

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 25, 2018

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 Robert McKeon
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Councilperson Sarah Imboden
Councilperson Christine Kane (arrived 8:15)
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Also Present: Attorney Christine Chale

Supervisor McKeon called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor McKeon announced the following:

- Information session will take place on May 2 at the New Beginnings Church at 7:00 p.m. for residents in Upper Red Hook regarding zoning. The other session is in regard to the Recreation Park West on May 4 at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- Speed limit signs are being changed to the legal limit. This is required by the State. We can then go back to the DOT to request reduction in speed limit.
- Apple Blossom Day is May 12 beginning at 10 a.m.
- Arbor Day activities will take place on April 28.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments. There were none.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC BIDS FOR PAVING PROJECTS ON KIDD LANE, SENGSTACK LANE AND STONYBROOK ROAD

Supervisor McKeon explained that we are beginning our paving projects, and have to go out to bid.

RESOLUTION 2018 # 23

RE: AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC BIDS FOR 2018 ASPHALT PAVING PROJECT ON KIDD LANE, SENGSTACK LANE AND STONYBROOK ROAD

On a motion of Councilman William O'Neill seconded by Councilperson Sarah Imboden moved to approve the resolution.

Adopted	Ayes	4	McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Kane

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BARD COLLEGE PRESENTATION TO COMMUNITY

Supervisor McKeon explained that Bard College Center for Civic Engagement requested making a presentation to the community.

Bonnie Goad, Associate Director of Bard Colleges Center for Civic Engagement, introduced herself. She began the presentation explaining that Bard College and the Town of Red Hook have a strong partnership for the benefit of the community. They strive to be a reflection of one of Bards core institutional missions, which is that colleges and universities should be in the public interest. The work they do is for the benefit of the entire community. She explained the partnership and how it plays out on a day to day basis. They hope to explain how Bard is an anchor institute in our community. She elaborated with a slide presentation. There is a deep commitment to quality of life. Shared projects were pointed out.

Jonathan Becker, Director for the Center of Civic Engagement, acknowledged others involved in the Center. Those are people intimately involved in what Bard does in the community. He spoke about how Bard College conceptualizes itself. The Center for Civic Engagement was created seven years ago as a means of coordinating activities from Bard College, locally,

nationally, and internationally. He cited quotes from Eleanor Roosevelt, and he described some of Bard's activities. Bard wants to welcome members of the community and explained a number of events that take place; one being the Lifetime Learning Institute, a program for mature students. They have 300 members and offer both Saturday and Summer classes.

Erin Cannan has been at Bard for 22 years. Education is one of the biggest economic drivers in our Town and it is the biggest industry and incredible resource. She explained how both can be an asset to each other. She pointed out a list of programs, one example being a science program, which takes place in the local libraries and schools. Sustainability is a large movement in the community. Martin Luther King Jr. received an honorary degree from Bard in 1962 and in January they honor him with a national day of service.

Jonathan Becker explained college classes for students that impact the community. One example is students attending various courts and board meetings. They also get involved in various projects in the community. The Bard gym is a very active place in Red Hook holding many events. Engaging with the community is very important. He elaborated on the economic impact of Bard College. He concluded by explaining the campus itself.

Linda Keeling commented that Eleanor Roosevelt would be very disappointed to find out that her husband Franklin didn't have accessibility. She read the master plan and only on two pages had any mention of accessibility. It is an area that Bard needs improvement.

Jonathan Becker said they have students with physical challenges and comply with all ADA requirements. All new buildings are extremely accessible. He commented that some of the buildings are 157 years old and are not all easily adapted. In regard to Montgomery Place, how do you make that accessible and honor historic value. They take this very seriously.

Jonathan said he will review the master plan.

Councilperson Imboden thanked them for their presentation. Her family participated in many of the programs and they feel the investment and availability of resources in the community.

Water Department Chair, Hank VanParys, added that Bard College helped pay for half of the water tower years ago.

WATER BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Henry Van Parys, Water Department Chair, presented the annual report of the Town Water District No. 1, 2017 Operations. He named the members of the Water Board, the operations personnel, and gave highlights of 2017. He explained some issues they had this year that had to be resolved. Mr. VanParys is disappointed with a previous engineering report. He didn't like the original analysis and said it was very superficial. The request for proposal was not done correctly as far as he is concerned. It might be a reason they only received one bid. The report included plans and goals for 2018. A comparative financial overview, operating expenses, reserve status and comparative operations summary for the period of 2013 – 2017 were reviewed. Tighe & Bond performed a study regarding the possible replacement or repainting of the water storage tank. It is recommended to rehab the tank. We should consider increasing the rates. They would still be less than other water districts around.

Councilperson Imboden asked Hank if he had any theories as to why people are using less water. Hank said it's hard to say. Maybe people are more conscious.

Care of the water tank was discussed as well as the cost of recoating vs. replacement. He spoke to a man from rural water who said that paints today are excellent, but when it comes to an old rusty tank the problem is getting the surfaces clean and smooth in order for paint to adhere. Hank hopes to get comments from the Water Board and have a recommendation for the Town Board in May. The need for a generator was discussed.

Supervisor McKeon told the Board that there was a power outage in the area for three days and a generator would be a good investment.

Councilman O'Neill asked if Bard still contributes financially.

Hank told him no, their contribution was half of the cost of the tank. A few years ago when they looked into repainting, he asked Bard. It was discovered that in an agreement made with them, maintenance is at the cost of the Town, Bard is not responsible for maintenance. When they use water, they pay for their usage.

Councilperson Imboden asked if they experience water rate increases when everyone else does. Hank told her yes.

Councilperson Imboden mentioned a feature of the new website that has the potential of online payment. She suggested hiring someone comfortable with that concept. It is a possible option. Hank said they'd have to get Town Clerk McCann on board with that.

Councilperson Imboden said the new web site can work with SCA software.

RESOLUTION TO AWARD BID – TOWN HALL INSULATION PROJECT

Supervisor McKeon explained the resolution awarding the bid for insulation. We received a grant for \$100,000 and we wanted to appropriate that toward insulating Town Hall. He explained the recommendation from Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. Advantage Insulation, Inc. is local and has a very good reputation. He read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2018 #24

RE: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF RED HOOK TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR INSULATION OF TOWN HALL CEILING AT THE TOWN OF RED HOOK TOWN HALL

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilperson Sarah Imboden moved to approve the resolution.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Colgan, O’Neill, Imboden, Kane
 Nays 0

Copy attached

Councilman Colgan asked when it would be installed.
Supervisor McKeon commented that it would be done over a weekend.

REORGANIZATION

Ethics Board – A letter was received from Linda Greenblatt expressing interest in serving on the Ethics Board.

Councilperson Imboden asked about party affiliations right now. She thinks they should wait until the other person who submitted a letter of interest returns. Her concern is that too many people are well invested in the community, and it might be difficult for them to make an impartial decision.

Councilman Colgan commented that there are two Democrats and two Republicans on the Ethics Board at this time. They have all been on the Board for some time and they have not had much work to do. Linda Greenblatt would fit the need. He commented that most of them are in the Rotary Club.

Supervisor McKeon suggested talking to the Chair and waiting for the other interested person. Town Clerk McCann informed the Board that the Chair and one member have not been reappointed.

Councilman Colgan will initiate a conversation with them.

UPDATE – AMTRAK FENCE PROPOSAL

Supervisor McKeon gave an update on the Amtrak fence proposal. He attended a meeting and it was very productive. They are no longer including fencing for the Tivoli waterfront area and are going to wait to see how the public park works out. He referred to a letter with information he shared with the group. We thought the proposal was to keep vehicles from going along the tracks, but Amtrak is also concerned about pedestrian traffic. Amtrak and the MTA expect to have a positive control system which would prevent some accidents. He asked the Board to endorse his letter thanking them for their time, and when the time comes he’d like to see a visual of where fencing would be laid out.

Councilperson Kane asked about high speed trains.

Supervisor McKeon told her he didn’t hear much about high speed trains. He explained the issue of emergency braking.

Councilman Colgan said they cannot put high speed trains along the river because there are too many sharp curves.

UPDATE – RECREATIONAL PARK WEST

Supervisor McKeon gave an update on the project. A public input session is scheduled for May 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. He explained that in 2007 the Town acquired 28.8 acres on the west side of Linden Acres for the purpose of additional sports fields. The plan was conducted in 2009 and was in 2013. We would like public outreach. He pointed out a diagram of the plans.

Councilman Colgan said it wasn’t really promoted very much. It was preliminary.

Attorney Chale said there were public hearings and a master plan adopted.

Supervisor McKeon said he wants to bring government to people. When we have our new website residents will have the ability to sign up for topics they care about in order to keep informed. He pointed out the plan that was previously adopted. As part of the plan, construction

was not to start until some kind of funding was arranged. We were able to get grant funding to not only expand our recreation, but expand who can take part. A challenger field is being proposed for individuals with special needs. He explained the funds to this point. A small lot is designed to provide safe parking. Engineers are still working on what we can get done with the funding we have. By next Friday they should be in the position to show us Phase I and cost estimate. The requirement of the grant is that it is built out by October 31. He pointed out more plans for the park and explained some of the property's history.

Councilperson Imboden referred to the soccer field area. Can the engineers grade the fields if we don't install soccer fields? Are there other things that can be done to manage the earth? What are the options cost wise?

Councilman Colgan said that can be easily done without creating the soccer fields. There is a great deal of grading to be done. It would save a lot of cost.

Supervisor McKeon said that keeping the material on site is the most affordable solution.

Ana San Juan, a member of the Trails Committee and a neighbor bordering the property line, has been a steward of the property in recent years. She wrote a letter to neighbors encouraging them to know what an amazing asset this is. She shared a few questions she received from neighbors. A primary question is why we're building more athletic fields, are the demographics in the community changing, was there a recreational assessment conducted and are there results from that assessment, the baseball clubs are merging because of a decrease in membership, was there a needs assessment of disabled residents, was this data included in seeking the grant, and many other questions. Naturalists see it as a beautiful green space and would like to see some of it maintained. People ask why there wasn't a more public process, how do people find out about it. In the neighborhood, they wonder why they don't know more. A letter could have been distributed informing the neighbors and resolve some of their anxiety. As a member of the Trails Committee, her husband would ask her what's happening. He wrote to Supervisor McKeon to find out. She doesn't have enough information. Public transparency is missing. She hopes the meeting about the recreation park west is informative.

Supervisor McKeon hopes their questions will be answered at the meeting scheduled for May 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Councilperson Imboden suggested inviting committees to the meeting.

Councilman Colgan gave a brief history of the new park. The conversation started with the need of new soccer fields. That land was bought with that intent, but now the soccer fields are well developed on the Greig Farm lands. We are less financially stressed now and we should work on behalf of the public.

Ana San Juan said a lot of the angst can be alleviated through communication. It is an oddity that there is not more information.

Supervisor McKeon doesn't want people to think we possess information that the public isn't aware of. We don't know yet. We hired an engineer to tweak the plan for a challenger field and a safe parking lot. We don't have anything back from them yet, we don't even know if we are going to proceed with the project. Hopefully we will have something substantive next Friday.

Councilperson Imboden suggested a contact page on our Town website. Sometimes we rely on the public to ask us things.

Supervisor McKeon said we are doing what we can with the technology we have available to us.

REPORTS

Assessor's Office – completed the 2018 tentative assessment roll. It will be published on May 1, Grievance Day will be held on May 22. In March there were 4 sales.

EDC – reviewed sewer system update, stressed a Red Hook marketing plan, and requested a meeting with the Town Board regarding the Town's Planning Board process. The EDC will send a letter requesting that the proposed Town Law should be unbundled into four separate topics for stand-alone consideration.

Building & Zoning Department – The April monthly report showed 24 permits issued, 19 inspections, 8 CO/CC's, no complaints and \$9187.00 in revenue.

Intermunicipal Task Force – reviewed final revisions to Local Law C (proposed) and began discussion on streamlining the planning process, a subject referred by the EDC.

Planning Board – began or continued to review applications, held public hearings and granted approval to an application to change the use from residential to mixed use on a property in the I Zoning District (Bard Wilson House, Site Plan, and Special Permit)

Purchasing – The report for the period of January 24 – April 20, 2018 showed 120 PO's issued, Tighe & Bond has been selected for the Challenger Field, RFP for foam insulation was prepared and sent out, several PO's were issued for a mower and tools for maintenance of the Red Church cemetery grounds, and security camera systems were installed.

Recreation Dept. – The tennis court will be finished soon, an update on the USTA application project was given, playground committee is reviewing plans, locust trees have been removed Eagle Scouts stained, stenciled and assembled four benches, LED lighting on the tennis course is being installed, maintenance is ongoing, new Rec. Playground Director will be Kathleen Dunn, Joe Coon has been hired to maintain the Red Church Cemetery, fishing contest took place on April 14, Girl Scouts want to place a library box at the Rec. Park.

Tree Commission – Follow up to Tree City Recognition Ceremony, they gave a presentation to the Old Dutch Village Garden Club, Tree City sign was straightened, holes will be dug for new trees on Pitcher Lane, Mill Rd. School program is underway, Betty Mae Van Parys memorial tree plaque is in, Arbor Day details were finalized.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor McKeon received correspondence regarding Rec. Park West and a letter from the EDC regarding the Town's economic viability. He thanked everyone for their participation in last Saturday's Clean Up Day.

ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Kane moved to go into Attorney/Client session at 10:00 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden, Kane
	Nay	0	

On a motion of Councilperson Imboden seconded by Supervisor McKeon moved to adjourn the Attorney/Client session at 10:30 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden, Kane
	Nay	0	

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman O'Neill moved to reopen the Town Board meeting at 10:31 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden, Kane
	Nay	0	

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden, Kane
	Nay	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk