

## **RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**May 5, 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  
Councilman James Ross  
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski  
Councilman Harry Colgan  
Councilman Robert McKeon  
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.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Supervisor Crane thanked and congratulated Paul Parker, Eagle Scout, for his many years of exemplary work as a Scout culminating in his Eagle Scout project. It was on behalf of the Town for the Recreation Park with repairs to the tennis court practice area and fence, and the construction of a baseball pitching wall. We are grateful to him for his efforts on behalf of the Town.

- An e-mail response from the medical director at Northern Dutchess Hospital who is also the Director of the Emergency Room let the Town know that there is no swine flu at this point in Dutchess County. The hospital has heightened awareness, placed masks and sanitizers in the ER waiting room, increased signage in the ER and main lobby, have lab testing kits in the ER, they are masking patients at high risk and escorting them to isolation room, and are keeping a reserve of Tamiflu for hospitalized patients. He asked that unless members of the community are very ill, they should remain at home and call the DOH for advice. They do not test patients unless they have had recent travel to Mexico or have been directly exposed to someone with swine flu. He personally feels this flu is no different than any other and is concerned that the media has caused a panic. Residents can go to the Centers for Disease Control website for information. Their web address is: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance)

- The tentative assessment roll for the Town of Red Hook, Village of Red Hook and the Village of Tivoli has been filed. It is available for inspection at the Assessor's Office in Town Hall and on the Dutchess County website, [www.co.dutchess.ny.us](http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us). Go to links entitled "Mapping/GIS" to search for your parcel. The tentative roll has been available since May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Assessor's Office is available to discuss assessments on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 6<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and May 9<sup>th</sup> by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The grievance process is available to property owners. Owners must file a claim that must be received on or before Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a grievance meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for those residents who wish to meet with the Grievance Board of Review.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Linda Keeling thanked everyone involved with the Town cleanup. It was very successful.

Councilman McKeon asked that the Assessor make himself available next week some time as well since those people watching the meeting on PANDA will miss the dates announced.

Supervisor Crane will speak to the Assessor.

Town Clerk Sue McCann informed them that the information is also posted on our Town website.

There were no further comments.

### **REORGANIZATION**

Supervisor Crane is disappointed that we have not yet appointed the Attorney for the Town, because early in the year we took great pains to negotiate with Christine Chale and negotiated a retainer fee which we thought was in the best interest of the Town. Attorney Chale agreed to

follow that retainer fee for a significant number of services. Without being appointed we are being charged an hourly rate and she would like to rectify that now.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Christine Chale, a member of the firm Rapport, Meyers, Whitbeck, Shaw & Rodenhaussen, as Attorney for the Town for the remainder of 2009.

|               |      |   |                            |
|---------------|------|---|----------------------------|
| Motion Failed | Ayes | 2 | Crane, Ross                |
|               | Nays | 3 | Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon |

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman McKeon said he discussed with Attorney Chale that when the Board does appoint her firm that the retainer amount be retroactive to the beginning of the year. We did table for quite a while the discussion of public contract reform ordinance and he would like to bring back that issue. After that discussion he suggested appointing any of those outstanding firms.

Councilwoman Strawinski would like to have Attorney Chale verify in writing that her retainer would be retroactive.

Councilman Ross said that it should be pro-rated, not retroactive.

Supervisor Crane explained that we are being billed at an hourly rate. She has had no communication that would change.

Councilman Ross said obviously if we appoint Attorney Chale we would sit down with her and expect that retainer fee would be pro-rated. He thinks it is prudent to make this appointment because a number of things she spent numerous hours on would be covered by that retainer. The hourly cost to the Town will be considerably less than what we spent the first four months of this year.

Supervisor Crane has no comprehension at all as to why the Attorney for the Town has anything to do with a contract reform law.

Councilman McKeon said it would be helpful to get what the charges are that would fall under the retainer and compare them and see how they are working out. He made his feelings very explicit at the beginning of the year that this is very important for us to maintain the integrity of the awarding of contracts. He thought the retainer would have been retroactive to the first of the year.

Supervisor Crane said that doesn't answer her question. She asked what it has to do with appointing the Attorney. She does not see a connection between contract reform ordinance and our ability to appoint the firm that has been representing us for two years. She sees no connection what so ever.

Councilman McKeon thinks that if we are going to put rules in place that govern the way we award contracts, those rules should apply to all firms we do business with. We covered the reasons. He doesn't see it as a good practice to isolate certain businesses from others.

Councilwoman Strawinski said we spoke about going out for RFP's, do we know where Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy is on this.

Supervisor Crane explained that we already completed that. We went out for RFP's, we interviewed three different attorneys and we recommended to the Town Board that we continue with Rapport Myers with the retainer fee as one of the primary issues and her experience as another issue.

Councilman Ross said at this juncture we are a third of a way through the year and he doesn't see how that has a bearing on the appointment of our Town Attorney. He feels it is prudent to appoint regardless of how that proposed contract reform law feathers out.

Councilman McKeon thinks we are paying in excess of what we should be paying. He suggested asking Business Manager Deb Marks to draw numbers from the first months of the year to take a

look at items that would fall within the retainer and take a look at those portions of the bills that don't. He'd like to see those numbers at next week's meeting. He doesn't see appropriations for legal fees and services for the obvious, the Centers and Greenspace Plan.

Attorney Chale verified that yes they are billing an hourly rate.

Councilman McKeon asked Attorney Chale if she could prepare something for the Board for next week's meeting.

Councilman Ross explained there is a difference between retroactive and pro-rated. The hours and fees prior to the day we pass it have already been paid.

Councilman McKeon wants to look at the numbers. We still have services, they are held over.

Councilman Ross doesn't see the reason not to appoint the Town Attorney. He disagrees with the pay to play. He thinks it is making problems where none exist. In this case it is prudent to appoint our Attorney.

Supervisor Crane asked what this appointment has to do with pay for play. That issue was brought up in January, and then put on hold. Here it is May 5<sup>th</sup>, we still have not appointed the Town Attorney and there is no excuse for this except stubbornness on the part of someone who wishes to make an issue where there is none.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks public contract reform has some merit as a proactive stance.

Supervisor Crane asked again, what that has to do with appointing our Town Attorney.

Councilman Colgan is not fully aware of the details and would like to have a conversation with Attorney Chale. He would like to table this and resolve it next week.

### **RED HOOK SCHOOL BUDGET – PAUL FINCH, SUPERINTENDENT AND BRUCE MARTIN, BUSINESS MANAGER**

Red Hook School Superintendent Paul Finch explained that the budget process started in October. In mid year they faced the possibility of aid cuts. Luckily that did not happen but in December the Governor came out with a proposal to reduce State aid to Red Hook to about \$947,000. He then asked the Principals and Department Heads to present budgets as they normally do, but give them tiered cut proposals. During the process they looked at the possible tax levy increase and felt what they had was unacceptable. We tried to maintain the core of what makes Red Hook special, and looked at different cost savings opportunities. They froze purchase orders, field trips, professional development not approved prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, and they offered a onetime retirement incentive which five teachers took advantage of. We are facing an enrollment dip. The current kindergarten has 168 students and 108 are enrolled right now. It is possible that they will cut two kindergarten sections, and they are considering cutting a sixth grade section. Mark Phelan retired and we did not replace him immediately. The district is in the middle of an energy efficiency audit and they are looking at re-routing the secondary bus runs. In April they got word that the reduction in aid was being restored so that came back as unexpected revenue. They used a good percentage of that to drive the tax levy even lower and ended up with a 4.2% increase. He moved on to explain the expenditure side of the budget. He referred to School District Business Manager Bruce Martin for further explanation.

Bruce Martin highlighted the dilemma of revenue and building a budget without a solid revenue projection. They started out the budget season thinking money was going to be taken away, then they found out they were going down almost one million dollars. Having most of that restored was a pleasant surprise. Because of the Federal Stimulus plan, schools were the recipients of a significant amount of that money in the form of eliminating the State aid reduction. They also found out that they would receive money directly from the Federal Government over the next two years. Money coming from the Federal Government will have strings attached regarding how it is spent. There are challenges in preparing a budget. They think they have a budget that is on the low end of the expenditure side and tax levy side. He explained there will be a public hearing on the budget on May 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the HS gym and on May 13th there will be a voter registration at Mill Road School in the 3-5 foyer between noon and 9 p.m. From noon to 9:00 p.m. on May 19th the annual vote will take place in the 3-5 gym at Mill Road School. Two

candidates will be running for a vacant seat on the Board. There is now a non-voting student on the Board and there will be a proposition on the ballot to authorize the continuation of the student Board member. Mr. Martin moved on to the contingency budget and the contingent budget rules. This year's percentage cap on the contingent budget is 4%. That is the core operating budget. They are presenting a budget that is well below the contingent budget cap. The contingency budget would call for non-contingent expenses to be pulled. The primary one would be instructional equipment like computers, classroom instructional equipment to the tune of \$100,000 to \$150,000. We would also be required to charge for the use of the schools facilities. He asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Colgan asked if there is a candidate debate.

Paul Finch thinks the PTSA is sponsoring one but is not sure of the date. It would be on the PTA website.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked how many groups would be affected.

Paul Finch gave some examples.

Councilman Ross asked about the roofing project and the heating savings.

Paul Finch did ask for an update but was told it would be difficult to say at this point. Once they get to a full cycle they will get a better sense. The middle school is done and about 85% of the high school is done. Mill Road School's roofing project is huge and has an eight week window.

Bruce Martin said they hope to have an analysis of heat savings this summer.

Councilman McKeon asked about enrollment numbers at the HS.

Paul Finch said the "bulge" entered ninth grade. The class is close to or a little over 200. It is about 40 students over the number of tenth graders. Space is tight in the high school.

Councilman McKeon asked if Mr. Finch could explain why the increases in the Town of Red Hook are lower than in other districts.

Bruce Martin explained that a number of years ago the Town went to a full value assessment. It was determined to keep properties at full value would require about a 3% decrease. Other Towns are at the mercy of equalization rates which are set by the State. If the equalization rates decline it in effect provides an assessment increase. The first step is to pro-rate the levy among the five Towns served by the district. An analysis of what happened last year showed that Red Hook showed an average of 4 to 4 ½ % increase last year when the school levy increase was about 6%. Clermont and Livingston saw double digit increases last year because of the different assessment philosophies. Having an annual revaluation lets Red Hook take some control over the assessment levels in the Town.

Councilman Colgan asked if there is a demographic study underway.

Paul Finch responded that it is almost complete. Initial estimates are about 2200 students. By the year 2019 they are looking at about 2000 students. That could change.

Supervisor Crane asked if the US Census plays into that.

Paul Finch thinks it does.

A resident asked about the reserve fund and what kind of reserve fund the District maintains.

Bruce Martin explained there is a limited number of a reserve. It is typically about \$150,000 but that is committed money. They have a capital reserve, by law established by voter referendum of about \$50,000 at this point and an unemployment reserve of about \$20,000 to \$30,000. They have a fund balance of 4% or about 1.6 million dollars. We designate a portion of the fund balance to serve as revenue for the next year's budget. The total fund balance at the end of this year is in the neighborhood of 3.2 to 3.5 million dollars; about 1.5 million to 1.6 million is

undesigned and about 1.6 million of it designated for next year's budget. The total budget is about 43.5 million dollars.

Paul Finch said that managing a fund balance is interesting. They try to think ahead when using that money.

Corinne Weber said there are many people who can't pay their taxes because of job loss. How does the district handle that?

Bruce Martin explained that the way the law is written unpaid school taxes are guaranteed by the various counties. School districts are in the fortunate position of not having to worry about uncollected taxes. School districts are protected the way the law is written. Mr. Martin also explained the employee retirement systems. Pensions come from the system the employee is a member of. There is roughly an 8% employer contribution that goes to either the NY State Teachers or NY State Employees Retirement System.

Paul Finch explained that for long term strategic planning they anticipate that the district's contribution will go up. Most of these are tied to the stock market. They are hearing numbers of 11 and 12 percent.

Supervisor Crane thanked Mr. Finch and Mr. Martin for their presentation.

#### **QUADRICENTENNIAL MOHICAN PROJECT – JEFF GOLDEN**

Supervisor Crane introduced Jeff Golden from Common Fire Foundation.

Jeff Golden presented two handouts, "History of the Town of Red Hook", and "Honoring Mohican History as Part of Our Welcome to Red Hook". He explained that regarding the Quadricentennial, all throughout the State there are hundreds if not thousands of celebratory events. Missing from most of the events is information about the Mohicans. He said the Town's website on the History section misidentifies who lived here in Red Hook as an example. We lose something as a community when we lose sight of where the deepest roots are of the people and cultures that have lived here for so long. He hopes to organize a group to look at how to raise awareness of those who lived here before Henry Hudson arrived as well as celebrating his accomplishment. Most of their projects are going very well. They are looking into the possibility of creating an interpretive mural that would provide information and imagery about the Mohicans and what became of them. Some elders, drummers and dancers from the Stockbridge/Munsee Band of Mohican Indians from their reservation in Wisconsin are coming in September as part of the events going on. The Mohicans were displaced forcefully from the area, moved to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Stockbridge, NY, then to Wisconsin where the majority of their descendents live today. His committee proposes that approximately three paragraphs of information be added to the website explaining the history of the Mohicans, who they were and some basic things about cultural aspects and what became of them. Also update to reflect accurately that it was the Mohicans who lived here. He referred to his handout that pointed out key points to be added to the website. A question came up as to who would be a person to verify the information on the website. There is an official historian on the reservation that would be happy to review the three paragraphs for accuracy. He asked that if the historian approves the information, if the Town Board would approve posting it on the website. Another proposal he had was adding a lower banner acknowledging the gateway to the Mohican Homeland to the welcome sign on Route 9G. We are the southernmost extreme of their homeland. They would raise funds from private sources to pay for the production and hanging of the sign at which point it will become the property of the Town of Red Hook. He asked the Board's approval for the addition of the banner to the sign.

Supervisor Crane asked when he would have a copy of the text for the website.

Jeff Golden responded that he could have a proposed text in a week.

Supervisor Crane said they'd like to see documentation by the historian who has credentials to back that up. The Board could vote on it at the next meeting if he can get it to them.

Councilman Colgan asked if the historian is associated with Mohican history.

Jeff Golden responded the historian is an official position of the tribe, the reservation. It seems like the clearest, not necessarily impartial, knowledgeable and respected by the tribe historian on their own history. No one is impartial about any aspect of history.

Councilman Colgan wants to be absolutely certain if the Board decides to do this.

Councilman McKeon suggested that if they are going to craft the paragraphs, it might be nice to have a link for those who are interested.

Jeff Golden told Councilman McKeon that the Stockbridge Munsee tribe's history is on the tribe's website. He will get back to the Board in a few days.

Linda Keeling told Jeff that Barbara Bielenberg of the Egbert Benson Historical Society wrote most of the history and asked if he talked to her.

Jeff Golden has not spoken to Barbara but he did go to a meeting officially with the society and they endorse the idea. Larry Thetford in particular was very interested in the idea. He asked if the Board had anything else they wanted to consider about the signage.

Supervisor Crane thinks the sign belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. It should go through them.

## **REORGANIZATION**

### Ag & Open Space Committee

Supervisor Crane told the Board that she received several letters of interest including one from Norman Greig who would like to serve on the committee.

Councilwoman Strawinski will speak with Jay Levine who was interested in serving on the Community Preservation Fund appointment. She will ask if he is interested in serving on the Ag & Open Space Committee.

Councilman McKeon spoke with Lindsey Shott who is interested in serving on the Ag & Open Space Committee as well. Norman Greig obviously has a history in agriculture.

Councilman Ross agrees, and he's a local farmer, his farm has a lot of property in our Town and it makes sense for him to be on the Committee. Norman Greig would be his first choice.

Councilman McKeon was under the impression that perhaps Bucky Coon might be interested. He would like to go to the Committee with the names and go with whomever they support.

Supervisor Crane could support Norman Greig tonight. His long term service to the community is well known. She thought that because of Jay Levine's work schedule it was very difficult for him to meet some of these obligations. The committees are welcome to make recommendations, but the Board makes the final decision.

Councilman Colgan feels it is nice to have diversity on committees but would like to hear input from the committee. He doesn't have any problem with Norman Greig.

The Board decided to wait until the end of the month to make the appointment.

### Community Preservation Fund Committee

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to appoint Susan Ezrati as Chair of the Community Preservation Fund Committee term to expire December 31, 2009.

|         |      |   |   |
|---------|------|---|---|
| Adopted | Ayes | 5 | Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon |
|         | Nays | 0 |   |

### Design Review/Hamlet Committee

There is a vacancy on the committee. Supervisor Crane asked if there were suggestions for the vacancy.

Councilman McKeon suggested asking the committee for recommendations.

Economic Development Task Force

Supervisor Crane hasn't heard from the task force so she will contact Michelle Martin.

Councilwoman Strawinski said there are two sets of minutes posted on the website.

Supervisor Crane knows but would like a report to the Board.

Ethics Committee

Supervisor Crane has a candidate who is a Town employee that she would like to speak with before the Board makes an appointment to that committee.

Councilman McKeon thinks the Ethics Board requested to review the candidates.

Farmland Protection Committee

There are two vacancies on the committee.

Councilman McKeon hasn't heard from MaryAnn Johnson and asked if Town Clerk McCann did.

Town Clerk Sue McCann responded that she did not.

Councilman Colgan asked if possibly a member of the Ag Committee would be interested.

IT Committee

Supervisor Crane said that Wayne Hildenbrand has agreed to Chair the IT Committee.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Wayne Hildenbrand as Chair of the IT Committee term to expire December 31, 2009.

|         |      |   |   |
|---------|------|---|---|
| Adopted | Ayes | 5 | Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon |
|         | Nays | 0 |   |

Planning Board Alternate

There is a vacancy for the alternate but there are no interested parties at this time.

Senior Services Committee

There is an additional vacancy besides the one filled by Susan Goldstein.

St. Margaret's Task Force

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Fran Gruccio as secretary of the St. Margaret's Task Force.

|         |      |   |   |
|---------|------|---|---|
| Adopted | Ayes | 5 | Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon |
|         | Nays | 0 |   |

Recreation Commission

Councilwoman Strawinski said because of the passing of Bob Bowman, there is a vacancy on the Recreation Commission.

Supervisor Crane commented that his passing was a terrific loss to the community, she asked Town Clerk Sue McCann to reserve a page in the minutes of this meeting in honor of Bob Bowman. He was one of those residents who have always been involved in the community. He has been a school board member, on the Northern Dutchess Hospital Board of Directors, served on the Healthquest Committee, was Mayor of the Village of Red Hook, Supervisor of the Town of Red Hook, he has served on the Recreation Committee for a long time. On a personal note he has been a mentor to Supervisor Crane, both politically and as a member of the Hospital Board. He will be greatly missed by a great number of people. He always had a smile and always had time for everybody.

Councilman McKeon thinks that having an engineer being on the Rec. Commission might be a good idea. He knows that Tim Ross volunteered some time to the Rec, Commission and he thinks he might be a good asset.

Transportation Committee

Councilman McKeon is waiting to hear from Red Hook Commons and will put all names forth at once. He is also talking to Paul Telseca.

Zoning Review Committee

There is one vacancy for an Ag & Open Space Committee member as well as one from the Economic Development Committee. Liaison Councilman McKeon will ask Brent Kovalchik if he is interested in the Village liaison appointment.

**CENTERS AND GREENSPACE PROGRAM**

Supervisor Crane has no news. She knows Michele Greig is working on the scoping document.

Councilman Colgan said that Michele is working on it and Attorney Chale will be too.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Highway – Supervisor Crane reported Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand submitted a written request for authorization to go to bid for paving of Feller-Newmark Road from Crestwood to Hapeman Hill Road, and to replace the current tractor and roadside mower with a new tractor and roadside mower. Both items have been budgeted for and should not have any impact or increase in the budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved that Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand go out to bid for those items.

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

Supervisor Crane referred to communication she received from Assemblyman Marc Molinaro that the projected State aid for the 2009/10 fiscal years in regard to CHIPS funding has been fully restored and the Town of Red Hook will be receiving \$101,589.00.

Police Department Report – Officer in Charge, Patrick Hildenbrand turned in a report for the month of April. There were 18 registered complaints, 58 uniform traffic tickets, no parking tickets, 3 accidents investigated, 9 arrests made and 1 EMS assisted call.

Councilman Colgan would like to see trends on the reports.

Supervisor Crane will ask about that.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

CAC – Chair Brenda Cagle reported that as an Earth Day event, Molly Williams organized a composting workshop at Macs Farm and Garden World. She and Denis Collet worked several hours. The ICLEI agreement has been formalized with the intern from Bard Center for Environmental Policy, Lindsay Chapman. She will be available 30 hours a week from June until December. Denise Barton will work closely with her. The Committee continues to provide information for builders and those interested in other aspects of the Energy Star program. There are flyers in the Building & Zoning Department as well as information about online seminars. Brenda thanked Doug Strawinski and Denis Collet for doing the wiring for the PV display. Ruth Oja received the Dutchess County “Senior Female Achievement Award” and will be honored at a luncheon on May 18th at Villa Borghese. At this time no one has applied for the Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship. The CAC welcome’s any ideas as to how to get students interested. The CAC and Tree Commission are working together on some projects. The next meeting is on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman McKeon was in Albany and said that last week the Governor announced that 31 communities joined a smart community’s pledge. He noticed that Red Hook is not one of those. He wondered if the CAC could look into it. It might be something the Town would like to take part in. He was happy to see that the bigger better bottle bill finally got approved. He thanked everyone who got involved in that campaign.

Brenda Cagle responded that we are not part of the pledge yet but can be. Once they get moving on the ICLEI report they hope to get some points needed for the pledge.

Intermunicipal Task Force – The 53<sup>rd</sup> report was submitted by Chair Bill O’Neill. He recounted the sewer project meeting at the Red Hook Firehouse on April 23rd and how it was conveyed to the public.

Recreation Commission – Chair Doug Strawinski started out acknowledging the loss of two great community members, Bob Bowman and Gordie Mergandahl. He appreciates the time and talent they gave to the recreation park. Their memory will live on. The score board dedication was postponed due to a scheduling conflict and they will advise when a new date is determined. They wish Linda Kuhn a speedy recovery. The revised bid proposals for the engineering work have been received and are still being analyzed. As soon as they are completed they will move forward. When the weather improves they will add primer to the playground areas.

Planning – Clerk Paula Schoonmaker reported that the Board amended its policy about rescheduling public hearings when they are unexpectedly cancelled. She read the addition to the policy under the category of “meetings”.

St. Margaret’s Committee – Paula Schoonmaker reported that there is little progress to report. Their funding has been frozen. They are trying to raise the appraised value of the building for when funds do become available. Doug Strawinski patched the roof. They thank Winty Aldrich for paying for the roof detail.

Supervisor Crane thanked Doug Strawinski for the roof patching job. It was important to keep the contents of the building safe. She also thanked Wint Aldrich.

Senior Services Committee - Chair Andrew Kehr reported the highlights of the committee since the April 2nd meeting. They have worked on the brochure. He spoke to Pete Coon regarding the lift and assist calls at the Red Hook Commons. On April 21st and 28th they joined the Red Hook Seniors for a food drive to benefit Community Action. Over \$1,000 worth of food was donated. He thanked the Fire Department for the use of their building and thanked everyone who participated. The Senior Read Aloud program at Mill Road School is in the incipient stages. There are five volunteers who went to meet with Donna Gaynor. They were given a tour, met with the librarian and hope to be up and running next week. They are now looking for long term commitments for the reading program. Regarding the mission statement they will begin to attack the language. The PANDA project is something the committee will be addressing. The Town Transportation Committee is a work in progress. There have been administrative transitions in Red Hook Commons. Future projects are Aides and seniors; and Emergency Preparedness. A request was made about having someone sit on the Dial-A-Ride Advisory Board. They meet semi-annually and Andrew volunteered to serve on that Board. The request came from Mary Kaye Dolan, Aging Service Coordinator from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging.

Greenway & Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski reviewed a brief report prepared by Chair Howie Callies. On April 19th they cleaned up and removed fallen tree limbs from the Tivoli Bays Trail. They also assisted with the general Town of Red Hook cleanup on the same day. Their next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on May 7th at Red Hook Town Hall.

Tree Preservation Commission – Chair Nancy Guski reported on the Arbor Day Observation and spring planting. Eleanor Friery spent a week going into nine first grade classes and two kindergarten classes to talk about the four books they read about trees. She did a lesson in each class about the importance of trees and tree biology. Each lesson was culminated by planting a tree seedling along the wooded edge of the Nature Area. The Friends of the Red Hook Library bought “What Tree Is That?” guides for each participating classroom. She awarded a certificate and book about trees to the three winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest. Linda Keeling, Rose Zengen and Colleen Zengen manned the Tree Booth in front of the Library and gave away 100 tree seedlings. They also gave away tree guides donated by the Friends of the Red Hook Public Library. One Fall Fiesta Maple was planted at the Rec. Park, and two dozen tree seedlings were planted along the “Wetlands Walk”. She thanked the Highway Department and Rec. Park Staff for their help. She thanked Jean Duntz, Sue McCann and Marcie Appell for organizing and serving lunch. May is Watershed Month and the following events are cosponsored by the CAC and Tree Preservation Commission “Trees for Tribs” – May 6th at the Rec Park, 150 trees and shrubs will be planted. Rain Gardens – May 16th, 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall Judy Wolf, Master Gardener will do a presentation on residential rain gardens; on May 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at Village

Hall, Hudson Talbott, author of “River of Dreams – A Story of the Hudson River” will do a talk and book signing. Nancy announced that we are a “Tree City” again for the third year; this is the first year through the Tree Preservation Commission. The previous years were thanks to Brenda Cagle.

Supervisor Crane announced that at the next Town Board meeting she will be asking the Board to approve a resolution for the Community Development Block Grant for 2010–2012. The sidewalk project which runs from Old Farm Road to Rokeby Road that was granted last year is underway.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- The Census Bureau asked that information get out about the census taking place. People are out in the community updating addresses, and the last day will be June 30th. They will update their GPS with that data. In March of 2010 they will send a questionnaire to all residents. Please participate and answer the questionnaire. No private information will be given out and no agency other than the US Census gets the information. The information is needed in order for them to make accurate projections for the years ahead.
- June 7th is the first of the Abrahams Park concerts. At 3:00 p.m. the Basement Boys will perform.
- Winnakee Land Trust is sponsoring a fundraising ballet on May 30th. Call Supervisor Crane for information.
- Michael Klemens, PhD, is speaking at the sixth annual Town Board Breakfast at Dutchess Land Conservancy on May 18th, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
- Hero Stacey Beham who demonstrated courage will hopefully join us at our next meeting, and will be presented with a resolution.

Councilman McKeon reminded everyone that Apple Blossom Day will take place on Saturday, May 9th. He thanked the Rotary and all volunteers. He wished everybody a happy Mother’s Day.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

|         |      |   |   |
|---------|------|---|---|
| Adopted | Ayes | 5 | Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon |
|         | Nays | 0 |   |

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk