

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 26, 2019

A workshop 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
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney Christine Chale

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

Water

Supervisor McKeon began discussion with the issue of a bottling plant in Red Hook and said the consensus is that the Board is not interested in a large-scale water extraction in Town. We would want the existing facility to remain at or about current levels. Regarding other locations for smaller collection activities, the Board had differences in opinion.

Councilman Colgan would not want to allow it elsewhere. There is no real return.

Supervisor McKeon asked if the operation that is grandfathered, discontinues for any reason, would we be willing to allow another similar in size somewhere else.

Councilman Colgan said that could be addressed when the need arises.

Councilperson Imboden doesn't understand the prohibition of small operations.

Councilperson Kane would not be in favor of expanding it to other districts. The existing use would be grandfathered, if it closed, it closed.

The Board continued discussion.

Ted Fink of Greenplan, asked about the present facility.

Supervisor McKeon explained. There is water, but not the infrastructure.

The Board discussed the issue further. Light industrial district was another point discussed.

Supervisor McKeon said it sounds like consensus is to prohibit collection of spring water for commercial. How will we be assured the existing operation to continue when we develop our thresholds.

Councilperson Kane said whatever is there is grandfathered.

The Board exchanged ideas and discussed various issues regarding water collection.

Soil Mining

Supervisor McKeon referred to soil mining. One concern he had with the existing zoning was with the definition of what amount was permitted which was 1,000 tons. That is a lot of trucks and a lot of impact. The Town of Clinton regulates above 100 tons.

Councilperson Kane explained the ton issue and regulations.

Councilman Colgan asked what the advantage would be for us to allow any excavation.

The Board discussed various issues regarding soil mining. What currently exists refers to a 12-month period. Enforcement would be tricky and the soils we want to protect have been identified. We do not want to be in the business of selling resources. The question of penalties for zoning violations came up. It was suggested to change the penalties in order to encourage compliance.

Attorney Chale brought up some questions for the Board to consider.

Timber Harvesting

The Board moved on to reviewing timber harvesting.

Supervisor McKeon feels portions of the present zoning conflicts with what they discussed.

Attorney Chale suggested changing some language to further define issues. In regard to Code Enforcement, the officer can only enforce laws, he cannot exercise discretion.

Ted Fink said everything has to be looked at together, small scale and large scale commercial. He explained sustainable foresting using selective harvesting.

On a motion of Councilperson Kane seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue McCann, Town Clerk