Brent Kovalchik requesting a letter from the Board to Senator Saland regarding funding for a sewer treatment plant in the village core. She read a letter supporting Mr. Kovalchik's request and asked for the Board's approval to send it.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, move to approve sending the letter as read.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

### **ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS ITEMS**

Supervisor Crane referred to a Certificate of Designation regarding the Association of Towns explaining the need for her to get eligibility and credentials to vote at the business session. She will fill that position to be the delegate for the Town of Red Hook.

She also referred to a memo from Business Manager Deborah Marks dated January 24, 2008, reminding everyone to keep receipts from the Association of Towns Conference.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### Intermunicipal Task Force

Councilman Colgan gave an update on the Intermunicipal Task Force meeting from the previous Friday. There were a number of representatives to get as much information they could regarding technology that exists for sewer infrastructure. The intent was to look at alternatives to the traditional sewer approach. There are limits to how far we can go because anything done has to fit within the criteria set by the DEC. This is an approach working on the edge of their criteria. The DEC was represented at the meeting.

#### Handicapped Needs

Councilman Latimer reported that he had an inquiry from a resident regarding our provision for the hearing impaired. He is going to meet with her to make a determination of the suitability of the equipment we already have. He assured the resident whatever the need is we will meet it because we have to and more so because we want to. The resident would like to attend more Board meetings. After meeting with the resident he'll make a determination and report to the Board.

#### Archiving of Meetings

Councilman Latimer thinks that since we have PANDA, we need to partner with them in that effort.

Councilman Colgan suggested that Councilman Latimer go to their office in Tivoli and discuss it with them. We do already fund PANDA. They are hoping to get new equipment from Time Warner.

The Board discussed the options regarding PANDA.

#### Bard College Meeting-Second Annual Dick Griffiths Brunch

Councilman Ross reported that the brunch at Bard College had about 30 – 40 people in attendance. Dr. Botstein was a very gracious host, as was Jim Brudvig. We had very good conversations about community relationships essentially between Bard and the community. We spent some time discussing the voting and he said he will look into offering a course on local government this Fall. He would ask members of our community to come in and do that. It would stress the importance that if you are going to vote, know what you are voting for and what it is all about.

Recycling Center

Councilwoman Strawinski faxed information to John Komsa from Morris Associates. She sent him a copy of the letter from David Pollack of the DEC and a copy of an e-mail with updated information that she met with TJ Hackett and his staff. They came up with a short term temporary solution to how this can continue to operate smoothly until they are made aware of what the long term plan is for the connector road. She has a meeting tomorrow morning and hopes by noon will have a temporary solution planned. She is hoping they will have the goods exchange opened soon too.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Councilwoman Crane received notification from Time Warner that there have been channels dropped in the Hudson Valley System. Eventually we will need to go to them to get more time in.

Councilman Colgan reported that Kathy Hammer from PANDA is working on that now.

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter from Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley, regarding a Municipal Climate Protection Partnership update. She listed goals and asked for ideas that might work in our community. The partnership is putting together an online communications platform and events calendar, developing funding sources, and organizing tools to share.

Supervisor Crane presented a document from Jonathan Drapkin from Patterns for Progress. He sent the entire State of the State address from Governor Elliot Spitzer for anyone to read if they wish. His communication contained his observations as to what the address means for the Hudson Valley as he was present at the speech.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Supervisor Crane opened the floor for comments. She asked Rich Biezynski for the physical addresses of the signers of his petition for a record.

Mr. Biezynski will get that information to her.

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk