

## RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

November 18, 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

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

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

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's report for the period of October 1 to October 31, 2008 was read as follows:  
Opening Balance – \$2,344,162.11; Receipts - \$427,491.59; Disbursed - \$541,326.14; Balance - \$2,230,327.56.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to accept the Supervisor's report as read.

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

### TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of October 1 to October 31, 2008 was read as follows:  
Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$1,177.46; Amount remitted to County Treasurer for Dog Licenses - \$99.35; Amount remitted to NY Ag. & Markets - \$21.00; Amount remitted to NY State Dept. of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$90.00; Amount paid to NY State Environmental Conservation - \$2,409.19; Total State, County & Local revenues -\$3,797.00.

Town Clerk Sue McCann reported on the completed water warrant for the third quarter. Money collected - \$27,808.97; Delinquents relieved (sent to County to be added to property tax bill) - \$1,003.95.

Town Clerk Sue McCann announced the following:

Hugs From Home – Town Clerk McCann has set up a collection box in the Town Hall where local citizens can drop off requested items. Once a month the items are collected and brought to a local UPS store where volunteers sort the items and get them ready for shipment overseas. The collection will go on until citizens stop filling the drop boxes or until our troops are home. Donations can be left in the drop box at Town Hall, Village Hall, as well as other areas. A list of requested items is available in the Town Clerk office.

Automated telephone system – Town Hall has gone to an automated phone system and the phone number is 758-4600. The purpose is to help direct calls to the appropriate office.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) is a program designed to help low income households pay a portion of energy costs. It also helps households who qualify to meet energy crises, and helps eligible clients who need oil tank or furnace replacement or repair. Call Community Action in Red Hook for help. Their number is 876-1611.

Foreclosure Aid Service – is a new service for anyone facing home foreclosure. It is a counseling program, Hudson Valley Foreclosure Prevention Services, and their hotline number is 1-888-377-7713.

### NORTHERN DUTCHESS ALLIANCE PRESENTATION

Supervisor Crane introduced MaryAnn Johnson representing Northern Dutchess Alliance.

Mary Ann Johnson thanked the Board for allowing her to make the presentation and for the use of the projector for her presentations around the northern Dutchess County area. She went on to explain that the Northern Dutchess Alliance was formed in 1999 to create a way to talk about issues that cross municipal borders with organizations about what is important to their communities. The group includes local governments, business and community organizations, Scenic Hudson and Winnakee Land Trust among others. It concerns regional cooperation, which in these economic times, is even more important. Her presentation included affordable housing, economic development, open space preservation, tourism, transportation, infrastructure, and issues regarding Metro-North contemplating stops north of Poughkeepsie. They want to set a meeting with Mayors and Supervisors for their input on projects. They hold special issue workshops to address various concerns and projects, one being a farm to school project developed with local school district food service administrators working with local farmers. Their current projects are Blueprint for Economic Development, a “buy local” campaign and Dutchess County Bounty. Regarding the Blueprint, they put together a tool kit for communities. It explains how to collect data, how to build relationships, how to find and keep volunteers, connecting community assets and how to evaluate census data. The last part is how to put it all together creating an action plan. They work with Sustainable Hudson Valley who did a study about what northern Dutchess County produces as well as what we could produce. They hope to continue to work on a regional level. Regarding Economic Development, they’d like to raise the wellbeing of all residents. It is about filling local needs, spending money in the local community, looking for things to complement the community’s character and to make sure the unique qualities of the community are preserved or enhanced. An example is Hudson Valley Fresh. They produce a high quality product that they sell at a premium price and it helps dairy farmers earn a living wage. They’ve become very successful. The Northern Dutchess Alliance would love to have each community commit people to work with them and to have a regional action plan. The Blueprint project has been funded by a Greenway Grant. In doing research about promoting “buy local” they’ve realized they need to raise awareness in the community so people understand its importance. In their awareness campaign they would like to come up with a Northern Dutchess logo, to have giveaways to participating businesses and provide information to hand to customers regarding local events. They will be working with local Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations to better coordinate their efforts. Regarding Dutchess County Bounty, it is a business to business guide to create a direct link between farmers, chefs and caterers. They are also working with the Dutchess County Economic Development Council. Dutchess County Tourism also promotes businesses that are using local products which they hope will also help expand their effort.

Mary Ann said their meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every month at Norrie Point Environmental Center from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Colgan asked if they worked with Historic Hudson based out of Westchester County.

Mary Ann responded they have in the past and they are still interested in being part of the Northern Dutchess Alliance.

### **OMNIPOINT**

Supervisor Crane brought to the Boards attention that they had a vote to adopt the EAF and Negative Declaration for the Omnipoint Lease. She asked the Board to adopt those documents again because there were errors in language. There was nothing wrong with the Public Hearing, but the wording was slightly inaccurate.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to adopt the Environmental Assessment Form regarding the Omnipoint Lease.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to adopt the negative declaration.

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

## **CENTERS AND GREENSPACE PROPOSAL**

Supervisor Crane introduced Bill O'Neill, Chairman of the Intermunicipal Task Force and Michelle Greig of Greenplan.

Chair O'Neill began his presentation regarding the proposed Centers and Greenspace Plan with a request that they conclude it at the December 9, 2008 Town Board meeting. He explained that it was in 1968 when the Town of Red Hook began to study the establishment of a comprehensive plan to control growth and to ensure a good quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Red Hook. In 1970 the Comprehensive Plan was first adopted. There were zoning amendments adopted pursuant to that Comprehensive Plan and in 1973 and 1981 there were amendments adopted in an effort to establish zoning to control growth in Red Hook and to ensure a good quality of life. For twenty years, nothing happened as far as studies by the Town to control growth. In 1989/1990 there was an effort to update the study of growth and it was called the Master Plan, dated October, 1990. The Zoning amendments of 1993 followed that. It was a set of more specific visions to concentrate development in and adjacent to the Village centers in order to protect and preserve farms and open space. There are concepts in the documents but for ten years nothing happened to implement any of the plans. In 1999/2000 the Open Space Committee began a study of growth in the Town of Red Hook. They did surveys and established statistics that 88% of the people surveyed agreed to want to preserve open space and concentrate development near the Village centers. 71% of the residents said they would support a modest tax increase for the concept. In July of 2002 the Farmlands Law passed, and then in July 2003 the Town passed the PDR Program which came up with a 3.5 million dollar bond to help finance it. Shortly after, in 2004, a working group was created for land use conservation and development. That group was directed by the Town Board to finish implementing the Master Plan and Open Space Plan. They held public meetings and it led to the creation in 2005 of the Centers and Greenspace Plan. In May of 2007 they did a progress report and he hopes that on December 9, 2008 they can present a final report. The year 2012 is the two hundredth anniversary of the Town of Red Hook. By then they hope the Board will be in the position to adopt the Centers and Greenspace Plan. Mr. O'Neill introduced Michelle Greig of Greenplan who reviewed zoning amendments.

Michelle Greig explained that this project builds on the hard work of a lot of people. She presented the Board with a compilation of their work, the Town of Red Hook Guide to Proposed Subdivision Amendments. There is one page that the Task Force is still revising. Since the time of first developing the Comprehensive Plan, there are now two new tools available; the Incentive Zoning and the Traditional District. She had all of the Local Law with her except for the Agricultural Business District. Michelle explained that they are trying to come up with an equitable solution for the zoning potential that would be permitted for the smaller properties in the Agricultural Business District. She hopes that will be resolved this coming Friday. The Task Force held a number of community wide meetings and met with officials from the Village of Red Hook and the Village of Tivoli. Attorney Chale and Victoria from her office drafted the local law and incorporated it into Town Code. Michelle is very pleased with it. There are quite a lot of different provisions and they have all been incorporated without having to make a lot of significant change to existing zoning. The general outline of the proposal is the same. There will be two new zoning districts, the Agricultural Business District and the Traditional Neighborhood Development District. The Traditional Neighborhood Development District will have three sub-districts, the residential neighborhood, the commercial center and the office/industrial area. There will be new section on open space incentive zoning that will keep the traditional neighborhood able to grow while keeping with the character and scale of development that we currently have in Red Hook. There have been amendments to the cluster regulations to fit development into the landscape. Supervisor Crane, Attorney Chale and Michelle met with Dutchess Counting Planning's Roger Akeley. He recommended that the design standards be incorporated in the subdivision law. We'd move the specific design standards from the zoning law into the subdivision law. That's why there are now amendments to the subdivision law. Instead of writing this up as a local law, she recommended we readopt the whole subdivision law with these changes. They prepared two separate tools to understand the changes to the subdivision law. She referred to the chart in the handout of the proposed subdivision amendment and reviewed other proposed changes. In reference to siting guidelines for the Town of Red Hook, Michelle explained that the Planning Board is going to ask the Board to adopt them so that they can hand them out to applicants and use them as a planning tool. The

siting guidelines illustrations she referred to are very widely used and were prepared by the Dutchess Land Conservancy. These siting guidelines are best implemented very early on in the planning process. She referred to a step called a Resource Analysis Map as the very first step to a major subdivision. It is based on an aerial photograph of the property. Michelle continued to explain the chart regarding proposed subdivision regulations as well as updates and changes that were made. She will talk more about the changes made to the Zoning Law at the December 9, 2008 meeting. Michelle also spoke about the SEQRA review process and the timeline for SEQRA. She reviewed the opportunities for public comment. Regarding an Environmental Impact Statement, Michelle explained that under New York State law you are obligated to study at least one alternative to the action. The alternative you are required to study is a no action alternative. You can also study other alternatives. At the next meeting, Michelle will have, in addition to the complete local law with the Agricultural Business District, the guide to the zoning amendments, the red line version, proposed zoning map which is being prepared by John Clark, a parcel by parcel analysis of every property that is supposed to be included in the Agricultural Business District, and an update of the progress report summarizing any changes made. Michelle will provide a complete package of all of the materials required. It will be put on the Town website as soon as she is authorized to.

Supervisor Crane thanked Bill and Michelle for presenting tonight and she looks forward to hearing from them on December 9th. Supervisor Crane authorized the information to be posted on the Town website when available.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2008 APPROVAL**

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter from Jay Trapp of D.F. Wheeler Engineers regarding the 2008 CDBG sidewalk extension. The bids were opened last week and reviewed by his office. They contacted the references provided by the low bidder and they were all very positive. Jay Trapp met with Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to examine the bids. After review it is the recommendation of D.F. Wheeler Engineers that the project for the Town of Red Hook Sidewalk Expansion be awarded to B&K Excavation of Pleasant Valley, NY. Their bid is \$96,100.00.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Latimer, moved to approve the award of the bid, subject to performance bonds, and move forward with B&K Excavation from Pleasant Valley for the project extending the sidewalk from Old Farm Road to Rokeby Road.

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*John Douglas* asked if the proposed Greenspace plan is going on the Town's website.

Supervisor Crane answered that she authorized that it go up, the sooner the better.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to go to Executive Session regarding litigation.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Latimer, moved to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 9:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk