

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 1, 2008

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 7:30 p.m.

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

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Larry Thetford expressed his support for Mr. Nick Annas to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Annas is an engineer by training and knows construction, zoning, and the laws. He sat on the School Board, Water Board, the Elmendorph and the Historical Society. Mr. Thetford sat on two of the Boards with Mr. Annas and attested to his attendance and activity. He will be an asset to the ZBA.

Jonathan Becker, head of the Politics Program at Bard College is trying to put together a six or seven unit course about local politics. He extended an invitation to the Board to give him suggestions of issues that would be useful to be raised at sessions like that. His e-mail address is jbecker@bard.edu. One idea of Mr. Becker's is not whether it is legal for students to vote, but whether morally they should vote. It is a very interesting issue. He thinks it would be great to have a debate at Bard as to whether or not students should vote. There are students on both sides of the issues and he thinks people will find that the students are more diverse than they imagine. Another issue Mr. Becker has a concern with is the upcoming presidential elections in November. He sees a need for more polling stations and is afraid that in November Barrytown is "going to be a zoo". It has more registered voters than any other district in the Town. Bard is bringing in a huge freshman class of about 500 and a lot of students are excited about Barak Obama. He believes there will be a higher than ever turnout. Mr. Becker thinks the Board should consider recommending the Board of Elections either put a polling place in Annandale for the residents of Annandale or to add second polling booth in Barrytown. Regarding another issue, Mr. Becker claims that he is one of the leading opponents of Meadowbrook Estates. He doesn't believe that this is the time to appoint Trilby Sieverding whose husband was an architect associated with Meadowbrook Estates. He supports Nick Annas for the ZBA vacancy and presented a petition to the Board.

The Public Comment period closed at 7:40 p.m.

REVIEW OF DATA CALCULATION FOR FIREMAN'S WORKERS COMPENSATION

Supervisor Crane asked Business Manager Deb Marks and Budget Officer Rose Rider to discuss why they are amending the contract.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained that the current contract in place is a tiered contract. It specifies in the contract that we will pay a portion of firemen's workers compensation insurance to the Village not to exceed \$25,000. Over the course of the years, the rates have gone up. It is going to be \$31,161 which is an increase.

Councilman Ross clarified that because the fire company is organized in the Village the Village pays the workers compensation and the Town pays its share. We pay a larger share because more Red Hook residents live outside the Village. It is based on population and that's how the figure was arrived at.

Supervisor Crane read the resolution regarding amendment number 2 of fire service agreement between the Town of Red Hook and Village of Red Hook.

RESOLUTION #35 2008

RE: APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND THE VILLAGE OF RED HOOK FOR 2007 AND 2008

On a motion of Councilman Robert Latimer, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski move to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

Councilman Latimer suggested in the future the contract should be amended to percentage rather than a dollar amount.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Supervisor Crane announced a Public Hearing on April 8, 2008 at 7:20 p.m. in Red Hook Town Hall regarding a proposed local law creating a new Chapter 3 entitled “Alternate Members of the Code of the Town of Red Hook providing for the appointment of alternate members to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals”.
- The Recycling Center work is continuing. The Town engineer is trying to get a group together to resolve this within the next two weeks. She apologized to the public and anyone who has been inconvenienced. They hope to get the goods exchange up and running as soon as possible.
- Regarding the Town Garage, we are considering new options for it. We are looking at various opportunities out there to compare garages in the area. The Highway Superintendent and Deputy Highway Superintendent have visited a new highway garage and will report to us as soon as possible. We are going to do everything we can to move ahead with that project. Everyone who has been inside that building recognizes the need for that project to be addressed.
- Insofar as the Highway Garage is concerned, there will be two men out who will be facing surgery for a total of four weeks. As a result there will be a shortage of hands to address any concerns that may come as a result of storm or limbs down. She asked the public to understand that the highway department will be working with a smaller crew. Additionally, Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand’s wife will also be undergoing surgery. We do have a family of employees who do have private lives and we are trying to provide coverage wherever possible.
- CPR Training will be set up for 14 employees who are interested in taking it. It is a precursor for having an automatic defibrillator at Town Hall.

REGARDING A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE REQUIRED AUDIT OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK JUSTICE COURT WAS CONDUCTED

Supervisor Crane asked Business Manager Deborah Marks to brief the Board on the audit.

Business Manager Marks explained a requirement from the State of New York Unified Court System. Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that town and village justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective town and village auditing boards, and that such records then be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the Board’s proceedings. That is what she is asking the Board to do now. The judge’s books were audited by Ted Eglit who provided the results to the Board.

RESOLUTION #36 2008

RE: ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE REQUIRED AUDIT OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK JUSTICE COURT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007 WAS CONDUCTED BY THE TOWN AUDITOR THEODORE EGLIT, CPA

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman James Ross, move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan
	Nays	0	
	Abstained	1	Latimer

Copy Attached

COMMITTEE/BOARD REORGANIZATION

Community Preservation Fund Advisory Committee

Supervisor Crane referred to a list she compiled regarding the Community Preservation Fund Advisory Committee. She contacted each person individually. The guidelines suggest that four members should have land use experience, one a farmer and the others at-large members. The committee should consist of seven members.

Supervisor Crane said Mr. Richard Biezynski rose to the top of consideration at their last meeting.

Councilman Colgan had a number of conversations with Mr. Biezynski on this subject. The concern is that since Mr. Biezynski is in line to be a recipient of a PDR, there would be a conflict. On the other hand if you review the reality, we must have a farmer and all the farmers could fall into the same category.

Supervisor Crane went through the list of interested persons. She received a note from Winthrop Aldrich and Nick Annas would say yes but prefers the ZBA as an assignment. Art Collings feels he has a conflict because he is employed by Dutchess Land Conservancy. He asked his name be withdrawn. Charles Laing is now employed by Scenic Hudson and is checking to see if this would be a conflict. Supervisor Crane sees that could be a conflict. She was unable to reach Clay Laugier; she could not find a phone number or address. Gale Knull is away for three months so that limits his consideration. Pete Hubbell, Phil Seymour and Brent Kovalchik can all be considered people with land use experience.

Councilwoman Strawinski said that we don't have to limit ourselves to one farmer. Supervisor Crane agreed.

Councilman Colgan told the Board that the conversation has started among the farmers to see who has the least conflict here. There is a possibility of Ken Migliorelli, Chuck Simmons or a member of the Mead Family.

Councilman Latimer feels there are several names on the list that have no conflict of interest and are not serving on any other committee or board. He named Rich Biezynski, Victor Behoriam, Peter Hubbell, Phil Seymour and Ben Shute.

Supervisor Crane would also like to consider Miriam Latzer. She has a Masters degree and is an extraordinary young farmer and worker. She may not own the land, but works it as if she did. If Ken Migliorelli and Chuck Simmons are interested we should get a letter from them. She asked the Board if they could wait another week until we clarify with some of the candidates. Susan Ezrati has a background in finance and Supervisor Crane thinks she too would be a wonderful addition to the committee.

Councilwoman Strawinski said it would be nice to have representatives from the two Villages.

Supervisor Crane will find out if we have additional farmers interested in serving and we will get back to this at the next meeting, April 8, 2008.

Conservation Advisory Counsel

Supervisor Crane announced a vacancy on the CAC and she received a letter from Jane Ferguson interested in serving on that committee. Supervisor Crane highly recommends her. Brenda Cagle will meet with her next week and get back to the Board. The appointment is tabled until April 8, 2008.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Supervisor Crane spoke with the Chairman of the ZBA on March 26th. He poled the members of the ZBA and they reached a consensus in order of preference at that time. They were the following: Trilby Sieverding, Craig Christensen and Art Fenaroli. She heard from others who include Nick Annas and asked to take the information we have from the Chairman and the public and talk about it tonight. This is the only opportunity we have to say what goes on with the ZBA. It's very important to try to reach consensus or at least an understanding about why we are voting the way we are voting.

Councilman Colgan feels it is the responsibility of the Town Board to make decisions.

Supervisor Crane referred to the Public Hearing scheduled next week on alternates. We in fact may consider several of these people as alternates.

Councilman Ross commented that the ZBA Chair recommended Trilby Sieverding to us. It is a seven member board and it would be nice to have at least two women on the board.

Supervisor Crane asked what if any conflict there might be on the appointment of Mrs. Sieverding. She asked Mr. Sieverding if there is any gain to be recognized by her serving on the ZBA.

Leo Sieverding was involved in the first proposal but has no interest at this point. He is totally out of the picture.

Councilman Ross knows Nick Annas better than any of the members on the list. He thinks he would be a very good member on the ZBA but just thought it would be nice to have another female on the board.

Councilman Colgan feels Nick Annas brings many skills to the ZBA that would add immensely to them. He has great faith in Nick Annas' commitment to this community.

Councilman Latimer thinks that recognizing the suggestion of the Chair is a valuable tool, however he cautions against using it as the final verdict. In the case of the ZBA or Planning Board, they have an element of autonomy. We only get one chance to provide oversight and he feels it is important to realize that the Town Board is charged with providing balance to the ZBA.

Supervisor Crane feels we have four excellent candidates and she knows some better than others. Her two top candidate choices are those who she believes will vote independently, who will look at things without regard to politics or personal preferences, but will look at the facts and decide for themselves. Her two top choices are Nick Annas and Trilby Sieverding.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Latimer, move to appoint Nick Annas to fill the vacancy on the ZBA.

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

Supervisor Crane explained that we will talk about alternate members at next week's meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building & Zoning – Supervisor Crane read the Building and Zoning Department report for the month of March 2008. There were 22 inspections, 9 CC and 21 CO's issued. The zoning department is assisting the ZBA on appeals of two property owners at the Red Hook Country Club seeking area variances.

Disaster Preparedness – John Douglas presented copies of the 2008 Emergency Action Plan to each Board member. He will provide copies for anyone else interested in it at the Town Clerk's

office. The committee is in the process of working on a disability form and a video for PANDA. Dick Franklin is working on large animals rescue and will have an update at the April 3, 2008 meeting.

Greenway and Trails Committee – Howie Callies reported no new activity of the committee.

Councilwoman Strawinski announced the dedication of the “Wetlands Walk” trail on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Planning Board – no report

Recreation Park Commission – Rec. Park Chairman Doug Strawinski named the members of the commission. The Recreation Park is open, fields are ready, leaves are cleaned up and the snack bar and bathrooms are open. Both softball and baseball teams are practicing. On Friday April 11th and 25th, a Boy Scout Troop will hold clean up days. The bid proposals for the skate park are out. They are expecting them in by the third week of April. Hopefully they will be in operation by the end of May. The big project is developing the new park land. One of the first things to do will be send an RFP for the engineering work. He will let the Board know how that is progressing. They do have a concept drawing to work with.

St. Margaret’s Committee - Paula Schoonmaker presented the report for the Committee. They requested that the Board direct Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to prepare, advertise and circulate an RFP to appraisers who have demonstrated that they are qualified to prepare the self-contained appraisals required by New York State for this grant. Two appraisals are necessary and the fees charged will be reimbursed as part of the grant. Once the appraised value is accepted by the State, the Town will be able to apply construction costs against that amount for reimbursement.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, move to have Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy prepare an RFP for the appraisers.

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

Zoning Review Committee – Susan Simon reported that the ZRC has voted unanimously to recommend certain changes to the multifamily housing sections of the code. They do have a memo they will submit to the Board regarding the recommended changes. The committee meets monthly.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, move to authorize expenditures for a secretary to the Zoning Review Committee equal to other secretaries.

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

Village Police Report – Councilman Latimer presented reports for the months of February and March. In February there were 20 registered complaints (including alarms & lock-outs), 29 uniform traffic tickets, no parking tickets, 7 accidents investigated, no arrests made and 3 EMS/aided calls. In March there were 24 registered complaints, 41 uniform traffic tickets, no parking tickets, 2 accidents investigated, 4 arrests made and 5 EMS/aided calls.

Water District Report – Water Department Chairman Hank VanParys will give an annual report at the May 6, 2008 meeting. Supervisor Crane looked over the report and announced that there will be hydrant flushing done in the month of May. The update to any flushing that could affect turbidity in the water will be announced over the radio and on the Town website. The Water Department will be locating and closing off an old water line on the south side of Aspinwall Road.

Conservation Advisory Council – CAC Chair Brenda Cagle reported that Ann Rubin is working on an aquifer report. On April 16th there will be a Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting. Some of the members will attend the Rhinebeck CAC meeting because there will be discussion the formation of Northern Dutchess County Stream Alliance. Denise Barton asked to work on ICLEI program on a Town computer and asked how she could do that. Brenda announced that June 7, 2008 is Household Hazardous Waste Day.

Zoning Board of Appeals – no report

Intermunicipal Task Force – Councilman Colgan reported that the focus of the last few meetings has been to be able to answer questions related to the agricultural business district. They are putting together a document listing the criteria of why each farm is or is not selected.

Ag. & Open Space Committee – Chairman Robert McKeon reported that they met the previous evening. They are working on the Keep Farming Project. The object of that initiative is to figure out how agriculture as an industry can work with other industries to the mutual benefit of each other. The Keep Farming members met last Saturday in Germantown with representatives from towns in the southern Columbia County area. They met with Clermont, Livingston, Germantown, Taconic, and Copake. They are working on agricultural economic development strategies. The committee began to work on the West Kerley Corners initiative. A large majority of the landowners expressed interested in participating in some type of land preservation program. The Ag & Open Space Committee is taking an initial look at land preservation partners in the county, the state, and with land trusts to identify which applicants might be suitable for funding. This would be a combined project of over 850 acres so the majority of the funding will come from sources other than the Town for preservation. They discussed the Community Preservation Fund and how much has been raised so far, as well as the membership and the importance of identifying membership that fulfills the legal requirement under the law. Membership that will not present any potential conflict or appearance of conflict, for example any member who might be eligible to receive any of the community preservation funds, has also been discussed. They are working on a grant for agri-tourism. The committee reviewed one Planning Board project.

Senior Services – Chairman Andrew Kehr reported on the issues currently being addressed. One is having a centralized point of contact for residents to obtain information regarding senior services. Another issue is the possibility of a joint Red Hook-Rhinebeck Dial-A-Ride. There have been discussions regarding the development of an information board at the Red Hook Commons. It would provide a way to post brochures/pamphlets regarding pertinent information for seniors. The Senior Services Committee has been discussing the creation of a brochure highlighting important information pertinent to seniors. Another discussion took place regarding a joint Rhinebeck-Red Hook Seniors Expo. All members were in agreement to make this commitment.

Robert McKeon asked if the establishment of a Senior Center has been discussed.

Andrew Kehr answered that exact topic has been discussed at numerous meetings. First and foremost would be location of a structure. A centralized location would be a start.

Robert McKeon brought it up because Ken Kearney has not yet developed the third phase of his project (Red Hook Commons) and perhaps here would be room for a Senior Center on that property.

Rosemarie Zengen feels that most seniors like the firehouse. She doesn't think it should be at the Commons or that the Commons should be a focal point.

Linda Keeling suggested St. Margaret's Home. The seniors need a place of their own.

Andrew Kehr will bring the suggestions up to the Committee.

Recycling Center – Councilwoman Strawinski reported that she and Councilman Colgan met with residents about possible redesign of the area. One concern is the location of the garbage truck. They contacted Pete Setaro and Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand to ask if the garbage truck could be moved. There is an effort to get the goods exchange building open.

Red Hook Central Schools – Councilwoman Strawinski reported on various school events. The school budget vote is May 20, 2008 and graduation is scheduled for June 28th.

Bard College – Councilwoman Strawinski reported on events and issues occurring at Bard College. Commencement weekend is May 23 through May 25, 2008.

Tree Preservation Committee – Nancy Guski reported that the Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration will take place on April 26, 2008. The Wetlands Walk trail dedication will be at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Hook Recreation Park, followed by a tree planting. Events will take place at Red Hook Village Hall at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. At the Red Hook Town Hall Parking lot, various events

will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Regarding the NYSDOT Landscape Development Project, the committee will accompany the DOT engineers to stake out the tree placements. They will be planting 55 trees along the state highways in the Village and the Town. Some of the members will attend a conference – Planning for Trees in Urban & Community Landscapes, sponsored by Releaf and Cornell Cooperative Extension on April 2, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane referred to the following correspondence:

- A letter from Time Warner Cable containing payment of \$56,103.69 for franchise fees.
- Letter from Assessor Jeffrey Churchill citing that he received an invoice from MJ Watch for the 2008 trending analysis. It explains that he is a new Assessor and he is asking for details. Supervisor Crane wants the Board to know that he is asking for hard copies of the appropriate draft charts and explanations of what he is asking us to pay for. Mr. Churchill has not yet received a hard copy and expects to see it soon. The check will be on hold until he receives information from John Watch.
- Supervisor Crane contacted Town Engineer Dan Wheeler who will report next week on the Community Development Block Grant of sidewalks towards Rokeby Road.
- June Vescati sent a letter thanking everyone for their prayers and positive hope.

Councilman Latimer announced that we received an invitation to visit Kinderhook on April 5th, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for the dedication of their new highway facility. He offered a ride to anyone who wanted to go with him.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling thanked the Board for allowing the public to hear by the Board sitting at the dais.

Frank Stoppenbach asked if there are plans for the highway garage.

Councilman Latimer answered there is a full set of plans that were developed six years ago but we are still exploring other alternatives.

Rosemarie Zengen, of the Save Our Town Committee, said there has been a lot of publicity concerning John Watch because of the job they are doing. She knows that Marc Molinaro is out there fighting. She asked if the Town is going to evaluate what is going on. What does the Town Board feel about what has transpired.

Supervisor Crane is waiting for a response to the letter that Assessor Jeff Churchill sent to MJ Watch.

Rosemarie Zengen does not want to be on the camera for Red Hook Concerns. She has asked several times and will continue to ask.

John Douglas understands that Winnakee Land Trust asked for funds to do their work.

Supervisor Crane understands that we may have been the first municipality they approached with the idea of creating a coalition of communities, each of whom pay into the Winnakee Land Trust for them to act as the agent to oversee small parcels that can't get a sponsor through larger conservancies. They were very vague about the exact amount to be paid and her sense is that they were putting out an idea to get a reaction. We have not made any commitments to them. This would be in cooperation with other towns.

John Douglas has supported that foundation and his understanding is that they are all about volunteers. He is not willing to pay another entity and thinks the Town should create a map showing all the conservation easements which should be updated yearly showing who holds the easements. He'd rather see that money go towards PDR's, our Recreation Department, trees or Highway Garage.

Councilman Colgan explained that after doing a little research, he can only describe this as a work in progress. It's almost impossible to debate because this is in the early stages. At the moment we don't have a concrete proposal.

Robert McKeon doesn't disagree with Mr. Douglas but clarified the different levels of funding. There are four different levels that we are fortunate to have.

Business Manager Deborah Marks asked if we should create a secretary position for the Tree Preservation Commission.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, move to create a line in the budget for a secretary of the Tree Commission.

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

Supervisor Crane announced that there will be a regular business meeting on April 8, 2008 which will begin at 7:20 with a Public Hearing regarding the appointment of alternate members to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk