

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

January 6, 2009

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 McKeon
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 COMMENTS

Frank Stoppenbach thinks the Town Board should consider a different location for the Highway Garage. The present location could be better used for commercial entities.

There were no further comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane explained that the Town tries to acknowledge the accomplishments of young people and announced Glen Coon, Jr. achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. She read the resolution regarding his accomplishment.

RESOLUTION 2009 #1

RE: HONORING GLEN A. COON, JR. ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

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

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

Copy Attached

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor Crane referred to an updated draft of the committees with notes on it that show any resignations. She would like the Board to identify vacancies as they appear on committees.

Ag. & Open Space Committee - Supervisor Crane pointed out the vacancy of Chair of the Ag and Open Space Committee and asked if anyone has knowledge of anyone else leaving that committee.

Councilman McKeon had the opportunity to speak with the members of that committee who are up for reappointment and they all wish to continue. There are eight members and there will be a vacancy of one.

Assessment Review Board – as far as we know there will be no turnover and Carl Dowden will continue to Chair that Board.

Community Preservation Fund Committee – Supervisor Crane informed the Board that Victor Behoriam indicated to her that he will be cycling off. Phil Seymour whose term also expired will be asked to stay on leaving one vacancy.

Conservation Advisory Committee – is complete. All members will return. A liaison will be needed.

Design Review/Hamlet Committee – is fairly dormant. Councilwoman Strawinski said last night the Planning Board made two referrals to that committee. Supervisor Crane asked all Chairs to get back to her about committee memberships.

Disaster Preparedness Committee – John Douglas resigned as Chair and member and he feels that committee has fulfilled its function. He doesn't feel they need to meet on a regular basis. Supervisor Crane wants to get a sense from the other members. We will also need a liaison for that committee.

Councilman Colgan feels we need that committee.

Supervisor Crane feels the committee is working well and it was used during the recent ice storm. She received a call early in the morning, contacted Dutchess County Department of Emergency and declared a state of emergency which is important because the Town then qualifies for FEMA funds if necessary. In some cases FEMA will reimburse us for overtime put in and our Highway Department worked around the clock for several days in a row. She hopes the Town does qualify for reimbursement for the overtime. Additionally, John Kuhn and another Recreation Park employee cleaned up the Rec. Park and St. Margaret's which was a huge task. John submitted to Dutchess County Emergency Response for FEMA refund.

Councilwoman Strawinski said additionally there was emergency housing at the High School.

Supervisor Crane said it wasn't widely used. A number of people came from Wells Manor in Rhinebeck and one or two people checked in to warm up then went home. They did hand out dry ice until that Sunday. Milan Town Hall was kept open for the duration. It was decided to keep the committee and consider a Chair and another member.

Economic Development Committee – Doug Moat resigned as Chair, not as a member. Kevin Zulch also resigned from that committee so there will be at least that vacancy. Supervisor Crane will poll the committee to see who they might feel is interested in serving as Chair. There are five whose terms have expired. Those are Ronald Moore, Brad Mitchell, Ed Pruitt, Michelle Martin and Kevin Wade.

Ethics Board – Supervisor Crane believes they are complete and content. Fred Cartier is Chair and will need to be reappointed if the Town Board wishes him to stay on as Chair.

Farmland Protection Committee – there are nine members, four need to be reappointed, one as Chair. Those are Mary Ann Johnson, Chair and term, John Hardeman, Hank VanParys, and Karen Schneller MacDonald. There is a vacancy held over from 2007

Greenway and Trails Committee – The term of Chair Howie Callies expires this year, his membership expires in 2009. Five member's terms expired in 2008. Those are Robert George, Henry Christopher, John Kuhn, Doug Strawinski and Ralph Choinsky. Staggered terms were suggested.

Information Technology Committee – two year appointments with five members. Three members terms expired in 2008, Steve Cole, Claire Horst and Deb Marks. Wayne Hildenbrand was voted as Chair.

Planning Board – members are appointed for 7 years. Christine Kane's term as Chair and as a member is up this year. Additionally one other term, Paul Telesca's is up. She hopes to hear from both of them as to their interest in staying on. Town Clerk Sue McCann received a letter from Paul Telesca via e-mail.

Recreation Committee – the committee has five members whose terms are up this year. Chair Doug Strawinsky's term expired, as well as the term of Hollis Cochran, Barbara Fiore, Tom Gilbert and Shannon Miller. She asked Doug Strawinski about their interest in staying on. He hasn't heard but there is an upcoming meeting and he will resolve that.

St. Margaret's Committee – Supervisor Crane said this is more of a task force, she doesn't know if there is a Chair but Paula Schoonmaker is the backbone of the committee. Amy Dubin and Winty Aldrich get together from time to time. The members were appointed in 2007 but the

intention of the term limit isn't known. She will check with Paula. It should have a liaison as well.

Senior Services Committee – Councilman Colgan had no information. He thinks the Chair, Andrew Kehr, will continue as well as the rest of the members. Supervisor Crane received an e-mail from Barbara Jeck who will no longer serve so she believes there will be two vacancies on that committee.

Tree Preservation Committee – There are five members, Karen Cadorette and Rosemarie Zengen terms expire. Chair Nancy Guski believes that all are interested in staying on the committee. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Water Board – Chair Hank VanParys told the Board that they have one resignation, Mike Leedy, therefore they have one vacancy. They put a note in their newsletter asking for volunteers.

Zoning Board of Appeals – is a seven year appointment, Chair Tim Ross' term is up this year, and there are two other terms that expired in 2008. Those are John Douglas and Michael Mosher. We will find out if they are willing to stay on. We do have alternates to that Board, Craig Christensen and Trilby Sieverding, so there is backup if needed.

Zoning Review Committee – consists of nine members with two year appointments. Chair Sue Simon's term expired in 2008 as well as everyone else except for that of Marcy Appell who was appointed mid-term. Board will look into staggering the terms for the ZRC. There will be one vacancy and a Village of Red Hook liaison should be named.

Supervisor Crane thinks it is important for all Town Board members to be present to go through the reorganization appointments. She hopes to take time at the next meeting for the reorganization. The Intermunicipal Task Force will make a presentation at the next meeting as well. She asked Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill if he feels the Task Force should be part of the reorganization.

Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill said the Task Force members feel the Board should address their membership.

Supervisor Crane asked him to give the Town Board his recommendation for memberships. She feels the Task Force is important and should be part of this.

Councilman McKeon suggested the possibility of creating new committees. He asked the Board to explore the notion of having a Transportation Committee not only to tackle road safety issues but also to tackle sidewalks. In the last couple of months he tried to get a map of sidewalks in the Town and Village and he found that there is no such thing. If we want a walkable community it would be good if we had people interested in where to create the next sidewalk. He doesn't think we have a committee with representation regarding public transportation. A transportation committee could tackle those issues. Another committee he would like the Board to explore is a strategic planning committee. There could be representation from the Villages, the school district, and Bard College where they can get together to discuss their major plans for the future. For example there are capital projects that have been both completed and contemplated that have significant effect on the taxpayer. Examples are the Village Hall in Red Hook, the Town was looking at a new Highway Garage and the school was looking at an auditorium project. If there was a representative from all of the entities meeting on a quarterly basis we could stay abreast of what each of those entities are doing. Then perhaps we can plan better both from a capital standpoint and also a planning standpoint. He asked the Board to consider those

Supervisor Crane would call it the Capital Project Committee just to avoid any confusion with the Planning Board or Intermunicipal Task Force.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recycling – Councilwoman Strawinski apologized for any inconvenience because the Recycling Center was closed due to inclement weather. She felt it was a safety issue. The Recycling Center is functioning well and is heavily used. Anyone who has concerns or comments about the Recycling Center can contact Councilwoman Strawinski.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan gave the report prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for the period of December 2, 2008 to January 5, 2009. During that period 21 Purchase Orders were issued in the amount of \$16,424.43. The largest was to IKON Office Products for the purchase of a new copier. The lease on the present copier runs out this month. The cost of the new machine is \$5300. They did a “lease vs. cost” analysis and the purchase was the most cost effective method for the Town. The service in either instance will be done by IKON. The RFP for the Recreation Park Extension designers will be released this week. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy purchased two AED’s (Automatic External Defibrillators), each costing \$1319.50. One will be mounted in the Court Room and one in the Town Garage. A number of Town personnel received CPR certification in April 2008. He will arrange a review training session when the AED’s arrive. Purchasing Agent Kudzy will be working with the Judges on the various security measures proposed for the court. We also installed three Dell computer systems.

Water Board – Chairman Hank VanParys referred to a copy of the water district newsletter. They are presently working on pump control. There is an issue with pressure and a pressure snubber is on order. He explained the issues and how they plan to resolve them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ag. & Open Space Committee – Councilman McKeon reported that the last meeting was a celebration of the five years they’ve worked together. The first Winter Market at the Elmendorph took place on December 13th and had an incredible turnout. The next market is January 10, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CAC – Chair Brenda Cagle reported that they are prepared to focus on outreach and education this year. The CAC asks that the Town Board allocate resources so that the Scenic Roads map and accompanying code can be examined and adopted. The Planning Board and the CAC agree on the proposed changes.

Regarding an Energy Star Building Ordinance, they asked the Board to consider their proposed code change. The fiscal impact would be minimal, the impact on local builders is also small and the impact on new homeowners would be a positive one.

The CAC would like to join ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability for a third year.

Applications for scholarships for the DEC Environmental Summer Camp have been distributed. It is for residents between the ages of 12 and 14 and applications are available through the Town Clerk’s Office, Linden Avenue Middle School science teachers, or can be printed from the Town’s website. They should be returned to Town Hall by 4:00 p.m. on January 14, 2009.

A group of nine people, eight of them from Red Hook, will begin the Hudsonia Biodiversity Assessment Training program this month.

Concern was expressed over the dumping of brush into some of our wetlands. A solution was for the Town to provide a means of brush disposal to its residents. A suggestion was perhaps sharing facilities and costs with the Village of Red Hook. Their next meeting is on January 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman McKeon asked CAC Chair Brenda Cagle if the CAC has a recommendation for language for the Board to consider regarding the Energy Star Building Ordinance.

Brenda said they gave it to the Town Board and she’ll get a copy for him.

Councilman McKeon would like to see this ordinance move forward and he asked the Board to consider this request.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Chair Bill O’Neill said they will make a presentation at next week’s meeting.

Recreation Committee – Doug Strawinski reported that John Kuhn submitted his annual report. They had a great turnout for the Summer Program. He acknowledged the work from the volunteers. The ice storm caused tree damage at the recreation park and it was taken care of after the storm. Some of what is stockpiled will be removed in the spring. He appreciates Supervisor Crane’s quick response to Congresswoman Gillibrand’s request. We may have a shot at some money for the development of the new recreation park. An RFP for the new park design is going out tomorrow. We are expecting to have the opening at the February 10th meeting. Peewee Wrestling is taking place at the Middle School. It is widely attended and is directed by

the school wrestling coach. All the school wrestling team members help out with the Pee wee program.

Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski reported their next meeting is this Thursday. They invited representatives from the Village of Tivoli and Bard College because they would like to discuss reviving the trail between Tivoli at Kidd Lane and the north end of Bard College. They understand there were security issues with the trail that goes through Tivoli Bays, but a lot of students from Bard bike on Route 9G and it is not a very safe shoulder. They just want to start discussion, safety being the most important issue. She read a letter from Howie Callies with regard to shared roadways and establishing more and better bicycle lanes.

Tree Preservation Committee – Chair Nancy Guski reported that the Tree Committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and if anyone has tree related issues she welcomed them. The committee did a fall tree planting at the Recreation Park and were asked to plant around the concession stand. They will work with any and all committees. Linda Keeling will write the Urban Forestry Grant. It is a \$15,000 grant with an emphasis on community outreach and green infrastructure. One goal of the grant is tree inventory. As part of their community outreach they contacted the schools about plans for the Arbor Day Observance and having students working on projects with the Tree Preservation Committee. They had a booth at Hardscrabble Day and continue to look for ways to be a source of information for residents. The committee is researching green infrastructure possibilities. Nancy reported that the committee applied for a recertification for Tree City, USA and explained the four standards. They continue to educate themselves through conferences, meetings, and reading so that they offer responsible advice to the community.

Zoning Review Committee – Chair Susan Simon reported the ZRC meets the second Thursday of the month and will be meeting this Thursday. They are discussing some new ideas.

Councilman McKeon asked about the recommendations from the ZRC regarding multi-family density. He knows it is an outstanding issue but he would like to reopen and resolve the issues and have them be brought to resolution.

Attorney Chale explained that when the Board gets the Centers and Greenspace modified language it does contain language that addresses that issue. She suggested looking at that then talk about what other issues he wants raised along those lines.

Supervisor Crane suggested hearing the Centers and Greenspace Plan first.

Councilman McKeon will make a resolution shortly on the issues.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane had no correspondence.

Councilwoman Strawinski had a few e-mails to share.

- She received an e-mail from Kirsten Gillibrand's Office that there will be an Economic Summit on January 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Presidential Library.
- There will be a fundraiser at the Elmendorph Inn on January 24 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. It is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Contact Beth Jones or Karen Sipperley.
- The Red Hook Chamber of Commerce is holding an installation of new officers and a membership meeting mixer on January 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Speaker will be Assemblyman Marc Molinaro.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Keeling asked Doug Strawinski if it is possible to get winter sports going by installing an ice rink and cross country skiing.

Doug responded they tried an ice rink in the past and the winters were never cold enough. It never seemed real successful. As far as cross country skiing, they can perhaps look at that.

Linda Keeling asked if the new park design will have to go through SEQRA.

Doug Strawinski responded it yes.

Sue Simon reported that PANDA now streams live on the internet. It is a great resource and the website is pandatv23.org. There is also a schedule on the site. PANDA encourages people to submit pictures for their slideshow.

Councilman Colgan recommended setting up a link on the Town website. Town Clerk Sue McCann will it put on the Town's website.

Sue Simon explained if something needs to be seen they'll make it available to the community.

Town Clerk Sue McCann sent an e-mail to PANDA requesting that the Town Board meetings be aired on Monday nights rather than Wednesday. This way residents would have information sooner.

Sue Simon said they did open that conversation.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk