

Reorganization

A Reorganization meeting of the Red Hook Town Board was held Tuesday, January 3, 2006, with the following in attendance:

Deputy Supervisor - William O'Neill
Councilman - James Ross
Councilwoman - Sue Crane
Councilwoman – Jean Bordewich
Councilman – Harold Ramsey

Absent: Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump and Town Clerk Susan McCann

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill opened the floor for the 15 minute comment period.

Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee presented each of the Board members with a copy of the recently adopted Disaster Preparedness Plan.

Resident Micki Strawinski came before the Town Board in support of Ruth Oja as Chairman of the C.A.C. She presented a petition to the Board with 49 names. Micki said that Ruth Oja was a dedicated advocate for environmental conservation, no one citizen was more dedicated to the residents of the Town of Red Hook, protecting and conserving our natural resources. Ruth worked hard preventing Con Edison from coming to Red Hook, obtained grants when she started the Recycling Center, served Dutchess County and Recycling, worked on Greenway, trails and open Space. Micki asked that Ruth Oja be reappointed as Chairman to the CAC.

Rosemarie Zengen suggested that neither Ruth Oja or Kathy Stewart be reappointed as it would not be fair to the Town Board.

Vicky Perry said, during the recently passed campaign it was stated “no one should be shut out of government or overlooked and no good idea should be ignored, that’s our promise to you” – so is this how we will see their promises kept?

Resident Linda Keeling, said our web site is not up to date, as she didn’t see anything on the web site about tonight’s meeting.

Councilman Ramsey said he is working with our web master to update the web site.

Councilwoman Bordewich said we need someone who is here every day and thinks that the Town Clerk would be the one who could update every day as she could be supplied the information each day to put it on the web site.

Resident Jeffrey Perry said “I don’t know all the facts and would like to know why Ruth can’t serve on the Committee.

Resident Peter Gerardi said “I have worked with Ruth and she does a tremendous job. I don’t know the real issues here, but we should give someone else a turn. This should not be a permanent position or job.

Resident Richard Gordon asked if this is political pay back. He stated “I don’t think you can, as everyone has the freedom to speak out. A political payback would be very ugly”.

Resident Patty Gordon questioned if the Board was asking Ruth Oja to leave because of her opinions.

Brenda Cagle, CAC member said Ruth has been a tireless and dedicated advocate for environmental conservation, and urged the Board to reappoint her as Chairperson of the CAC.

Resident Suzanne Shea questioned if Ruth Oja has been in the position too long. She asked what's how long and when do you resign?

Jeanne Douglas, ZBA, said it has been a wonderful journey and she was fortunate to work together with Ruth, but we should go along and support our Board on this matter.

When Ruth Oja was questioned by the Board why she wrote the letter during the election campaign, her reply was she was in a position to give insight to voters to aid them in their decisions on voting.

Councilman Ross said that so many of Ruth's statements in the letter were untrue and there was no way he could vote for Ruth as Chairperson.

Councilwoman Crane agreed and said many of the comments in the letter were "off the wall - I feel it was unfair and there is no way I could defend myself".

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill closed the comment period.

Councilwoman Bordewich, who with Councilman Ross, reviewed the Town appointments for 2006, opened with the reading of the positions and the names to fill them. This included all the committees with each of the vacancies discussed at length before reaching a decision. The Town appointments will be finalized and voted upon at the Town Board's business meeting, January 10, 2006.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill again, opened the floor for public comment.

Resident Peter Gerardi questioned why hadn't sidewalks been completed down to Hannaford.

Councilman Ross agreed there should be sidewalks and we should be looking into grants to do this.

One resident inquired as to how many people responded when you advertised for volunteers to serve on the various committees.

Councilwoman Bordewich said that eight people had responded.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Bordewich and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Margaret Doty
Recording Secretary