

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 22, 2015

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 Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Brenda Cagle

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arbor Day Proclamation - Supervisor Crane read the Arbor Day Proclamation, proclaiming April 24, 2015 as Arbor Day in the Town of Red Hook. She thanked Tree Commission Chair Nancy Guski for preparing the proclamation.

Eagle Scout Recognition - Supervisor Crane read a letter of recognition as well as a resolution for Eagle Scout Shane C. Digan of Tivoli.

RESOLUTION 2015 #17

RE: HONORING SHANE C. DIGAN ON BECOMING AN EAGLE SCOUT

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

Adopted	Ayes	3	Crane, Colgan, O'Neill
	Nays	0	
	Absent	2	Ross, Cagle

Memorial Day - Memorial Day parade sponsored by the VFW Post 7765 is on May 25. Lineup at the high school is at 9:30 and the kickoff is 10 a.m. There is a ceremony at the memorial park. Supervisor Crane thanked them for their sponsorship.

Shared Services Highway Project – The Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli and the Town of Red Hook will have their final shared services highway project meeting on April 29, at 7:30 p.m. in Red Hook Town Hall. It is sponsored by Dutchess County Planning. The public is invited to attend.

Employee Handbook – There will be a special Town Board meeting on May 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall to discuss the Employee Handbook.

Workplace Violence & Sexual Harassment Training – Town Hall will be closed on May 7 from 10 a.m. until noon for required training.

Disaster Preparedness Committee – The public is invited to Red Hook H.S. on May 6 at 6:00 p.m. to meet with the Disaster Preparedness Committee.

WATER DISTRICT #1 ANNUAL REPORT

Water Department Chair Henry VanParys presented the 2014 Operations Report. It included highlights of 2014, plans and goals for 2015, water quality, future considerations, a comparative financial overview and a comparative operations summary for the period 2010 – 2014.

SISTER CITIES PRESENTATION

Supervisor Crane explained the Sister Cities organization that a number of communities throughout the country and the world participate in. Red Hook hosted the Mayor of the little village Mas'ha in the West Bank of Palestine three years ago. Since then more Bard College students have been involved and she introduced Jordana Rubenstein-Edberg.

Jordana is a sophomore at Bard College. She explained the projects she is involved with through the Trustee Leader Scholar Program, led by Paul Marienthal. The projects involve cultural exchange which she elaborated on. In the Village of Mas'ha they've built a library, a park, a youth center and they do a lot of education and art projects.

Paul Marienthal said that Bard College recently accepted a young woman from Mas'ha. She will be the first woman from the Village to study outside of the West Bank.

Supervisor Crane thanked Jordana and Paul Marienthal for their work.

Paul gave his contact information for anyone who would want to get involved or has questions about the program.

Amir Shalaviv told how many students from multiple schools are involved in their project.

Paul Marienthal passed out a booklet, TLS 2015, which explains the community engagement and social action involved in the program.

AGRICULTURAL FENCES ZONING AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

Councilman O'Neill led the discussion. He explained that the Ag. & Open Space Committee recommended that there be a definition of agricultural fences in our zoning and they proposed the language. They specifically recommended that we modify Section 142.28 of the zoning code to say that agricultural fence shall be exempt from building permits and height restrictions in all zones. That matter was referred to the Zoning Review Committee on a companion request to consider whether we should also have a definition of spite fences in the zoning to counteract the absence of any regulation for agricultural fencing in the town. The ZRC proposed language not to define a spite fence. It is that no fence or structure in the nature of a fence be erected in the Town for a purpose other than as defined for agricultural fences or as defined in our regular zoning for fencing.

WATER DAMAGE TO TOWN HALL – WINTER 2015

Supervisor Crane referred to the damage to the building that occurred during the winter. Our insurance company offered a settlement that we accepted. We are now looking into developing a plan to take care of the damage.

REPORTS

ZBA – the March and April reports were summarized. They have been working with Bard College to place a single story structure at the site of the now demolished Annandale House. It will go to a public hearing. Another matter before them is an application by Norman Greig for an inn and restaurant on Pitcher Lane. The matter is still under discussion.

Assessor - The April 22 report indicates that they've been working on exemptions. 1048 were processed and accepted. Achieved a 100% Uniform Percentage of Value for the 2015 assessment roll. Grievance Day is scheduled for May 26. Status of commercial properties is ongoing. Tentative values are being reviewed before being processed.

Animal Control – During the period of January 1 – March 31, there were 10 dogs at large, 10 wildlife calls all referred to wild life rehabilitation, 8 cat issues, referred them to the SPCA and Bobbi Jo from Living Eden.

Bookkeeper – D.C. Joint Government Efficiency Plan worksheet is in the Board's packet. It is the required information regarding our efficiency plan. The plan is to be submitted by May 1.

Building Inspector – The report for the period March 17 – April 22, 2105 showed 50 inspections, 27 permits issued, 36 certificates issued, 2 complaints, and \$3910.00 in total fees collected

Highway Shared Services – Met with D.C. Planning – there will be a final public meeting on April 29th at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the study for the highway operations between the three municipalities

DC Sheriff – During the month of March there were 83 total incidents.

Red Hook Police Dept. – March report showed 101 total incidents, 15 arrests, 4 tickets issued.

Purchasing – During the period January 29 – April 20, 2015, 87 purchase orders were issued, an RFP for a Trails Planner was issued; our RFP for pump house improvement project was written. Harkins Mechanical & Construction of Hudson submitted the low bid. The flood light on the north gable of the Town Hall as replaced with an LED lamp.

Water District No. 1 – The February and March reports show tests were completed and everything is in normal range. Hydrant flushing is scheduled for May 19 and 20.

Tree Commission – Chair Nancy Guski reported that Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 25 at Town Hall parking lot. The winning Arbor Day poster done by a Mill Road School student was selected. All posters will be displayed in Town Hall. Trees will be planted on Rokeby Rd., Adams Road, Jefferson Rd. and Hoffman Woods Rd. Resident Jeanne Duntz will provide the lunch with help from Town Clerk Sue McCann and Court Clerk Nancy Roberts. Seedlings will be given out and information will be available. Whoever helps plant is asked to bring shovels. Lunch will be provided afterwards. A commemorative tree ceremony will take place on May 23 at 11:00 a.m. at the Highway Department site. We have the Tree City Growth Award for the 4th year in a row.

CAC – They were involved in amphibian migration tracking with the DEC helping salamanders cross roads. There were six sites monitored in Red Hook. The DEC Camp Scholarships were

presented to two local students. Four HS Seniors applied for the Ruth Oja scholarship. On May 2 there will be a Town wide cleanup from 1 – 4 p.m. Teams will meet at Town Hall. The CAC is also looking into grants. In regard to recycling, a question arose regarding single stream or sorting. They decided to continue with sorting. Possible textile day once a year is in discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Crane opened for comments.

DC Legislator Micki Strawinski provided an update regarding the County legislature.

Reorganization took place in January. She explained their committee day. The County passed the Agricultural Farmland Protection plan in March. A local law was passed about the outdoor restraint of animals, she passed out a commendation to the Red Hook Library, DCW&WWA will take over the water system at the Fairways, resolutions for serial bonds were passed, DC Sheriff Dept. contract was ratified, and the CSEA contract was ratified. An Acting Commissioner of DC Family Services was appointed, and a Commissioner of Planning & Development was appointed. The 6th annual Cleanup Day will take place on May 2 from 1 – 4 p.m. Jen Norris put together a flyer regarding the Bike Rodeo and Tour de Red Hook. They will take place on May 16. Supervisor Crane attended a disaster preparedness program at Bard College prepared by the Red Cross.

REPORTS (continued)

Intermunicipal Task Force – The March and April reports showed that they are focusing on review of the draft of the Historic Preservation Law, and forwarded comments to Greenplan, Inc. They also began review of a 2006 proposed draft local zoning law governing flag lots.

Ag. & Open Space Committee - Supervisor Crane received a letter of interest for the committee from Talea Taylor. It will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Recreation Commission – In summary, they are getting the recreation park ready for the summer. There was snack bar repair, tree damage taken care of, wetlands delineation of the new park have been done to move forward, the fishing contest was a great success.

Senior Services Committee – Sheila Franklin, Secretary of the committee, decided to retire and resign from the committee. Ed Sandfort also resigned. He had a lot of insight, drive and enthusiasm. Their food drive will be postponed until fall.

Trails Committee – Alta Planning & Design, Inc. was recommended to the Town Board for a professional trail planner. They are discussing the Tour de Red Hook bicycle ride.

EDC – Provided 4 logo samples for an introductory page for Red Hook in the Hudson Valley.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane shared the following correspondence:

-Hudson River Estuary Program presentation on the Cornell Habitat Connectivity Project on May 27 at the Town Board meeting, from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

-A letter from the DOT John Cummins to Mr. Balkind finding the reduction of speed limit to 25 MPH on Annandale Road appropriate.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane asked if there were any more public comments.

Sarah Imboden commented about the yellow tape around the recreation park. She asked if next time a sign could be posted giving a reason for the children who had questions.

On a motion of Councilman O’Neill seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Crane, Colgan, O’Neill
	Nays	0	
	Absent	2	Ross, Cagle

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk