

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 2, 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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Douglas asked about the time and date change to Friday for the Town Board meetings being aired on PANDA. He asked why the schedule was changed because the previous schedule seemed to work out nicely. Friday is a bad day for the airing of the meetings. Another subject he brought up was the Rokeby Road property issue regarding the Highway Garage. The Board is supposed to be stewards of the taxpayer's money and they are not being good stewards by investing in property that he understands to be contaminated. If the Town purchases the contaminated property, they would then have to pay to have the water decontaminated which may or may not be possible. If it is not possible, then water would have to be shipped in to clean the vehicles and provide water for the staff. He asked the Town Board to explain to the public.

Supervisor Crane responded to the first question. She too is concerned about Friday being the day that the Red Hook Town Board meetings are on PANDA. She agrees that Friday night is a busy night for people. In her experience as coordinator of public programs, that was the most difficult time to get people to attend things and do things. She approached the PANDA Board on Thursday night and voiced her concern. PANDA is looking into it. There is a possibility of alternating with other communities. The idea was to get all of the Board meetings viewed before the next possible meeting. The problem is that we would have a Tuesday meeting and that would not be viewed until the following Wednesday and there would be an intervening meeting on the Tuesday before that Wednesday viewing and people were confused. Unfortunately we have five entities, all of whom need a viewing day. They know that we are not happy and are going to try to make an accommodation. In regard to the Rokeby Road site, she can't speak to that issue because she is deeply opposed to even considering it for a Highway Garage. She cannot speak in defense of the site and asked if anyone else on the Board could.

Councilman Colgan explained it is on the agenda to be discussed and told Mr. Douglas that he will hopefully stay and listen to the rationale.

Dick Hansen commented on the point of rationale. The Board thinks it is a better investment to sell this property and buy that property. He wanted the framework of what the Board's authority is to put the taxpayer's money into land speculation. Will the Board explain to us what the authority is that says they can buy and sell property because we know that three out of the five people on the Board will vote whether it's legal, right or wrong?

Councilman Colgan commented that is not the logic at all.

Dick Hansen said he'd wait. He was down there a couple of weeks ago and the ground is still red.

Lisa Pullaro attended last week's meeting and viewed it again when it was aired on PANDA Friday. She was a little agitated and perplexed when she left the meeting and perhaps even more so when she watched it again. It was her impression that the meeting was dominated by resolutions and proposals to sign confirmations to support federal and state proposed legislation. She asked that if the entire Board feels it is necessary to take those types of actions on issues that tend to be "feel good" and things that most people would not disagree with, to package them and hold them until the end of the meeting and allow the Town business to take precedence. There were no more comments.

GRANT APPLICATIONS – NYS SMART GROWTH

Supervisor Crane referred to last week's discussion of the two grant applications that are open and waiting. She asked Linda Keeling to look at the NYS Department of State Smart Growth Grant Program. It is a lower Hudson Valley region possibility and we will see if it is applicable. The other grant was brought up by Councilman McKeon. It was a Greenway Grant and she asked him if he intended to apply for it. If so, will someone fill out the application and submit it.

Councilman McKeon passed out a copy of both the guidelines and the application itself for the Board to review.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon who is going to prepare the application and if he had a thought on that.

Councilman McKeon doesn't at the moment and stated that he wanted to get input from the Board about going forward with it or not. He would take it upon himself to come up with some suggestions by next week's meeting about who could submit the application. It is a rolling submission and certainly we want to get on with it because we are accruing fees associated with the environmental review on Centers and Greenspace.

Supervisor Crane asked him if more than one application can be submitted in any given year.

Councilman McKeon believes they can.

Supervisor Crane suggested the Board take a look at the information and thanked Councilman McKeon for providing it. She agrees that the Board should move ahead with it. We have the park, the recreation park extension, the Centers and Greenspace program. It is for \$10,000 and we would welcome that money.

Councilman McKeon will come up with a recommendation about who might be able to file the application. He might be able to do it himself to save some money.

Councilman McKeon told Supervisor Crane that she skipped the announcements.

Supervisor Crane will hold the announcements until last because it is typically a lengthy meeting so she thinks it would be good to wait until the end of the meeting.

Councilman McKeon is concerned that we have a set pattern so the viewer at home would know that if the announcements came at the beginning of the meeting they wouldn't necessarily have to watch the entire meeting. He had people ask if he could put announcements in printed form because it was hard for them to hear him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane explained that events were not specifically what the announcements were intended to be. She announced the following:

- The Town employees took a class from Northern Dutchess Paramedics at the Town Hall on May 20. Everyone in the Town Hall and the Highway Garage are now certified in Automatic Defibrillation skills. We are grateful to have AED's in Town Hall and in the Highway Garage. She thanked NDP for making that class available to the Town without charge and is very grateful for their generosity.
- Red Hook Public Library is sponsoring author Anthony Nusso at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday at the Elmdorph Inn for a reading and a book signing.
- The Association of Towns is sponsoring a Planning & Zoning summer school. The one of most interest to our Planning & Zoning Departments is July 23 at Albany Law School. Contact Supervisor Crane for further information.
- The 17th Annual NY State "Releaf" Conference at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. It is for anyone in the field of urban and community forestry, educators, volunteers, tree commissions, arborists, etc. That is on July 16 – 18, 2009.

Councilman McKeon announced:

- Tivoli Library is holding their Math, Circle & Games on Friday at 6 p.m.
- Hooked on Dogs is having celebration on Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Chocolate Factory

- June 7 - 3:00 p.m. the Basement Boys will perform at Abrahams Park
- June 11 - the flotilla of ships will be docked in Kingston
- June 12 - Red Hook Chamber will hold its mixer at Kaatsbaan from 6 – 9 p.m.
- June 12 - a chicken barbeque at St. Paul's Church from 4 – 7 p.m.
- June 13 - Pet Palooza at Poets Walk from 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- June 13 - annual Strawberry Dinner at the Methodist Church from 5 – 7 p.m.
- June 14 - Red Hook Library will have its Summer Reading Kickoff at the Red Hook Firehouse at 1:00 p.m.
- Congratulations to Jerry Simonetti, who is involved in Hudson Valley Fresh.

Supervisor Crane also informed the public that Town Hall will be closed on July 3, 2009. The Recycling Center will also be closed on July 4th.

ROKEBY ROAD (LIPPERT) PROPERTY

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan to lead the discussion regarding this topic.

Councilman Colgan started by saying “to put things in perspective”, the Rokeby Road issue is secondary to a tax expenditure issue that has a great impact on all the citizens of the Town; particularly including those in the Villages. He had a number of conversations with trustees in both villages related to sharing services, sharing costs with the intent of reducing taxpayer costs Town wide. It has worked so far. We have one Assessor when years ago there were three. We no longer have a Building Department in Tivoli, they use the Building Department of the Town and it worked to the financial benefits of both municipalities. An issue of the greatest expense community wide is our Highway Operations. We have four Highway Garages in this Town. We have the Town garage, two Village garages and the State highway garage. That is one thing he has discussed with other elected people Town wide and has also discussed it with the State. They suggested that municipalities do everything they can to share operations and save expenses for the taxpayer. He talked to both Villages with the intent of putting together a task force to review possibilities of shared operations. The obvious first one is the garage. Regarding the Rokeby issue, at the State's suggestion there are a number of possibilities of what they can share. There is no way of knowing if it would work without expanding the operation out there as it exists today. By looking at that operation and doing a Phase II evaluation we can determine that once and for all. There are a lot of potential savings if we can work with the State. He is not suggesting selling the property here. People think it is a great piece of property to use for everyone in the Town. He is not anxious that we divest ourselves of this or that we for sure move over there but we have to know. It is on that basis that he thinks we should do a Phase II engineering evaluation so that we know where we stand for the future. He also feels that in the current economic situation he would certainly not risk putting a great deal of money into a major investment of a Highway Garage at this time. It strictly has to do with the future. We may have a glitch with our Phase II evaluation and might have to take another vote to move that forward.

Supervisor Crane went back and reviewed the minutes of the March 10 minutes and three of the Board members did vote to move ahead with the Phase II environmental study. As she recalls the conversation thereafter the Board discussed what to do first. What had to be done was to contact the owners of the property. She said she was adamantly opposed to doing a Phase II environmental study and that she would not be the one to pen that letter. She told Councilman Colgan that he said he would take care of it. Thereafter she learned that Councilman Colgan contacted Attorney Joel Sachs who consults from time to time with the Planning Board and asked him to write a letter. With no response he wrote another letter and nowhere in the conversation did she recall authorizing Councilman Colgan to have Attorney Joel Sachs or any other Attorney approach the landowner. She has no recollection and the minutes do not reflect anyone being authorized to go through an attorney to approach those landowners. We have already committed to an Attorney to speak on our behalf, which in her opinion, was unnecessary. Last week when we spoke about this project Councilman Colgan characterized this project as being about \$4,000 from an engineering point of view. She said she went back and looked at the letter of transmittal from the Chazen Company about a projected Phase II environmental study should we decide to perform that. They had figures at that time (October 17, 2006) for a total estimated cost of \$11,875 for a Phase II environmental study. That would include consultants, their fees and so on. Supervisor Crane said that she cannot imagine that in 2009 the cost would be just a third of that. She is mystified as to how he came up with that. Additionally, she asked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy some time ago who did a work up of what he considered the Phase II environmental assessment to cost and he gave the following figures: \$4400 for the Chazen

fee, \$45 an hour for chain saw operators to clear a path at 16 hours - \$720, underground facilities protection organization for clearance of all utilities - \$250, dig 12 to 14 test pits possibly up to twenty feet deep – est. \$2,000, backfilling to return the land to its prior condition – total est. \$10,370. It is not a small piece of change that we are talking about, it is a major commitment we are making. It may be academic because we have not heard back from the landowners, nor has the Attorney heard back from the landowners. She asked Councilman Colgan about the quotes he received.

Councilman Colgan said he had a quote from Chazen of March 3rd of this year. The quote was for \$2900 with possible contingencies adding \$1500 to that. He did discuss this with Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy which is why he ended up going to Keane and Beane. They were involved with the Phase I study in done in 2006. Chazen was also involved then and that is why Chazen is still involved and gave the \$2900 estimate. In casual conversation with Ted, he suggested since Keane and Beane had gotten the previous approval from the landowner that he goes forward with that. Right or wrong that was Councilman Colgan's logic for asking Keane & Beane, because they had prior involvement. He understands Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy's list of costs. There would have to be some work done on the land with backhoes, etc. but that work is available for free. It will not cost the Town anything. As he sees it the Town will only deal with the Chazen bill. With that in mind he thinks it is a worthwhile expenditure to fully understand the possibilities of what in the long term could be a very substantial savings to the community.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks with the exception of the issue of the Keane & Beane expense, we've discussed all these numbers, she doesn't think we should get Board approval to contact our Attorneys to do the work that they are contracted to do with us. She sees vouchers for Attorney Chale every month for phone calls and requests. She asked if she was wrong about that.

Supervisor Crane responded that is what is concerning. We have a Town Attorney to represent us in business for the Town and as you all know she is on retainer now. Had anyone asked who to turn to, someone who is under contract she would think. The other concerning part of this recent proposal of March 3rd from Chazen to Councilman Colgan, has a lot of limitations. Those limitations include charges for meetings, charges for preparation of supplemental or additional services, site restoration, application review and permit fees. The client responsibility is to obtain permission for Chazen to access the property. The client will provide the excavator and work areas of cleared forest; the client will coordinate public utility mark out. Supervisor Crane said she is very, very concerned about the price they quoted of \$2900 to \$4400 as being their piece of it when it doesn't even talk about laboratory fees. Those are in addition as well. Site remediation investigation is another consideration. It is not a small task and she also said she talked to Mayor Cohen today and while we all agree, otherwise we would not have entered into municipal agreements for shared service, it is not true that there is a majority on the Village Board of Red Hook who would consider the Rokeby Road site. It is quite the opposite. Three people on that Board feel the same as Supervisor Crane that it is not the site to investigate. She announced that we will not have partners in this if the Board chooses to move ahead. Not from the Village of Red Hook anyway.

Councilman Ross referred to Councilman Colgan's mention of savings. The savings that we have with shared services, which we have done for many years, have nothing to do with the Rokeby site. Councilman Ross feels the Rokeby site is an inadequate site and that we have a perfectly acceptable site here that we have investigated, done soil tests and everything else for our shared services Highway Department with the Villages as we presently do. The issue of whether or not to pursue the Rokeby site should not be clouded by the fact that it is going to save the taxpayers lots of money because it is not. We are already doing that with a site that has been approved in the past.

Councilwoman Strawinski responded that don't we agree that this issue has been kicking around one place versus the other for the last five years. There are concerns about the aquifer, the housekeeping done on this site, if there was a highway accident that caused a problem with the aquifer, it would cost a lot more money to deal with that. Like other issues, once we move to make a resolution to move forward then we get our answers. We have a lot of people in the community that feel one place versus the other is good. She thinks as a Board they need due diligence to do the Phase II study.

Councilman Ross explained that we already did the testing of the aquifer and all the engineering to safeguard everything on this site.

Councilman Colgan said we are leaving on the table, a potentially substantial savings by partnering with the State. Without looking at that site we can't make that call.

Councilman Ross asked Councilman Colgan for the letter from the State that says they want to partner with us on that site. The State is already dealing with the fact that the site has contaminated all the local wells in that area.

Councilman Colgan answered that he almost weekly gets letters from the State about working on shared services. He visited with the Director of Operations for the southern district of the State.

Councilman Ross responded to share services, yes, but did they offer to share services with their site. The only letter he has ever seen was the letter saying they were not interested in sharing that site with us. That is the only thing he's seen on the record, the rest is just hearsay. He has not seen anything else in writing, only the letter Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand received from the State. We all saw it last fall.

Supervisor Crane would feel a lot more comfortable with this concept if we had something from the State that indicates what it is they want to do. She also had a lengthy discussion with the State and got a letter back that she shared which indicated they had no means of monitoring the sharing of salt, sharing of sand, we use different materials so that wouldn't work, they didn't have people on site to monitor other entities coming in and using those materials and he had no idea how it would work and rejected the idea in the letter she received. She would like to see the communications Councilman Colgan is talking about and maybe that will put a lot of this to rest.

Marcy Appell asked to make a comment.

Councilwoman Strawinski said it is not public comment period time.

Supervisor Crane asked Mrs. Appell if she could hold her comment until the public comment period.

Marcy Appell asked if that would be at 11:00. No, she can't. She commented that she is incredibly concerned about that land. 9G was built through a wetland. It was built as an alternate to River Road. All that water flows from 9G down to River Road. If there are any oil spills or anything like that it will all flow down towards River Road. It is such a wetland you can't possibly use it for anything.

Councilwoman Strawinski responded that they had the DEC walk that site and they are well aware of the wetlands. There are six usable acres there. The ponds around it can be used for educational purposes for our children to study the wetlands. There are good uses for those properties.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan if he could get the Board some communication from NYSDOT.

Councilman Colgan responded perhaps. He's had one on one conversation with them. They want to know whether this is a possibility and they might even partner in a task force with us. The reality is we have four highway departments in Town and they are one of them. He asked for their support and they asked if there is support the Town can support them. It is a potential partnering thing. This is the purpose of having a committee and a discussion. He will try to get them to be part of a task force.

Supervisor Crane is not suggesting that we have a task force, she is just asking him to share with the Board what it is he received from the State that none of the rest of the Board has seen. That is all she is asking for. We have no communications from the landowner as far as she knows, and without that we go nowhere on that property.

Councilman Colgan is having a meeting with the Villages within the week and he would like to go forward with this. It might give us an opportunity to expand this conversation.

Supervisor Crane repeated that without the landowner's permission we can't do anything. She is mystified by the purpose of moving into a Phase II environmental study, spending perhaps as much as \$10,000, when Councilman Colgan himself had said that he would not recommend spending money on a Highway Garage in the near future if the economic conditions remain the same. There is not a lot of logic there.

Councilman Colgan answered he would recommend we go forward as quickly as possible, working cooperatively with the other municipalities, and even the State if possible.

Supervisor Crane fails to see how we are saving taxpayer dollars by purchasing a piece of property that may be requisite of a huge cleanup bill that whoever the owner is will have to bear. If we are it is going to be a huge investment.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks that is what this study will determine and if it comes back that it requires a lot of clean up that puts the whole thing to rest.

Supervisor Crane said we are required by the Phase II environmental study to notify the authorities that we have discovered the contamination on the site and that leaves the owners of the property responsible for what is going on. They are going to bear a huge burden for whatever is discovered on that property before it changes hands.

Councilman Strawinski thinks if the property is that bad then perhaps they should do that for their own health and well being.

Supervisor Crane said the owners don't even live in the Town of Red Hook so it doesn't concern them. She asked Councilman Colgan to report back to the Board after he talks to the Villages and to bring back something from the State DOT.

Councilman McKeon asked about a task force for shared services. He thinks it is very important that we formulate something like that. We need to explore every avenue possible. Certainly shared services has worked so far but we need the three municipalities to come together to start to talk about these issues. He knows it appears to be an oxymoron, why would we purchase a piece of property when we already have one with a Highway Garage on it in order to save money. If you look at expenditures in a township like Red Hook most of the expenditure is payroll related and associated benefit costs. If you have a way of sharing services or combining units that may provide you with an opportunity through attritions and have perhaps say less staff, then it is something to explore. Why test a site now if you don't think you are going to build in the future? If there is evidence that you want to acquire the property now, you might want to take advantage of depressed real estate values to acquire it sooner rather than later. A new Highway Garage will probably have to be in combination with some grants and those would only be available if we did do some sort of shared services or consolidation of services. Whether it's Rokeby or here we need to move forward to see how we can jointly work together and reduce overall costs.

RFP FOR PLANNER AND ENGINEERS

Supervisor Crane referred to a Request for Proposal drafted by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for a Planner Consultant. She asked the Board if it is something they wish to move forward with. We have nothing on the Engineer yet. That is a huge task, he went out for the engineer fairly recently. He doesn't know what the scope of services it is that the Board is asking him to request from an engineer so he has not begun work on it.

Councilwoman Strawinski will schedule a time to sit with him when he gets back.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recycling – Councilwoman Strawinski reiterated that the center will be closed on July 4th.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan read the purchasing activity report for the period of April 6 to June 2, 2009 prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. There were Purchase Orders issued in the amount of \$30,184.71, the largest to Warex Terminals, \$3,135.36 for gasoline and diesel fuel. Those purchases are under State Contract. They received and evaluated the RFP for Engineering the Recreation Park Extension. The Board approved Weston & Sampson, Engineers

and Landscape Design, of Poughkeepsie to do the project for \$19,900. A purchase order was issued for our 2009 grounds maintenance to Gardens Plus of Tivoli in the amount of \$2995.00. Per the Boards direction, he drafted an RFP for a Town Planning Consultant. A defibrillator instruction class was conducted for Town Employees by Northern Dutchess Paramedics. Linda Stoddard arranged the class.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Preservation Fund Committee – Chair Susan Ezrati reported that the group has met every month since September. They began their process at the behest of one of the members who was concerned about similar boards getting into difficulty for overspending of that fund on administrative tasks. With that in mind they spent considerable time bringing in experts such as those from Scenic Hudson and Winnakee Land Trust to talk about proper monitoring administration procedure. They expect to complete and approve to recommend to the Town Board a template for monitoring and evaluation. Ted Fink of Greenplan will establish a template or process by which they would be able to compare any parcel in Red Hook that has been defined as having either agricultural value, scenic value, cultural or historic preservation issues. They are following a process that was established by the Town of Warwick, one of the few Towns that actually have gone through this process. The process allows you to compare one parcel to another. She gave examples of comparisons. Trying to get a college intern for input proved to be quite onerous; so they went to the local High School and found a student Emma Dowden who was eager and has cataloged 80 properties so far. The background work will enable them to move fairly quickly through the process to do some ranking of the properties that would come first to the purchase of development rights. The committee determined that agricultural rights are preeminent.

CAC – Councilman McKeon read Chair Brenda Cagle's report. No seniors applied for the Ruth Oja scholarship. Denise Barton and intern Lindsay Chapman attended a regional workshop in White Plains. Lindsay will provide ICLEI updates. Two Bard students gave a presentation of three models that have been used for community solar power. She thanked Andrew Strawinski for his help on the PV display for Town Hall. It is the 5th month of Hudsonia Biodiversity Assessment Training and they will be going out in the field this week. The study area is the northeast section of the town, north of Spring Lake Road and east of Route 9. July is the County's Water Awareness Month. The CAC will join with other groups for a program on July 19th at Thompson Mazzarella Park in Rhinebeck. The CAC joined the Tree Commission sponsoring a rain garden presentation and a presentation by local author Hudson Talbott. Their next meeting is June 9th at 7:00 p.m.

EDC Task Force – Councilwoman Strawinski spoke with Michelle Martin and she'd like to be scheduled for the last meeting of the month to give a presentation.

Recreation Committee – Chair Doug Strawinski reported that there has been a rash of graffiti at the Recreation Park. He asked residents to keep their eyes open and call the Village Police if they see anything. Ninety five cubic yards of engineered wood fiber was put down on the playgrounds. The baseball sectionals will be played at the Recreation Park. This past weekend there were many make up games and our fields were in good shape. They will continue until the end of the month. AAU basketball will also continue until the end of the month at the Middle School, High School and Mill Road School. The Town sponsors the program and they continue through the year. Sign-ups for summer programs have begun. Brochures are available at Town Hall and can be found on the Town's website. Sign-ups will take place Saturday, June 6th and Saturday, June 13th from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Most programs are free.

Supervisor Crane thanked the Recreation Commission and staff. It is so disheartening to realize that people have so little respect for hard work and the investment the Town has made. Whoever the vandals are, she hopes are found and held accountable.

Senior Services Committee – Chair Andrew Kehr reported that the committee is working on a mission statement. The Read Aloud program is taking off well at the Mill Road Primary School. Donna Gaynor, Principal is overseeing the project. If anyone is interested in volunteering the telephone number is 758-2241 prompt # 4. The PANDA project is also a work in progress. They are pursuing the idea of finalizing critical issues pertinent to seniors. They are looking for high school volunteers as well as from Bard College for video help. Andrew volunteered to serve on the advisory board for Dial-A-Ride. They met in April where he received and reviewed

documentation. Highlights he reported were that Dutchess County saw an increase in February and March. In February they went up 39% and in March 18%; both over the same months in 2008. He brought attention to a new member they would like to propose for their committee. Richard Franklin has been coming to the meetings for several years and he brings a wealth of insight and information in terms of the pulse of what is going on. He hopes the Board considers Dick Franklin for the committee. Dial-A-Ride is available Thursdays in Red Hook from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Mary Kay Dolan from the Dutchess County Office of the Aging can be reached at (845)486-2555 for information.

Supervisor Crane explained that Dial-A-Ride will take people shopping, to social occasions, exercise, etc. It doesn't have to be for medical appointments, though that is the most frequently used. You must register to use Dial-A-Ride. The vehicles have lifts for wheelchairs too.

Councilman McKeon thanked Bard College for lending a shuttle to pick up seniors at Red Hook Commons to bring them to the Red Hook Hot Summer nights.

Tree Committee – Chair Nancy Guski reported on the May Watershed Month projects. “Trees for Tribes” went very well. 167 trees and shrubs arrived an hour before the planting. She thanked volunteers, Brenda Cagle, Jane Ferguson, Eleanor Friery, Ed Guski, Linda Keeling, Robert McKeon, Ted Saad, Doug Strawinski, Micki Strawinski and Jeff Tremper. There were 13 people at the Rain Garden Presentation and 15 people at the Hudson Talbott book talk and signing. She reported on the expenditures so far for the year which totaled \$518. The rest of their budget will be set aside to pay the grant writer. They are still waiting for the Urban Forestry Grant applications to be published. The Committee is going to work on things that may need to be added to the Tree Ordinance. Some of the issues will be; a commemorative tree program, develop a master tree list, how to protect trees during new development and construction and what is their role concerning the three forested areas in the Open Space Plan. Nancy read some letters from some of the Mill Road students.

Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski presented the report. They were glad to see the sidewalks were started, the School District received grant money for school zone signs, and that the recreation park will have a walking trail. Much of what they discussed was how pleased they are that the Town and various entities are making efforts to make our Town more walkable, bike friendly and safe. They are working on developing a color coded trails map and hope to get it posted on the website. The Ruth Oja plaque will be ordered and they thanked the Tree Commission for planting along the wetlands walk. They feel the speed limit on River Road should be 35 mph. The Committee is presently working on a mission statement.

Zoning Review Committee – Chair Susan Simon reported that they will be meeting soon.

Water Board – Councilman Ross gave an update regarding the water levels of the well. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy said an RFQ has been sent out for the radio transmitter approach for controlling the water level. We should have a report on that soon. They might have someone that may have use for an old transit water main pipe they are trying to dispose of. The tree resting on the fence has been removed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane shared a piece of correspondence regarding the Mohican Homeland proposal that came for Jeff Golden, revolving the homeland for the Mohican Indians. Supervisor Crane consulted with a top person in the area of Indian Affairs and Indian matters, Dr. Jack Campisi. He wrote an opinion based on several citations and two different authorities on the matter. He suggested that it was not the Mohicans who inhabited Red Hook, it was rather the Munsee Tribe and in particular the Wappinger Indians of the Munsee Tribe. Supervisor Crane communicated that information to Jeff Golden. She received an e-mail from him which she read. He understands and supports the Boards position. He has no attachment to naming the Mohican as the people who lived here, he simply wishes to honor the native people who lived here whether Wappinger or Mohican. He would like to figure out how people of such seemingly impeccable credentials can be providing such contradictory information. He hopes to come to clarity of who lived here and move forward with updating the Town website honoring those native people who where here. He will get back to Supervisor Crane with his findings in due course.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Keeling asked if Chairs and volunteers can also be trained in the use of AED's.

Supervisor Crane explained that we can provide the space if he provides the trainers; the more people comfortable with AED's the better. She will contact Robert Latimer and see what we can do.

Linda Keeling said that the St. Margaret's Committee is having trouble with their grant and she asked Susan Ezrati if there was grant money for St. Margaret's Home.

John Douglas referred to a chart providing information about solar energy. He thinks it would be interesting to compare energy used between now and last year.

Councilman Ross said the best way to do it would be to find out exactly how many kilowatt hours we are actually saving by producing it ourselves.

Supervisor Crane will try to get that information and share it.

John Douglas asked about getting solar panels on the Recreation Park buildings.

Supervisor Crane explained that the Board did not look into solar panels for the recreation park, it wasn't in their budget.

Councilman Colgan explained that you have to look at the pay back.

Councilman McKeon said there are several bills in Albany that may make it more advantageous for municipalities to make significant solar installations. If those bills pass, it may make it more attractive for the Town because they could get grants from NYSERDA or other agencies.

Doug Strawinski will meet with Denis Collet who has a background in solar energy. He is very interested.

John Douglas would like to hear more about solar panel savings in the Town Hall. He would like to know what kind of savings the Town is realizing today. Mr. Douglas brought up the subject of Mill Road School being over the aquifer. When it comes to spills of oil and gas over the aquifer the school is over a major portion of the aquifer. There is a lot of number two oil there. We also have Stewarts and other gas stations in Town that are over the aquifer. It is all regulated by the DEC. With all of their regulations he doesn't think that should play any major consideration in the location of the highway garage. He would like to see Councilman Colgan produce all of the savings in written form. That way it can be studied and reviewed. What savings are you discussing, what are the details and the savings for the taxpayers? A Phase II will not give you savings. He doesn't know what the savings are of putting a Highway Garage on Rokeby Road. He said that Councilman Colgan has not told the taxpayers in writing what those savings are. There has been a lot of talk but he wants to see the details of the savings.

Susan Elias supports the idea of shared services.

Supervisor Crane told her that Red Hook has been sharing services for many, many years and it certainly has paid back.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk