

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2013

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
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilwoman Brenda Cagle
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

Councilman Colgan announced the following:

Daylily Day - North Wind Farm, May 4, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Volunteers will separate the daylilies in front of the farm and spread them as far as they can down Kerley Corners Road. Mr. Biezynski has a mission to line Kerley Corners Road from one end to the other with daylilies.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

There were none.

WESTON AND SAMPSON PRESENTATION OF RECREATION PARK PLANS

Supervisor Crane introduced Rich Messer and Aaron Pethic who were in attendance to present the plans for the new recreation park.

Rich Messer passed out information and gave an overview of the plan. They include baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, utility fields, pavilion, playground areas and quite a bit of walking trails. He pointed out features of the entry area which includes a turnaround area for busses and landscaping. Wetlands are part of the site. Pipes for watering were explained. A septic field lay out is in the area adjacent to the pavilion.

Supervisor Crane asked about the cost of the trails. The numbers will be forwarded to Recreation Director John Kuhn.

Supervisor Crane asked about the water line and the estimated cost of that water line.

Mr. Messer said it will be about \$100 a linear foot. It can vary if there are a lot of issues.

Supervisor Crane asked about a wetland area and how we keep children out of that area.

Mr. Messer said the area will be left natural.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER WATER DISTRICT LOT ON ASPINWALL ROAD TO THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

Supervisor Crane directed the Board's attention to the resolution. She read the resolution.

Attorney Chale said this is part of the public hearing but advised Supervisor Crane that she can explain the reason for the public hearing.

REORGANIZATION

Zoning Board of Appeals

Supervisor Crane referred to two vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals, one alternate and one full time position. It has been a seven member board for many years, and members are appointed for seven years, alternates for two. Part time ZBA Secretary Jackie Fenaroli has been fully appointed as a Town employee as of last week. She asked the Board's comments regarding the membership of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Councilman Ross, who is also the liaison to the ZBA, feels it is important to maintain a seven member board. It was recommended at the time we started zoning in 1972. The ZBA is our one board that actually has the authority for spot zoning. He explained the workings of the ZBA who can actually make changes in our zoning law and he feels more people on the board is better for the decision making process. Five members would be more difficult to get a quorum than a seven member board. It is very important because of the responsibility placed on them by law. The candidate Trilby Sieverding has been an alternate for a number of years now and has been at almost all of the meetings. She is very attentive and is familiar with our zoning laws. Jim Hegstetter has also expressed interest in staying on the ZBA.

Councilman Colgan commented that with those two appointments it would stay as a seven member board.

Councilwoman Cagle commented that we have a good new candidate and she understands that the Chair of the ZBA is interested in Trilby Sieverding serving as a full member. She has no

problem with Jim Hegstetter being reappointed and asked for clarification regarding the seven vs. five member board. She understands that there is some discrepancy in our law. Councilman Colgan agreed with Councilman Ross and Councilwoman Cagle. His concern is that sometimes the ZBA doesn't know what is going on until after a project has been started. There isn't always an alternative at that point. He asked Councilman Ross what he thinks. Councilman Ross thinks that issue has improved with the updating in the Building Inspector's Office and the access to records makes things more readily available. It helps solve that problem. Councilman O'Neill agrees with Councilwoman Cagle's comments. Supervisor Crane also agrees and said it seems that they should clean up the language in the zoning code book.

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to appoint Trilby Sieverding for a term to expire 12/31/2015 and reappoint Jim Hegstetter for a term to expire 12/31/2019.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Cagle
	Nays	0	

St. Margaret's Committee

Supervisor Crane received a letter from the Chair of the St. Margaret's Committee asking that Trilby Sieverding be appointed. Trilby wrote a letter stating that her primary interest is in serving on the ZBA. This appointment will be on hold.

Board of Assessment Review

Supervisor Crane said that there are two possible candidates for the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). The training for the vacancy takes place on May 10. Chair Carl Dowden agrees that the group that is working on the BAR now is experienced and works together well. They would like to interview prospective candidates. The appointment will be set aside until after the interviews.

Planning Board

There are two alternate vacancies.

ZBA

There is one alternate vacancy.

PUBLIC HEARING – 8:00 P.M.

Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice regarding the proposed conveyance of Aspinwall parcel from Water District to Town of Red Hook.

Supervisor Crane opened the public hearing for comments.

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke looked at the access road to the water tower and it can be maintained easily. A concern is the fence enclosure by the water tower. Whose responsibility is that?

Attorney Chale understands that the fence is not part of this arrangement.

Supervisor Crane asked if there were any more comments. There were none so she closed the public hearing. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2013 #31

RE: TO TRANSFER LOT ON ASPINWALL ROAD FROM THE WATER DISTRICT TO THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to approve the resolution.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Cagle
	Nays	0	

Copy attached

Supervisor Crane referred to and read a memorandum of understanding dated April 24, 2013, regarding the water tower access road.

On a motion of Councilwoman Cagle seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the memorandum of understanding.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Cagle
	Nays	0	

REORGANIZATION (Cont.)

Sister Cities Working Group

Supervisor Crane addressed the vacancy on the Sister Cities Working Group. Paul Marienthal is instrumental in the group.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to appoint Paul Marienthal for membership on the Sister Cities Working Group.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Cagle
 Nays 0

REPORTS

Planning Board – Continued to review a lot line alteration on Starbarrack Rd, a proposed residential development on Baxter Road and a minor subdivision on North Road. The members also listened to presentations of applications for expansion at Devereux, restoration of the historic landscape at Blithewood on the Bard Campus, and a certificate of appropriateness for fencing in Upper Red Hook.

ZBA – Continued the Public Hearing for an application for an attached garage on Benner Rd. Applicant modified her request and it was granted by the ZBA.

Budget Officer – Budget Officer, Rose Rider, is in the process of reviewing the expenses for the first three months of the year and comparing them to the budget. Meeting with departments to review expenditures in the case of overages. Working with the departments to update the Capital Equipment 5 year Plan and completion date is expected at the end of this month.

Building Inspector – For the period March 25 – April 23, there were 10 permits issued, 39 inspections, 15 certificates issued, 1 complaint, and total fees collected were \$3,000.

Grant Application – Supervisor Crane referred to the DC Shared Services Grant application due on June 27. She investigated a couple of options. Collaboration for safety in biking and walking is an idea. She will provide more information. We can make as many applications as we wish.

Village Police Report – The report for March showed 42 total incidents, 6 total arrests, and 26 tickets issued.

Purchasing – During the period March 27, 2013 – April 23, 2013 there were 37 purchase orders issued in the amount of \$72,752.48. The largest, \$32,469.99 was for a 2013 Ford 250 Super Cab Pickup truck with plow. The Highway Dept. also purchased a used chipper for \$15,575.00. The cost of the machine will be shared with Milan as per a shared services agreement.

Water Dept. – The March 2013 monthly report showed the wells are holding their own, 86,000 gallons were pumped in March. Plans include replacing an old “main” piping inside the pump house, valves are needed, light fixtures in the pump house need replacement, shed repair and clearing around fences at the pump house and tank. A screen has been replaced on an overflow pipe, curb stop repair and manhole riser on well 2 will be replaced and water meters must be lead free. They require some type of remote (wireless) sensing. Hydrant flushing is scheduled for May 16. Our current VRI manager will be replaced by Alan Goettel in May.

Ag. & Open Space Committee – There will be a referral to the Town Board about fencing. They want to propose language to a change of the fencing law. It is their recommendation that agricultural fencing should be defined in our zoning and should be exempt from zoning.

Councilman O'Neill asked if this should be referred to the ZRC. Some members of Ag. & OS offered to go to the ZRC. Signage was another question for the ZRC to look into.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to have the ZRC look at signage and agricultural fencing.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Cagle
 Nays 0

Councilman O'Neill said the Ag. & Open Space Committee had a question about escrow accounts at the Planning Board and asked if across the board fees can be set.

Attorney Chale explained that escrow fees are determined by the project.

Tree Preservation Commission – Chair Nancy Guski reported that we received a Tree City Growth Award again this year and have for the last two years. She explained the programs at Mill Road School run by Eleanor Friery. Arbor Day/Earth Day Plans are being finished, and she listed the festivities taking place at Town Hall on April 27. 17 new trees will be planted at the Recreation Park and lunch will be provided for the volunteers.

CAC – They are reviewing applications for the NYSDEC Environmental Camp awarded by the Red Hook VFW. They're also reviewing applications for the Ruth Oja Scholarship, and

participating in the Arbor Day/Clean Up Day event promoting composting with compost bins for a \$40 donation. Comments on the Lakes Kill project were submitted and they are preparing comments on Scenic Roads. Recommendations for bus shelter locations are also being prepared. Intermunicipal Task Force – The Task Force continues to work on the Historic Landmark District and continued to discuss the matter of proposed zoning regarding scenic roads. They are awaiting the completion of a pending application for a Greenway Grant for funding. Recreation Commission – They’ve been very busy getting ready for the summer season. The fields are in good condition and are being used. Senior Services Committee – Holding a food drive at the Red Hook Firehouse from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 11. Senior Picnic is scheduled for June 26. Economic Development Committee – Working on a survey from the businesses Town wide.

Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had anything to share.

Councilwoman Cagle asked the Board to discuss the proposed merger between Fortis and Central Hudson. She’s had several emails asking the Board to weigh in. She said that our local representatives, DC Legislator Ben Traudt, State Senator Terry Gibson, and State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill have all written to the Public Service Commission to oppose this merger. She wrote a letter and explained some of the concerns. She read the letter to the Acting Secretary of the NYS Public Service Commission, Jeffrey C. Cohen.

Supervisor Crane thanked her for writing that letter and asked for comments from the Board. She will be happy to sign the letter.

Councilman Ross said the letter was very well written and would sign the letter.

Councilman Colgan agrees. Many people have expressed concern and concerns have to be addressed in advance. He would support it.

Councilman O’Neill agreed that the wording is appropriate. In his opinion it is not that aggressive and he is hesitant about the Town Board weighing in on an issue like this. The letter addresses the matter of maintaining the environmental value of Central Hudson. It conveys what we reasonably have responsibility to address. He would agree to sign it.

Supervisor Crane thinks it is a very measured letter that may be well received especially since we’ve had such a good working relationship with Central Hudson and we intend to keep it.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Sarah Imboden, CAC member, thinks the idea of applying for a shared services grant for the trails is a great idea.

On a motion of supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to go into Attorney Client/Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contracts.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Cagle
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Councilwoman Cagle seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to close the Executive Session at 10:55 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Cagle
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Councilwoman Cagle seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Cagle
	Nays	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk