

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 8, 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.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's monthly report dated July 31, 2009 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$2,476,110.58; Receipts - \$343,477.28; Disbursed - \$408,749.14; Balance - \$2,410,838.72. There were no budget adjustments for the month.

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

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

Supervisor Crane provided the Board with a copy of the final numbers for all the accounts as of June 2009. She, Budget Officer Rose Rider and Business Manager Deb Marks have been going over it with a fine toothed comb and it will show the Board where we are line by line. It is from the closed books.

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of August 1 – August 31, 2009 was read as follows: total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$1,778.86; amount paid to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$117.50; amount paid to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$30.00; amount paid to NYS Department of Health for marriage licenses - \$202.50; amount paid to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$7,294.14; Total State, County & Local revenues - \$9,423.00.

Town Clerk Sue McCann noted that there is a big jump in NYS Environmental Conservation fees because we just began selling sporting licenses. She announced the Hugs From Home donation box and reminded residents that she is still collecting for the soldiers if anyone wishes to donate. A shipment is going out again on the 15th. Assemblyman Marc Molinaro is having an open house on Friday, September 18 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at his Red Hook office at 7578 North Broadway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- The ZBA meeting scheduled for tomorrow night has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th.
- The Dutchess County Office for the Aging Senior Citizen's Picnic is scheduled for September 16th at noon at the Red Hook Recreation Park. All Red Hook Senior Citizens are invited to attend. Please let the Office for the Aging know so they can plan accordingly.
- Hardscrabble Day is on September 26th. The parade will kick off at 10:00 a.m., lineup will be at the Linden Avenue Middle School sometime after 9:00 a.m.

Councilman McKeon made the following announcements:

- September 12/13 – Hudson Valley Food and Wine Fest at the Fairgrounds
- September 13 – 'Catch-A-Rae' race in memory of Alex Gravino at the HS. Registration is from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
- September 19 – Fall cleanup. Meet at the HS at 1:00 p.m. Tivoli Fire Company will have their pig roast at 1:00 p.m.
- September 25 – RH Public Library will have their annual Hudson River cruise at 7:00 p.m.
- September 26 – Tivoli Street Painting starts at 9:00 a.m. on Broadway.

He announced some proposed bills that the NYS Senate is going to present soon.

Councilman Colgan announced that this Friday at 1:00 p.m. will be the first meeting of the Intermunicipal Shared Services Task Force. The group will work on strategy for continuing sharing services between the municipalities to save money.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Harold Eckblom asked for an agenda available for the public. He also asked for a calendar of all meetings that occur.

Supervisor Crane explained that it is posted.

Town Clerk Sue McCann can also provide him a copy of the monthly calendar.

Linda Keeling wanted to inform everyone that she is working on reviewing the grant submission and will probably go out this Friday. It is for the New York State Smart Growth Grant.

NYSERDA PRESENTATION

Supervisor Crane introduced Pat Courtney-Strong from Courtney Strong Inc. who is here to discuss energy efficiency.

Pat Courtney-Strong gave a power point presentation and brought literature from NYSERDA. She went through some of the programs that are already in place and explained that the State relies on community coordinators like herself to get the word out. She began with programs for homeowners. The NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority) and network of community coordinators goals are to save energy and money. The money does not come from income tax, the money to fund these programs comes from the Systems Benefits Charge which is a fee we all pay on our electric bill. In 2006 the Public Service Commission committed to \$875 million for this program. The goals of the program are:

- energy efficiency, meaning using less energy than we've already committed to
- economic development through energy efficiency and renewable energy
- new jobs for New Yorkers

She stressed that she is not a State employee she is under contract to do marketing and public relations for the State. They do work with homeowners, businesses and not for profits to make sure people are accessing these programs.

Pat moved on to the new homes program and what it is that makes new homes eligible for Energy Star. It has to do with creating the house as a holistic system where all components work together to deliver a home that saves about 30% on energy bills over the lifetime of the home. That plan is put in place between a developer and the HERS rater hired to refine the plans to bring in the energy savings for the homeowners. Chief components of that are enhanced insulation well above code, the air sealing and tight duct work and ventilation which has to be top notch to offset the tight sealing. High efficiency windows, doors, heating and cooling systems as well as energy saving appliances are also components of energy savings. She said there are rebate incentives for those not building new homes to move up to Energy Star. The idea is to make the house come into alignment with the model energy code. You are looking to achieve an 86% or better rating on the home. Then it will deliver the savings as expected. The builder is the one who gets the incentive check from NYSERDA for doing that kind of construction. The incentive is to offset the hiring of the HERS rater.

Next she explained programs for existing homes, what to do to save money in energy and what the State can do to help with that process. They call it home performance because it is about getting an existing home to work better and it is targeted at one to four family homes. There are incentives available in the form of low interest loans, and there are also cash incentives. The State will give you 10% of the work scope developed between the homeowner and auditor. The men and women being trained in the new field have gone through a series of courses and exams. Most people doing the work are contractors. This is considered a green job. They go through the health and safety of the house, look at air sealing and insulation levels, heating and air conditioning efficiency and the appliances. They are calling this the whole house approach. She explained the cooperative effort between the contractors working on making homes energy

efficient. If you want the incentives from the State you'd have to do the recommended work within a year. There is an Energy Smart loan that she explained is a 4% buy down of the interest rate that your bank is offering for renovation work. You can get up to 10% in cash. There is also a grant program associated with this for those who are income eligible. The program is called assisted home performance which is for a moderate income. You can find the income limit at energysmart.org. The names of contractors are available there too. You can access low interest loans combined with cash incentives or you can use the grant. A grant does not have to be paid back.

NYSERDA chose a third party to do the accreditation of the professionals; it's called the Building Performance Institute. It is based outside of Albany but is a nationwide accredited institute and they developed a curriculum, established the testing procedures and then the guidelines that they must follow when they come to the resident's home. Locally, there are fewer than 3% of NY State homes that have been through the program so there is plenty of room for growth and it is a good career path. Classes are held at Hudson Valley Community College, sometimes they will rent a satellite facility, but that is where it is centralized.

She gave an overview of how the numbers fall for homeowners who are considering solar or wind energy. Because of Federal tax credits, those systems have gotten more attractive in the last year. The retail price of a system put on a home, a five kilowatt system, for \$41,500. NYSERDA has a rebate per kilowatt that added up to \$15,000, there is a State tax credit of \$5,000 off your taxes and if you don't have a big tax bill you have five years to use that credit. The Federal tax credit has become much more generous and is now 30%. In the example she used the credits added up to almost \$8,000 they could take off their income tax so the final system added up to about \$13,500. Over 25 years, it becomes a good investment. She offered to answer questions at the end of her presentation.

Councilman McKeon pointed out the maximum loan is \$20,000 and the financing period extends only to 10 years. He asked if we could get a copy of her presentation to put on our website.

Anne Rubin asked, regarding the 10% cash incentive and the low interest loan, if it was either/or?

Pat responded that a homeowner could use both.

Anne asked about the example of the house with the solar panels providing 72% of the home's energy. It is a big system and she wondered if there was information about that house. Is the heating electric? Are the appliances electric? It makes a big difference.

Pat responded that most people do about half. The average house is about 2,000 square feet. She believes the house she used as an example does heat with electric. NYSERDA does not currently offer incentives for solar hot water.

Councilman McKeon thought the grant for solar installation is based upon the size. As the size increases on the home, the grant per kilowatt actually goes down.

Linda Keeling asked if Pat had any information about the geothermal system.

Pat responded that geothermal is an option for powering a home or building without fossil fuel. They dig a series of wells and get heat from the earth. That is not directly subsidized by NYSERDA. NYSERDA is funded to take the load off the electric grid, but they certainly recognize the importance of geothermal as an alternative so they do underwrite it on some commercial projects.

Anne Rubin asked if NYSERDA gives incentives for people who want to go with a heat pump.

Pat answered that Central Hudson used to be a proponent of that and now they are giving incentives on geothermal. She explained that years ago Central Hudson used to give energy audits. They petitioned the Public Service Commission to become involved and become part of the solution. They just started rolling out their program called "savingcentral.com" which is part of the Central Hudson website. It shows the schedule of their incentives. Their program is designed to be complementary to NYSERDA's.

John Douglas is looking at a windmill and asked how he could sell power back because he will get more than he needs.

Pat said he can sell it back. It is an open question with the utility. Utilities have more local control. In regard to wind energy, NYSERDA would like nothing better than for him to put up a windmill. They have the same schedule of incentives as she described for solar. It is detailed on "powernaturally.org". It is the best government website she found. She can't quote what Central Hudson would pay. They are driven but the Public Service Commission so together they decide what you would be paid. She believes it is a variable rate. The website "askpsc.com" can give him the information about selling back power.

Harold Eckblom said that geothermal should be used more.

Pat said that former Town Justice/Bard Employee Dick Griffiths told her he made every mistake you could make for geothermal, then he finally got it right. He ended up building a beautiful home. It was a wonderful example. The performing arts center at Bard College is also geothermal.

Supervisor Crane received a letter today, the subject is project implementation funding for State energy programs. The letter advised her that the proposal, Red Hook Town Hall photovoltaic installation, has been received and will be submitted to the technical evaluation panel for an in depth technical review for scoring and ranking. Final recommendations will be made then NYSERDA will contact the Town within four weeks as to whether the proposal has been selected to receive an award. The letter was signed by Michelle Kennedy.

HIGHWAY BIDS

Supervisor Crane read a letter from Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand recommending the Town award the bid to Keil Equipment for the sum of \$58,980.00. He verified the delivery requirements of thirty days or less with both bidders. Keil was the only bidder to guarantee delivery within the required time frame. They have the tractor and the mower in stock. It is of utmost importance because the same tractor/mower blew an engine and is not repairable. They have not finished their roadside mowing and must do so before winter. Mowing of all Town roads takes approximately four to five weeks.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked why we would pay approximately \$3,000 more than for the same tractor somewhere else.

Attorney Chale spoke to Wayne and the problem is the other tractor will be available at the earliest in January. The bid was out for 30 days or less.

Supervisor Crane told the Board that the delivery requirement was for thirty days or less.

Councilwoman Strawinski commented that the other company bid on it so obviously they read that portion of the bid package.

Supervisor Crane said that Wayne confirmed with the bidders today that it be available within thirty days and one was unable to meet that deadline. She asked for the Board's decision.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked what the cost would be to rent a tractor for a week.

Councilman McKeon thinks we need to think about this. He's not prepared to grant that type of request. He needs more information.

Councilwoman Ross said that if the Highway Department needs it this fall and they can't deliver until January, we'd be hard pressed to rent a tractor like that. Secondly, if part of the bid required thirty days, it seems like the lowest bidder can't meet the bid requirements.

Councilwoman Strawinski said it doesn't make sense, they wouldn't have submitted the bid.

Councilman Colgan asked where we could borrow a tractor. He doesn't know if Tivoli uses their own or if they use the Town.

Councilman McKeon feels this is why shared services are important. We have to understand what we are being asked to do.

Councilwoman Strawinski stated that it doesn't mean that we are going to reject the recommendations but we should look into other options, rental or borrowing.

Supervisor Crane directed Councilman McKeon, as liaison to the Highway Department, to speak to Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand with all of the questions he has and bring it back to the agenda for the next meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Supervisor Crane discussed with the Board the possibility of submitting a grant for the stabilization of the roof at St. Margaret's as our block grant application for this year. She met with Village of Red Hook Mayor Dave Cohen and there are no projects we can collaborate on as we have done this year for any capital improvements. She invited the Board to submit possible projects and she suggested that we consider the roof on St. Margaret's. The funding that we had been promised has been held up by the NY State Governor so that \$90,000 grant will not be forthcoming as best we can tell. She thought this would be a way to deal with that need at St. Margaret's. Having had a long conference with Beth Doyle, Coordinator of Dutchess County Community Development Block Grant Program, she advised us not to apply for the funding for that particular capital improvement. She felt that it would not pass the review of the advisory committee, it is not the type of funding they give high priority. She asked that we look around for another project. We don't have to apply, but it occurred to her that we have an open possibility that she asked for the Board's feedback on. The road between Firehouse Lane and Metzger Road was only half completed. It goes just past the Recycling Center and stops. Beth Doyle felt that there was a very good possibility, since it was funded in the past, that they would complete the funding for that road if we were to ask for it. Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had additional ideas for funding for the grant program.

Councilman Ross asked what portion of the road we would apply for. It would have to be for the purchase of the right-of-way and the engineering for that project.

Supervisor Crane said that was correct and through our Town Engineer we would have to get an estimate on what that acquisition is and they do grant money for acquisition of these projects.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if we would send out an RFP for an Engineer first.

Supervisor Crane said we agreed to continue using the Engineer we have as a holdover.

Councilman Colgan asked how much money is in the block grant.

Supervisor Crane responded that it is for up to \$150,000 per application.

Councilwoman Strawinski said it is her understanding that it is to be used for the benefit of the majority of the community.

Supervisor Crane responded that is true.

Councilman Colgan said \$150,000 would just scratch the surface.

Councilwoman Strawinski remembers that homeowners were concerned about the portions already put in as well as the future plans for that road. They said they were not appropriately consulted.

Supervisor Crane is not talking about Hannaford, she is talking about the portion that goes behind the storage units that connects to Metzger. It would be from the Recycling Center to Metzger Road.

Councilman Colgan said we would have to obtain right-of-way/ownership and he remembers people being concerned about losing pieces of their properties or losing their back yards.

Supervisor Crane said that two or three years ago when the Town undertook the roadway, the goal always was to complete the road to Metzger.

Councilman Ross said it was talked about for a number of years actually, but the last two or three years ago is the first time the homeowners on the piece were made aware of it. We would have to ask for a grant for engineering and acquisition. We'd have to come up with a proposal quickly. As far as the engineering situation, at the minimum we would have to get a rough "guestimate" from one of the engineers we work with at the present time. Not the detailed engineering of the road but an idea of what the acquisition and the engineering would cost. We'll have to pay them to do that in order to apply for the grant.

Supervisor Crane said that Beth Doyle offered to assist us with that application if it is one that we want to undertake. It is due October 3rd.

Councilman Ross said that was always the plan and we don't have any other projects at this time that seem to qualify so he would be in favor of pursuing that with Beth's help and one of the engineers we deal with on a regular basis to get the basic structure of what we want to ask for.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if we typically ask community members for ideas as to what they think might benefit the Town.

Supervisor Crane responded that we made the announcement a month ago that the Community Development Block Grant was open. She has gotten no communication from anyone on the Board or from anyone in the community.

John Douglas told the Board that Bob Bowman spent a lot of time at Abraham's Park walking through the swamp. Over numerous years he looked at building a walking/bike path with a bridge connecting the Recreation Park to Abraham's Park. He thinks that might be a better plan. Secondly, he saw a blueprint that the previous Supervisor had that an engineer drew up from Metzger Road.

Councilman Ross explained that it wasn't a blueprint, it was a schematic.

Supervisor Crane informed him it was a schematic and we have that.

Supervisor Crane responded that last year we applied for Community Development Block Grant funding and have received it for both the Village and the Town for \$130,000 each, for a total of \$260,000 to run a sidewalk from Park Ave., down Linden Ave., across the bridge to the Recreation Park thinking that would meet the need. We've had many discussions over the years about whether to have an internal walkway/bike path or to have sidewalks where people will walk anyway. In order to go through the Abraham's Park area we would need access through the Cookingham property and we have never been successful in that discussion.

Councilman Ross explained that we applied for a grant for that very project a number of years ago and we were turned down.

Councilman Colgan would be willing to support some strategy to move forward on the Metzger Road to the next level but he can't quantify what that is.

Supervisor Crane will check with Beth Doyle to see what we can attempt in a grant application. It would require a meeting with an engineer. Morris Associates was involved in the first leg of this.

Councilman McKeon brought up an alternative. He thought we should partner with the Village to see if we can acquire some land from the Lutheran Church. The parking lot that is being used for the firehouse is under discussion for a subdivision and sale by the church. They are having financial needs that they have to take action like this. We want to be supportive of them, but as far as the community is concerned, that is something that services so many in Town. He wonders if it would be appropriate to apply for that. Maybe we want to reach out to the Village. Supervisor Crane already reached out to the Village and they already have determined their CDBG application so it would be out of the question for this year. It is not in the Town of Red

Hook. Councilman McKeon said if we partner we can do a joint application like we've done in the past.

Supervisor Crane explained that was because that application included both Town and Village highway. Both municipalities were involved in that application. In the case Councilman McKeon is referring to, that property is within the Village only. She can talk to Beth about it. The Village already has their proposal and she doesn't think it can happen this year. She asked Bucky Coon if he had any information about the fire company's intentions as to parking facilities if that property is removed.

Bucky Coon told the Board that there is talk about a parking behind the Village garage but the parking is limited. He described the area and doesn't know the status or disposition of the lot.

Councilman Ross said it seems to be a different issue than the CDBG we are discussing now.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked who would contact the homeowners with regard to the grant for the road.

Supervisor Crane answered that Beth Doyle suggested setting a public hearing at tonight's meeting for the next possible Town Board meeting on September 23rd. Between now and then she and Beth Doyle would work on the grant. We would have to have something to show at the public hearing.

Councilwoman Strawinski feels we should send individual letters to the property owners in that area.

Councilman McKeon asked what we need in the way of expenditures for the engineer.

Supervisor Crane hasn't asked them yet. She imagines it would be an hour with herself and Beth Doyle. We have to consult with them in order to come up with a proposal. In order to come up with a grant for \$150,000 she feels it would be wise for the Board to make an expenditure to get the facts straight.

Councilman Ross can't say how long a meeting will be at this point. Maybe by the public hearing meeting if there is more engineering work to be done the engineer can give us an idea of what that would involve.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to authorize Supervisor Crane meet with Beth Doyle of the Community Development Block Grant Program and Town Engineer Morris Associates to discuss the potential viability of the road extension and at the same time schedule a Public Hearing for September 23rd at 7:30 pm at Town Hall.

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

REORGANIZATION

Planning Board - Supervisor Crane is aware of the vacancy on the Planning Board. She asked Town Clerk Sue McCann if she's received resumes for that position.

Town Clerk Sue McCann had one from John Doyle, Kristofer Munn, and a letter of interest from Paul Telesca.

Supervisor Crane spoke to Paul Telesca and he has declined. She cannot vote for or against John Doyle because she doesn't know him. She doesn't know if Christine Kane or the Planning Board knows him so she suggested that they have an opportunity to meet with him and that they make a recommendation to the Town Board.

Councilman Ross asked if anyone on the Town Board knew him.

Councilwoman Strawinski said his resume indicated that he had previous experience but she doesn't know him. She thinks that because Kris Munn is the alternate that we should probably just go ahead and appoint him to fill John Hardeman's vacancy.

Councilman Ross would not be in favor of that, it's not a policy we planned when we chose our ZBA member. We had an active alternate for a few years that we chose not to put on the ZBA although she had the experience and had attended a good many meetings. Kristofer Munn hasn't been an alternate that long.

Supervisor Crane would like to have the Planning Board meet John Doyle in fairness to them. The gentleman has a Bachelor's from RBI, a retired engineer, worked in design and construction infrastructure for 40 years, ran a part time engineering and surveying business for 30 years. He's been a member of Newburgh's ZBA, and Planning Board and also Chairman of that Board. She thinks it would be important for at least Christine Kane and maybe the entire Planning Board to meet with him.

Councilman McKeon feels he has a good resume.

Supervisor Crane agrees.

EDC - Councilwoman Strawinski said that she spoke to Councilman Ross about the four EDC members he spoke to who are not up for reappointment so we know they will remain on the committee.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the goals and recommendations of the Economic Development Committee Task Force as they were presented to us.

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

Councilwoman Strawinski referred to the two vacancies on the EDC and Beth Jones expressed interest in filling one of those vacancies.

Town Clerk Sue McCann asked what members are staying.

Councilwoman Strawinski answered Paul Fredricks, Joe Rossi, Theresa Haney, Leo Sieverding and Kevin Zulch.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman McKeon moved to reappoint Michelle Martin, Ed Pruitt and Brad Mitchell for terms to expire December 31, 2010.

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

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman McKeon said the primary recommendation of the EDC was to take a look the whole and see what the representation is coming from, that they had diversity from the different businesses throughout the community. He would rather look at the EDC as a whole, and that we are not weighted towards certain industries that did not necessarily have good representation of our community.

Councilman Ross responded that is not true. They are different businesses.

Councilwoman Strawinski said that Paul Fredricks' business is real estate, Joe Rossi is farming, Michelle Martin is finance, Theresa Haney is social work, Leo Sieverding is an architect, Kevin Zulch is an accountant, Ed Pruitt is a banker, and Brad Mitchell is in the woodworking business.

Councilman McKeon thinks there are too many members in finance.

Councilman Ross said they are different aspects of finance. Neither of them does the same thing.

Councilman Colgan considers that reasonable financial diversity.

Supervisor Crane agrees that without question it is. She said that in addition to those, if they are willing to reappoint all of those members, then we have in addition, two vacancies.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the other person up for reappointment is Ronald Moore whose attendance is fair to not good. She would recommend replacing him on the committee.

Councilman McKeon asked if those people recommended by Councilwoman Strawinski have been asked if they want to stay on the committee.

Councilwoman Strawinski that she and Councilman Ross have spoken to members who are all willing to serve. She also has two others who are interested that still have to submit their letters of interest. She thinks they will bring even more diversity to the group, one who is in Arts and Education and the other is in the insurance industry. If we are going to accept the Task Force recommendations all of the members will have to be willing to meet twice a month.

Councilman Ross said five year appointments are suggested which he is not in favor of because lesser committees are generally two. It also suggested nine members instead of eleven. He doesn't know why they suggested that but the committee was originally made up of eleven. It is up to the Town Board to decide if we want to keep it at eleven even though they suggested the structure be slightly different. It is just a recommendation to us. Before we make appointments he thinks we should decide that.

Councilman McKeon agrees with Councilman Ross that the appointments should be two years, but he does not agree that it is a lesser committee.

Councilman Ross explained lesser in the fact that the Planning Board and Zoning Board terms are set by State law and we chose the Ethics Board to be five years. He believes that all of the other committees are two years. He means the structure.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if the motion accepting the goals and recommendations of the Task Force should be amended.

Councilman Ross explained that we can endorse their recommendations; it doesn't mean we have to do exactly what they say. We can say we choose to keep it at eleven with two year appointments as long as the Board is all in agreement on that.

Councilwoman Strawinski said Beth Jones was on the Task Force and she did submit a letter of interest to be on the committee. Councilwoman Strawinski highly recommends her.

Councilman Ross doesn't have a problem with having another financial person on the EDC.

Councilman Colgan interjected that she has a lot of experience.

Supervisor Crane doesn't have a problem with that either. She asked if we are considering her for one of the vacancies.

Councilwoman Strawinski answered yes; there is one vacancy from Doug Moat and one from Kevin Wade.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to appoint Beth Jones to a term to expire December 31, 2010.

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

Councilman Colgan said Beth Jones has a long track record working on Economic Development specifically in Poughkeepsie.

Councilman McKeon feels that we should have appointed her and not some of these others. He feels like we are going to have one more imbalanced committee and we've had a problem with this committee in the past.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks we are offering some good guidance by giving them the recommendations of the Task Force. She had conversations with them about the Chair position and people aren't quite ready to commit.

Supervisor Crane encouraged Councilwoman Strawinski to contact Kevin Wade again because she had a conversation with him after he initially submitted a resignation and he was rethinking it. She wonders if it would be wise to contact him since he did work on this in the past.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked Councilman McKeon if he had names of anyone interested. She asked him to reach out to other people he thinks would be interested.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to have the committee be made up of eleven members and to make the terms two years rather than five.

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

Supervisor Crane asked Councilwoman Strawinski to get in touch with Joe Rossi.

Councilman Ross suggested the members meet as a committee and hash out their recommendation for Chair.

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON

Supervisor Crane made the Board aware that we are trying to coordinate a list of people who are interested in taking a bus to attend that event. So far we have about 30 participants from the Town of Red Hook and so far we have no commitment from the Village of Red Hook. The Village of Tivoli is working on a list and Red Hook School Superintendent Paul Finch is working on getting two school buses. We would have to pay for the school bus drivers.

Supervisor Crane asked whoever the liaison is to the Community Preservation Fund Committee, to bring the Board up to date as to where they are.

Councilman Colgan showed the front page of a 73 page document that puts particular lands and their analysis in priority.

Supervisor Crane asked when they will bring this to the Board and she asked Councilman Colgan when they can give a presentation of the Community Preservation Plan. There is only so much time to produce a plan after having to depend on the Open Space Plan as the governing document.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane referred to the following correspondence;

- A message from the Acting Director of the US Department of Commerce who is collecting information on targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations in the area where people who are experiencing homelessness are known to live. She knew of none and asked if any of the Board members know of such locations, she has until September 23rd to respond. It is a census document.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

John Douglas commented that he was at a Board meeting in June where bids were opened for a tractor. Apparently on these bids one of the companies didn't meet the parameters of the bid. They bid it anyway hoping they may win. If the bid says thirty days and they can't produce in thirty day, the Board really needs to think about these things.

Councilman McKeon appreciates his comments. We have to be very careful about how we spend people's money.

Councilwoman Strawinski said we are not rejecting it.

Supervisor Crane said that the Board agreed that they would resolve this at the next meeting.

Linda Keeling asked if the Board could ask for a donation from the people going on the bus to the Walkway Over the Hudson.

Attorney Chale isn't sure but the Town can't make a profit. They could offset the price.

Supervisor Crane will find out how much it will cost and ask the riders to contribute.

Councilman Colgan wanted to bring something up.

Supervisor Crane asked if it was on the agenda. We've been veering from it too often.

Councilman Colgan will wait until the next meeting.

Councilman McKeon wrote to the NYS Department of Education asking the status of Montgomery Place. He also sent a copy to Mr. Stillman from Historic Hudson Valley as well as the Board of Directors. He received a brief email that he would get more information when there is something to share. There are 400 acres and we should know the status of its future. He asked the Board if it would be appropriate for Mr. Stillman to come here.

Supervisor Crane interjected that she thinks he knows the answer to that. She said that Councilman McKeon has been in touch with Assemblyman Marc Molinaro who has asked him not to pursue any public conversation about this for the next month and he is well aware of why.

Councilman McKeon isn't sure we have anything to hide from the public.

Supervisor Crane is not talking about hiding anything, she is talking about being discreet by virtue of what has been asked of us by major players in this entire issue.

Councilwoman Strawinski doesn't know what the object of the discretion is; she isn't privy to anything other than a couple of emails.

Councilman McKeon doesn't think there is anything wrong with asking Mr. Stillman to come in and discuss what their intentions are in regard to Montgomery Place. It is a very important museum site and we have the right to know if they are going to divest, and what we can do as a community in response to that.

Supervisor Crane again told him what he can do is wait at least a month as he was invited to do by our Assemblyman before taking any action. She asked him to do that. There are high level conversations going on and she thinks he should respect that request.

Councilman McKeon said he was part of some of those conversations and he doesn't understand why he can't talk to us. There is a significant expense that the Town has incurred for this not-for-profit organization. Loss of taxes is significant also for the taxpayers of New York State and the Federal Government. He threw it out to see if the Board thinks it is appropriate at this time to invite Mr. Stillman to talk with us.

Supervisor Crane told him what she thinks, there is no reason to rush into this and we have been asked to step back from any public discourse on this for at least a month. She will not vote to do otherwise.

Councilman Colgan said it is an issue for the Town and the people in the Town have every right to be proactive. He is not totally convinced about what to do and we should not let this fly under the radar. We need to keep it on the table and we need to represent the community. Historic Hudson Valley should know it is a major concern of ours.

Supervisor Crane informed him that Historic Hudson Valley does know that.

Councilman Colgan thinks we deserve a response from them.

John Douglas had a conversation about this property when he was on the School Board. A small portion of that property is under a conservation easement and another larger portion of that property from River Road to 9G is taxed as any other farmer in the Town of Red Hook since approximately 1993. He doesn't know how the conservation easement works. He isn't sure of the present status, but that is the way it was. He suggested Councilman McKeon talk to the Town Assessor to see how many acres are on the easement, how many acres are farmed, how it is assessed and how it is taxed. He believes Red Hook has received taxes for that land.

Councilman Ross said they've been asked to wait on it, he doesn't know anything about it. Since we've been asked to wait, with many things like this, it could be a hot issue and if we don't honor that we could be doing a disservice to the taxpayers by throwing fuel on the fire. He sees no harm in waiting and possibly working out a more congenial solution in the end if we do as asked. Often times it causes more problems and he thinks it might be a disservice if we jump in too soon.

Councilman McKeon said he thinks it's our obligation to include the public in what is going on. He respects the fact that Assemblyman Molinaro wants to now be a part of it and now arrange for a meeting.

Supervisor Crane corrected Councilman McKeon that Assemblyman Molinaro has been meeting with them and Assemblyman Molinaro told Councilman McKeon that. It wasn't brought up because they were meeting with a few officials. It is typical negotiations when things like this are taking place. She was part of a meeting with Assemblyman Molinaro about this issue before it came to the Town Board. There is no reason to disclose it when she was asked by the people present at that meeting to keep it under wraps, so that's what she did. It was a decision she wished to make.

Councilman Ross said that whole situation is not unlike our Executive Sessions and we don't come out and talk about it publicly until we know the answers and have something to present.

The Board continued to discuss the issue.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to authorize Councilman McKeon to communicate with Mr. Stillman to ask him if he has any information to share and if he can come to a meeting on September 23rd to discuss the situation at Montgomery Place.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	2	Crane, Ross

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, 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