

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 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
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert Latimer
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilman James Ross
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened the meeting to the floor for a 15 minute public comment period.

Patrick Kelly stated that he was shocked that the Board will not hold a Public Hearing on the location of the proposed Highway Garage. He knows one was held about 5 ½ years ago, but many residents are new since then and three of the sitting Board members were not serving at that time. Given the significant concerns of the location particularly to the water supply he thinks the Board should reconsider and hold a Public Hearing.

Alfred Buff is concerned about building over the aquifer because he is concerned that it could potentially affect his ground water. He lives on Hapeman Hill Road. He asked if the Town contacted the DEC and the health department. Did you take into consideration tax losses for the potential development in the place of the present Highway Department of a dynamic commercial center with offices and small shops?

Frank Knobloch asked for a Public hearing on the Highway Garage and the proposed location. The one held five plus years ago seems too out of touch with contemporary facts, needs and concerns. The new garage plan provokes questions about proposed location and whether this location is the best use for that piece of real estate.

John Schmitz is concerned about the cost of the garage. He's heard it is possible that we may be able to share the cost with the State and or Villages and he thinks we should take time to consider that.

Mike Ignatowski spoke about the lack of a Public Hearing and would like the Board to reconsider. We should get input from all affected parties. The process does matter.

Susan Pelosi is curious as to whether or not there are other locations not over an aquifer.

Ruth Oja noted that building the new garage is not a matter of doing it quickly, fast and cheaply now it is a matter for the next 50 years. It will set in stone what Red Hook is all about. It will be a risk to our drinking water; it will make it impossible for us to build a sustainable commercial center and the tax base that goes with it. The town should consider, more seriously, an alternative site. Because of all these considerations, we need a public hearing.

Jennifer Munn agrees with everyone here tonight. She feels we should have a Public Hearing. We have to be concerned about the water supply, taxes, and she thinks the Board needs to look at the bigger picture regarding commerce in the Town as to how it will affect the landscape of Route 9. We can use the valuable land property in a more beneficial way.

Rosemarie Zengen understands this has been studied for the last 7 years. If water contamination was a problem this Board would hire the best engineers possible. There was a Public Hearing five years ago and she agrees a garage needs to be built. We take pride in our Town. Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand has been here over a quarter of a century working for the Highway Garage. He thinks the present site is right, and she agrees with him.

Vicki Perry commented that to say Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand knows it and we should do what he says is like saying the rest of the Town doesn't matter. We need a Public Hearing. The Board is here to address the needs of the entire Town. The EDC said we need more business. Sure, take the land right in the center of Town which is not being taxed and keep it that way. That is prime economic commercial space that should be a mall or commercial business. Who wants big trucks pulling out on Route 9? You're just rushing through. We need a Public Hearing because people living here now need an opportunity to have their voice heard.

Dick Franklin commented that moving the garage would cause 2.5 million dollars in remediation costs. During snowstorms the highway department plows the roads right here for emergency vehicles. If they are in a back area they'd have to clear themselves out before they can service the Town. The building is in violation of OSHA.

Susan Elias commented that it is wonderful that we have different opinions. We all believe in the will of the people. Five years ago is a long time and circumstances have changed. There are environmental concerns. This is not going to be cheap. If you believe in democracy, have a Public Hearing. Let's not rush into this.

Linda Keeling said it has already been determined that the Rokeby Road site is not good. There are wetlands there. The present site is controlled by the DEC. We had to remove underground tanks years ago so they would not contaminate the ground. Everyone is looking at the site, OSHA is looking at it. She has never heard anything about contamination of the water from this site. She feels this is the best site. There are 18 acres of Village property in the back and it's a nice connection.

Lori Urbin didn't live here five years ago but she loves Red Hook. She would have lots to say and doesn't think a Public Hearing would hurt.

Rohan Parikh said a Public Hearing could be held in 2 or 3 weeks then the process can move on. He is for a Public Hearing.

Charlie Blum observed that it is quite obvious we all don't agree. It is the Board's job to make sure the residents understand.

Phoebe Prentice said there were two presentations last month that didn't happen five years ago. Economics, suggesting we need more commerce and this is a good place for it, and water is precious. We can do better.

Jennifer Stokum is concerned with the ground water quality on this site. Why is soil remediation needed and shouldn't that be considered anyway and what type of contamination is there now. It is her understanding that the site is less than 700 feet away from a top producing well for the Village. An environmental impact statement should be performed.

Sean McLaughlin suggested compiling the information again and presenting it to the public. He urged the Board to hold a Public Hearing.

Lenore Nemith goes along with many of the other statements. It would be interesting to hear the 5 year history. Why did it take 5 years and why now is it a rush.

Beth Jones asked what happened to Centers & Greenspace Plan. It included expanding walkable space in this region. Why are we not taking more time to be really sure the water is not going to be contaminated? The garage goes against the Centers & Greenspace Plan.

Frank Knobloch remarked about the groundwater. Highway garages can be dangerous to the groundwater.

Richard Hansen said about 50 years ago the Rokeby Road site was a dump for many shops and industries, phone and utility companies. It was also a junk yard. In the springtime the ground is red from the perp coming from the ground. It's been that way for 50 years. It has quite a history. The houses around there drink bottled water because of contamination. He suggested that anyone thinking of that site take a history lesson.

Rosemarie Zengen fought hard against Hannaford and we had Public Hearings where people voiced their opinions. We couldn't have another one because we didn't like the way things were going. Instead of fighting the issue we worked to make sure we got the best possible engineers for Hannaford. The way to be part of the process is to make sure there is no contamination, to work with the engineers, not to propose a Public Hearing that has already taken place.

With no further comments the public comment period was closed.

Supervisor Crane read a resolution regarding the authorization for the Town of Red Hook to award a contract to Cooper Associates to conduct an indoor air quality study.

RESOLUTION 2008 #50

RE: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF RED HOOK TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CONDUCT AN INDOOR AIR QUALITY STUDY

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, move to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilwoman Strawinski asked for the summary of bid results.

Supervisor Crane explained that she, Attorney Chale, Dan Wheeler, and the engineer for the Town had a conference call with the two companies who prepared bids. Cooper Associates was the lowest bidder.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if it was ever considered when thinking about poor air quality that we move the employees to another location out of concern for their health.

Supervisor Crane responded we probably will have to if there is a problem. This will determine what the problem is if there is one.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Budget Officer – Rose Rider has begun meeting with various departments.

Dog Control – Councilman Latimer reported that for the month of June, two dogs were picked up. One dog was returned to the owner and Dr. MacDonald has the other. There were seven dog complaints in Red Hook and Tivoli in the month of June. Work continues on license renewal.

Police Report – Supervisor Crane reported that during the month of May there were 21 registered complaints, 23 uniform traffic tickets, no parking tickets, 5 accidents investigated, 4 arrests made and 1 EMS related call.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan reported on the purchasing activity from June 3 to July 1, 2008. During that period 28 purchase orders were issued in the amount of \$31,105.50. The largest \$12,144.10 to Reclamation of Kingston for road reclamation of Oriole Mills Road. It was performed under a Dutchess County contract. We replaced the air handler since parts for it were no longer available. The cost of the unit was \$4,688 and we treated this installation on an emergency basis as the hot weather was here and time was of the essence. A contract is being issued to Hudson Valley Clean Energy for the installation of the solar panels on the Town Hall. The base bid was \$42,830 and NYSERDA is anticipated to reimburse the Town \$17,675. The RFP for a preservation architect for St. Margaret's was issued. Bids are due back on July 15. The Justice's computer systems have been installed and are operational. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy is in the process of obtaining estimates for the window move and door installation for the Justice's Offices. He's also issued a number of PO's for Arts and Crafts and other summer recreation programs.

Water District Report – Supervisor Crane gave June’s monthly report. Bard College is periodically using Red Hook water and we are pumping 94,000 gallons a day. The well levels remain up at 54 feet and 42 feet. There are no contaminants in the water and there is a culvert repair on the Ghost Road right-of-way. The water department will be tracing an old water line on Aspinwall Road. Routine meter fit work and hydrant flushing was completed on May 8th. There were no dirty water calls. A curb stop valve on Albie Road is inoperable and will require replacement. The pump house has been cleared of overgrowth and the water board requested a detailed quotation for mapping services of our water district. The cost of the total system is \$7,590 which includes 500 curb stops. The total without the 500 curb stops is \$2,704. The pump house roof needs repair and Water Department Chair Hank VanParys will work with Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to request quotes for this work. A new chlorine pump was installed on May 22nd and is working well. Their next work session meeting is July 10, 2008.

Planning Board Report – Patrick Kelly reported during the month of June the Planning Board held two meetings. At the June 2nd meeting they reviewed two site plan applications and also two minor amendments to previously approved subdivisions. They continued discussion of Anderson Commons to facilitate meeting their conditions of approval. The site plan application for Powers Auto, which is the new NAPA store going in where Majestic was previously located, received conditional approval. At the June 16th meeting they conducted a Public Hearing on an application for minor subdivision and reviewed a request to amend a previously approved minor subdivision and site plan application. The amendment to minor subdivision was approved, while the other projects will require further review.

ZBA - Supervisor Crane referred to minutes of the ZBA meeting of June 11, 2008.

Ag & Open space Committee - Councilwoman Strawinski referred to the minutes of the June 30, 2008 report. Richard Biezynski, Ken Migliorelli and Beth Mead reported on the weather and market issues affecting agricultural business in the Town, region and elsewhere. The frost in May and hail storm in June damaged a significant portion of some Columbia County farms and to a lesser extent a small portion of Northern Dutchess operations. This should further limit supply levels and increase the market for local growers. Robert McKeon and Mary Ann Johnson reported on their meeting at which the County’s new initiative Dutchess County Bounty was announced. Regarding Farmland Preservation projects, the West Kerley Corners Rd. farmland protection projects have begun in earnest as most of the landowners have submitted their applications to the Town Clerk. The Committee discussed the status of the Centers and Greenspace Plan and the Task Force’s meetings that transpired with landowners in the proposed Ag Business District. The committee reviewed a Planning Board referral for the Hammerling property.

CAC – Brenda Cagle, CAC Chair reported there were 226 participants in the Household Hazardous Waste Day. Meetings with Energy Star contractors as well as meetings regarding habitat mapping will be pursued at a later date. Regarding the Highway Garage, five sites were discussed with respect to environmental and location considerations. Some were dismissed as being inaccessible, having too many wetlands, or being too close to the Village wells. Several CAC members met with Councilwoman Strawinski and Jim Pinheiro to look more closely at the Rokeby Road site. They asked the Board to request a study of contaminants at the current location and to have a hydro-geologist evaluate any site considered. A memo was submitted to the Town Board about this discussion. Anne Rubin attended a Storm Water Conference at Norrie Point and Brenda Cagle attended an Ecosystem based management workshop at Marist College. Brenda thanked Laurie Husted for writing the grant for the solar panels. The Recycling Center progress was discussed. The CAC’s next meeting is July 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Recycling – Councilwoman Strawinski met with David Pollack of the DEC. She thanked the Highway Department for finishing laying the Item 4 for the containers behind the goods exchange building. It is still a work in progress. There is a concern about traffic flow and safety. She expects a follow up letter from David Pollack shortly. She will call Recycling Center Manager TJ Hackett and ask him to meet with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand to secure the center. They also discussed working with recycling center employees to see about improving the service at the center.

Economic Development Committee – Supervisor Crane referred to minutes of the June 19th EDC meeting. She reported that they are largely involved in creating a map for inventory of

characters of various land parcels to help us understand the preservation efforts and tax implications. The Poughkeepsie Journal has offered them a guest column which they plan to follow up on. The Committee members are also working with the Chamber of Commerce and Town business owners. They've discussed the Village public parking area identifying that as an issue of immediate importance to the Village. The Chair, Doug Moat, has been meeting with Dutchess County EDC which offered to help introduce those interested in converting the Buddhist facility to possible outpatient clinic and professional offices.

Trails Committee – No new business

Intermunicipal Task Force – Supervisor Crane referred to the report from June 21, 2008. The committee continued to review developments in the central sewer project and the Centers and Greenspace Plan (CGP). Regarding the Agricultural Business District (ABD), the Task Force sent a letter to 140 owners of 207 parcels proposed to be included within the ABD inviting them to meet with the Task Force at the Tivoli Village Hall on June 6th or at the Elmendorph Inn on June 18th to have the Task Force present the details of the proposed Agriculture Business District and to invite discussion of that component. They also presented to the parcel owners a discussion of why we need it, how it was developed and what is being proposed. The Task force was encouraged by the very favorable response to the proposed ABD in particular. Michele Greig of Greenplan, Inc. has been meeting with Attorney for the Town Christine Chale to finalize the language in the proposed zoning under the Centers & Greenspace Plan. The revised text in draft form is expected to be prepared and given to the Town Board by July. The Task Force also asked DC Planning to prepare a zoning map containing the details of the proposed ABD to be provided to the Board. On June 20th members of the Task Force met with the joint team of local, county, state and federal officials working to establish a Red Hook Sewer District. CT Male is preparing a facilities plan to be concluded by the end of July to meet a deadline of August 1st for the submission by the Village of Red Hook (as lead agency) for future funding from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp (EFC).

Recreation Commission – Doug Strawinski reported that the summer programs are up and running. Over 1000 children signed up. We have Over 40 Softball, a Church League, Little League Travel Team, Junior Baseball Leagues are in their playoffs, Senior Baseball, and SAS Summer Softball is starting this month. The men's' basketball league is in full swing. The pavilion reservations are up and if anyone is interested they can reserve through Town Clerk Sue McCann's office. The Wall Ball is completed and painted. Doug Strawinski thanked Paul Parker and his help who took on the project for his Eagle Scout project. A new park sign has been installed and we also built a sandbox. The Skate Park ramps are installed and being used. Twelve picnic table tops have been repaired and they are still working on the RFP for the new recreation park.

Senior Service Committee – Councilman Colgan reported that the committee will have a liaison to the Red Hook Commons in order to maintain contact and filter to the committee any pertinent senior issues that need to be considered. The committee is working on publicity. They are trying to get something on PANDA and are working on a brochure which would include information on community action, health care, Office for the Aging, local activities, upcoming events, etc. The joint Rhinebeck/Red Hook Senior Expo for September 24th at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds is moving forward. They are focusing on obtaining sponsors to help defray some of the costs for equipment. (i.e., tables/chairs rentals). The local AARP chapter has agreed to contribute funds as part of their community services.

Tree Committee – Nancy Guski reported they met with Rose Rider about their wish list. She will attend an Urban Forestry Conference in Cornell at the end of July. Right now they are in a learning process. They are looking at things like timber harvesting and urban watershed forestry and are in the initial stages of talking about what they will do in the fall.

Supervisor Crane asked if the Tree Committee had a recommendation for a committee member.

Nancy recommended Marcy Appell for the vacancy on the Tree Committee. The Tree Committee has a goal of working with other committees.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to appoint Marcy Appell to the Tree Committee.

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

Councilwoman Strawinski congratulated the graduates of the Red Hook Class. The roofing project will move forward this summer.

Councilwoman Strawinski reported on events at Bard College.

Marcy Appell asked Supervisor Crane to clarify the EDC regarding the Buddhist Center.

Supervisor Crane said, regarding the Buddhist Temple, the EDC met with Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation who indicated that they would introduce them to a developer interested in converting the building to a possible outpatient clinic and professional office, and another developer who is interested in converting it to an inn. The building is not being used.

Councilman Colgan said it is not finished inside.

Marcy Appell explained they were able to build because it was a religious venture. She asked if a health facility would pay taxes.

Supervisor Crane answered it depends if it is private or not.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Crane opened the meeting for a final Public Comment period.

Patrick Kelly submitted a letter from Allison Hale-Rude regarding the Highway Garage issue. She asked the Board to slow down and take time to plan. She also asked for input from the public. Patrick suggested getting the Highway Department employees out of the present building as soon as possible for their health and again, called for a Public Hearing regarding the placement of the Highway Garage.

Rosemarie Zengen said when we didn't want Hannaford, they formed a committee to raise money for engineers and attorneys to help the Town Board, to guide rather than oppose. Let's get organized. Sue Crane will definitely work with us. Marcy Appell will too. Public Hearings are talk and we already had one. She disagrees with Vicki Perry this is precisely the democratic process whether it was five years ago or not. Save Our Town would contribute to the cause, help the Town Board rather than oppose it.

Linda Keeling has a different issue. The Town got a grant to do sidewalks and asked that the engineer consider looking at 4 design issue movies on the [access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov/news/sidewalk/videos) website which will help people with impairments. The site address is: www.access-board.gov/news/sidewalk/videos

Supervisor Crane will notify the Town Engineer.

Andrew Kehr, Chair of the Senior Services Committee, explained the Senior Services Committee is putting together a brochure and asked about providing contact numbers instead of a direct phone extension.

Supervisor Crane asked what to do if someone asks about a senior issue.

Andrew Kehr asked that it be passed on to the committee. With few calls a month it may not be feasible to set up a line.

Town Clerk Sue McCann usually forwards information to the appropriate agencies. She told Mr. Kehr that if he provides a list of agencies, she would be happy to help.

Rohan Parikh thanked the Town Board for the solar panels on Town Hall. He hopes the Town uses the technology as we move forward.

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk