

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 14, 2013

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836, Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York, immediately following the Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2013. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Robin Andrews.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman to accept minutes of December 03, 2012 Meeting, December 20, 2012 Public Hearing, December 20, 2012 Special Meeting, January 03, 2013 Organizational Meeting, January 03, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting after corrections. Carried. In the Organizational Meeting Resolution #8 was offered by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Johnston and in Resolution #18, revised Zoning should be eliminated. December 13, 2012 – Pg.4- Resignations of Sal Cozzolino and Russ Pomeranz should be “with regrets” added. Pg. 4 – After SEQR review, “for a negative declaration of the SEQR for the new zoning and sub-division regulations, proposed Local Law #4 of 2012. Pg. 4 – Special Meeting on Columbia County Court House, add “notices of Public Hearing distributed to abutters as soon as possible”. Special Meeting – Dec.20, 2012 – In regards to proposed resolution on Columbia County Court House, motion for negative SEQR declaration should be placed before acceptance of proposed resolution. January 03, 2013 – Add Certificates of Appreciation given to members of Zoning Review Committee for services to Town.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Worked nine snow and ice events with men putting in many hours with no problems. Servicing equipment when time allows. Repairing road sweeper repairing the hopper that was badly rusted and installing a new blower.

Cleared the area on Millbrook Road where intersection is going to be located at New York State Rte. 9-H. Presently waiting for permit from D.O.T.

Councilmen Weigelt and Preusser, along with Highway Superintendent LaMont met with Town Engineer to discuss bridge on Stone Mill Road to do a cost analysis to see if Town wants to move forward with project.

Longevity for each year of service that Highway Department employees have been getting annually for over 30 years was taken away from the men as of January 1st with no explanation. It is in the Town of Claverack Employee Policy Manual that was adopted by the Town Board in 2007. Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to give this to the Department this year, retroactive to January 1st. Carried.

Dog Control Officer’s Report for January received and on file in Town Office for review.

Building Inspectors’ Report for January received and on file in the Town Office for review.

Committee Reports

Agricultural Advisory Committee – Peter Reiss – Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board has released its’ draft Farmland Protection Plan for public comment. Three meetings have been scheduled – then a public hearing will be scheduled by the County Board of Supervisors. The 18 month planning process started with an inventory of farming throughout Columbia County that included an assessment of its’ strengths and needs, its’ economic value, open space value, and the consequences of conversion. Seven focus groups were held throughout the County and farmers and interested parties completed written surveys. The purpose of the final plan is to set forth specific recommendations for how the County can support and sustain both farming and the farmer. Columbia County is one of two counties in New York State that does not have such a farmland protection plan. The adoption of a plan is a commitment to ensure the health and expansion of the farm sector as well as a significant milestone in the community’s understanding of the importance of agriculture to our economy, our landscape and our community culture.

Committee members are currently reviewing the agriculture and farming related parts of the new Zoning Law and will be developing a one or two page “information only” summary for the general information of the farmers in our area.

Correspondence

Letter of interest for Historian from Jeanne LaPorta
Invitation to Elder Act project at Whittier from Philmont Rotary Club
Stockport Creek and Watershed Report now available
Press release in reference to Code Red Test by County
Letter of interest for Zoning Board position from Chris Post
Request from Hawthorne Valley School to use Soccer Field
NYSERDA “Buy Green, Save Green Rebates for NY State Local Governments”
Strategic Transportation Enhancement Program Guidance and Application form
Info from Humane Society of the Capital Region report on Animal Welfare in Capital Region
Information on Columbia County Soil & Water annual bare root tree and shrub sale
Information on upcoming Capital Region Economic Development Council Meeting
Federal Program schedule from Cornell Cooperative Extension
Columbia Land Conservancy news
NYMIR – Would like opportunity to speak re: Insurance for Town
Columbia Co. Health Department – Re: Proposed “Big Up Music & Arts Festival 2013”
Lalberge Group – Shared Services – Local Government Efficiency Grants
NYSE&G – Procedure for streetlight requests
Ellen Jouret-Epstein- 2013 Land Use Workshop series
Ellen Jouret Epstein – Columbia County Trails roundtable – Tuesday April 9th
Ellen Jouret Epstein – Public Meetings – County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan
Dept. of Army – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Re: County Rte. #16 bridge over Hollowville Creek
Valatie Senior Housing project
Tree removal – Courts Lane

Town Board Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Met with Building Inspector, Stanley Koloski to review and update forms and information posed on website based on new zoning law. Revised forms were shared with Planning Board and ZBA for additional feedback, as well as the website committee and Town Board.

Worked with Assessors ' Office to make updates to Assessors ' page on website.

Attended Planning Board and ZBA as Town Board liaison.

Met with Town's insurance representative and Councilman Preusser to review insurance information for the coming year. Gathered updated information to complete the form for submission for a quote.

Councilman Weigelt – Met with Councilman Preusser and Highway Superintendent LaMont and Town Engineer to get information to go out for bid for Millbrook Road bridge. There will be a cost estimate, then an estimate taking into consideration work that the Highway Department would be able to do. Town Engineer will be at next workshop meeting.

Councilman Preusser – Youth – Attended a special forum on Public Schools in Fiscal Peril at Columbia High School. Speaker interesting and there was great participation. Suggested writing to our elected officials.

Tractor Operator Certification , sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension , will begin on March 1st and continue for six sessions. Applications available by calling 828-3346 by February 22nd.

For anyone interested in the Hawthorne Valley Summer Camp and Residential Camp Programs, the contact persons are Karen Preusser or Helen Enright at 672-4465, ext. 222.

Taconic Hills Little League Association- Paperwork submitted by Bob Dykeman, president, to Valley Cats Community Grounds Renovations in regards to facelift to our fields. Also asked to think about making fields sanctioned.

Attended ZBA meeting and discussed with Councilwoman C ashen transition as per new zoning. Upcoming classes on using new SEAF/SEQR at Columbia Greene Community College on Tuesday, March 5th – 5:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday March 30th from 9:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Conservation Advisory Council Roundtable to be held Wednesday, February 27 from 5:30p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Country Trails Roundtable to be held Tuesday, April 9th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Attended several meetings with Economic Development Committee in regards to STEP (Strategic Transport Enhancement Program) guidance and application. This is a grant to invest in transport infrastructure.

Stream grants – Had to reschedule meeting with Mike Higgins due to weather. Areas in Hollowville and Mellenville did not get worked on.

Supervisor Andrews – Attended Historic Advisory Committee meeting and Planning Board meeting.

Received information from Rotary Club, who has set up membership for Elder Rotary at Whittier.

Spoke with Dog Control Officer, Reginald Conklin regarding a situation he has been working on.

Problem that concerns A.B. Shaw Fire District must be cleared up. This concerns map and assessment issues between A.B. Shaw and Churchtown Fire Districts and should be completed in time for new assessments.

County will be having public hearing before next month's meeting in reference to wireless surcharge of \$.30 by County to support 911 services.

Proposed Motions/Resolutions

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept January – December draft Financial Reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to appoint Jean LaPorta as Town Historian. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to appoint Ian Nitschke Chairman of Historic Advisory Committee. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve \$20.00 fee for printed copy of Zoning Law due to copying costs. Subdivision rules to remain at \$10.00. Carried. It is to be noted that the Zoning Law is free on the website.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to approve changes in website to reflect new zoning, including creating a Building Department page. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to change workshop date from February 26th to February 25th to accommodate engineer, who could not be present on the 26th. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve submitting application for Strategic Transportation Enhancement Program for Rte. #23/#23B/9-H intersection for improved traffic flow. If approved, it is expected to result in funding beginning in 2018.

Opened to Public:

Jim Van Deusen - Tractor certification is excellent program. Disappointed on hearing Claverack School has been sold. Regarding Traffic Safety Board – Still need signs by new A.B. Shaw Firehouse.

Charles Schram – Spoke regarding SAFE Act. County decided not to take action.

General A bills, totaling **\$147,447.03**, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling **\$3,890.22**, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling **\$27,491.06**, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling **\$8,274.17** were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Town Clerk: _____