

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

April 12, 2012

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 State Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing on the Town Ethics Law, by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence, in memory of Dorothy Hoose and Paul Barden, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept minutes of February 09, 2012 meeting and the March 08, 2012 meeting, with addition of the March property resolution. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of April Workshop. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – All snowfence taken down and put away. Sweeping in all zones and grading dirt roads in all zones.

Completed ditching on Miller Road and getting ready to replace old rusted culvert pipes.

Met with Councilman Weigelt and an engineer from Longspan to figure out an arch culvert design for Millbrook Bridge.

Department has been cleaning park grounds , working on ballfields and doing some painting, getting ready for coming season.

Dog Control Officer's Report received and on file in Town Office for Review.

Building Inspectors' Report received and on file in Town Office for review.

Committee Reports

Zoning Revision Committee – No meetings since March.

Economic Development – Report read by Supervisor. Committee had Jennifer Case, President of Claverack Library Board of Directors, reported on new library property and plans for the future. Presented drawings of proposed building and property improvements. Explained they would be applying to Zoning Board the following week. Committee had many questions that were answered to their satisfaction and agreed to fully support library as they move forward with their plans.

Further discussion on Claverack School building and possible uses, including its' use as a Town Office complex. Determined that John Lee would contact realtor for tour of the building and report back to Committee about condition and whether to recommend further study about possible Town use.

Have contacted a potential buyer for Quigley property at corner of Rtes. 9-H and #23B. Further information about this at a later date.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to send letter to Hudson School Board that the Town be notified of anything happening in regard to the Claverack School building. Carried.

Next meeting scheduled for April 18th.

Agricultural Advisory Committee – Peter Reiss – Peter attended the “Small Farms Summit” in Voohreesville in February. Summit was an interactive meeting with opportunity to take part in discussion and provide feedback, locally and across the State. 150 farmers and supporters gathered at five locations to evaluate emerging opportunities and prioritize investments to enhance the viability of small farms. A final report will be published in June.

Emerging Opportunities to Enhance Viability and Support of Small Farms in New York was primary topic at the summit. Top five in the opinion of attendees from our general area are:

1. Develop **FOOD DISTRIBUTION STRATEGIES** to expand small farm access to local and regional markets.
2. **DOCUMENT ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SMALL FARMS** on their communities to increase investment in and support of small farms.
3. Develop new and/or expand existing **LIVESTOCK PROCESSING FACILITIES**
4. Advocate for **GREATER INVESTMENT IN SMALL FARM SERVICES**.
5. Develop and promote affordable **ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES** for small farms.

An ongoing matter of concern in our State, several states bordering New York and scattered throughout the U.S., while not discussed at the Summit, is an invasive species known as Giant Hogweed. While, thus far, the primary prevalence in our State is in northwestern New York, we must be aware of the plant, so

that if it were to migrate into our area, we would recognize it and report it to NYSDEC. It is easily recognizable, in that it grows to 14 feet tall with stems up to 4" in diameter and leaves up to 5 feet across.

It is extremely noxious, with the potential from contact to cause very serious blisters, leaving scars that can last several years.

Next meeting is planned for May at 421 Roxbury Rd. Specific date is dependent upon the developing status of the Draft Zoning Law and the County Agricultural Protection Law.

It was suggested that information and a picture of the Giant Hogweed be put on the website.

Historic Preservation Committee – Read by Councilwoman Cashen – Met on April 06, 2012 to discuss current grant proposal to Preserve New York, seeking \$10,000.00 in support of rebuilding Shaw Bridge.

Based on previous conversations, a list was created and tasks apportioned primarily to provide community support for the grant application. Speaking engagements related to the bridge as well as further articles will also be pursued to bring the history and importance of the effort to the community.

The committee seeks approval from the Town Board for the application to be filed. Ian Nitschke has prepared a draft to be considered by the Town Board. Additional appendixes including the signers of the petition are in progress and will be included in the application. The proposal was very close to being funded in 2011 and the expression of community support may be the determining factor for success in 2012. The Committee appreciates the Town Board's efforts.

Town Board Reports

Assessors - Councilman Johnston – Certificate of Excellence to Town Board of Assessors, by New York State Department of Taxation and Finance – Office of Real Property Tax Services, for its efforts to provide property owners with fair and equitable assessment on the 2011 roll.

Water – Councilman Johnston – Getting together with Mr. LaMont. Has spoken with John in the Water Department.

Insurance – Councilman Preusser – Met with Mr. Nesbitt, Town Insurance Agent of Johnny Walker Insurance. Quotes were from NYMIR and Selective. Town will save approximately \$2,000.00 and have more coverage with Selective.

Board of Assessment Review – Councilman Preusser – After interviews, William Gerlach chosen for consideration by Board this evening to fill vacant position. There is mandatory training in early May.

Councilman Preusser also reported there is a Wetlands and Woodlands Water Seminar coming up. It is a good class for ZBA and Planning Board members. He also attended Columbia County Trails roundtable sharing ideas and a vision map for the area. There is nothing in our Town at the present time.

Youth – Councilman Preusser – Sean Keeler is senior Captain of University of Alabama Hockey Team, which won the Southeastern Collegiate Hockey Conference champions. They took home the Army Strong SECHC Tournament Cup for the first time in program history. He was Assistant Director of the Town Summer Youth Program. Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to send letter of congratulations.

Following are other dates to be aware of:

Philmont Rod and Gun Club Fishing Derby to be held on May 12th.

Crellin Community Park Trail Day scheduled for Saturday April 14 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at 2940 Rte. #66, Chatham, NY.

Earth Day – Trail Day April 22 from 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. at Ooms Conservation area, 480 Rockland Road, Chatham, NY. Volunteers are needed. For information call (518)392-5252

CAVY Institute of Ecosystems meeting on May 5th, 2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, NY. 9:00 a.m. – Noon. (www.caryinstitute.org).

CLC – Hydrofracturing seminar coming up on May 5th also.

Website – Councilwoman Cashen – Planning and Zoning applications will be discussed with Building Department and Planning and Zoning Boards.

GIS training session held. Attended this with Brian Goodrich. David Graziano will be attending the session this coming Saturday.

Councilwoman Cashen attended Broadband Symposium in Catskill, sponsored by Chris Gibson. Good informational session.

Communication Committee – Councilwoman Cashen –Worked with committee to update website to create a new page for laws recently enacted and also the removal of dated items. Sent updates on recently appointed board members.

Worked with Historic Preservation Advisory Committee on Shaw Bridge grant application. In process of contacting State legislators and congressional representatives for letters of support for application.

Annual Earth Day cleanup is April 22nd – covers Stevers Crossing, Dunbar, Oak Hill, Thielman and Roxbury Roads.

Supervisor’s Report – Town - Interviews held for BAR vacancy. Attended Rural Broadband Symposium in Catskill. Need to work on our own map to get support for better coverage.

Town has 30 day extension for submitting AUD.

Philmont – New trustee is Matthew Perry. June 30th is Community Day. Adopted an ethics [policy similar to the Town's.

County – Moving forward with Railroad Avenue purchase. Completed last union contract with 911. All contracts now go through 2013.

Correspondence

Minkler-Seery American Legion Post 253 invitation to participate in Memorial day parade.

Trina Sodofsky e-mail – Re: Board of Ethics

Roster for GIS training from Ellen Jouret-Epstein

Columbia Land Conservancy

Invitation to Philmont Community Day Parade – June 30, 2012

New York Planning Federation Conference – April 15-17 in Saratoga Springs

Certificate of Excellence to Town of Claverack Board of Assessors by NYS Department of Taxation and Finance – Office of Real Property Tax Service

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept Draft January – March 2012 Financial Reports, Final January - February 2012 Financial Reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept recommendation of Select Insurance as Town insurance carrier. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to appoint William Gerlach to fill out unexpired term of Daniel Barrett on the Board of Assessment Review.. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set special meeting for Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall to review proposed revised zoning with Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Zoning Revision Committee. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston for resolution of the Town of Claverack Board's intent to be the Lead Agency and Identification of a Type 1 Action and to have notices of intent send to adjacent Towns, Town Planning and Zoning and County Planning with draft of the Long EAF documents, the addendum document and a copy of the proposed Zoning/Planning as revised attached. There will be a 30 day comment period, then a Public Hearing set up. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser for adoption of proposed revised Local Law on Ethics. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for approval of updates to resource list with Emergency Plan. Carried. Councilman Preusser will work on getting meeting with all fire companies in Town. Copies will be given to each company.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve submission of a grant application for \$10,000.00 for the Shaw Bridge to Historic Preservation Society – Preserve New York. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to authorize longevity increase of .025 to the Highway Department staff as indicated in the personnel manual, retroactive to January 2012. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to change regular workshop meeting to last Tuesday of the month beginning in June. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept letter of resignation from Caren Mahar from Planning Board, effective in June. Carried. Old applications will be reviewed and new applications requested.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to put Hogweed notice on website. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to authorize use of soccer field at Town Park to Hawthorne Valley School with Certificate of Insurance to be received by Town. Carried.

It was noted that the Town already adopted the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2007.

It was noted that the Town Resident Deputy, Sergeant Merante, has retired from the Sheriff's Department.

Meeting opened to public:

Bill Blaauw – Credit to Highway Department for work on Bridge work. Raked and seeded like nothing happened. Work was done after damage by storm to water district lines. Also, barrier in parking lot at Town Park replaced with stone. There is also work on the kitchen and other repairs in the Park, thanks to the Highway Department.

David Graziano – Saw minutes on website. Wants Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer reports on website.

“Steve” Hook – Will there be interviews for the representative on the Columbia County Planning Board for the Towns of Claverack and Ghent as there was for the BAR vacancy. Supervisor Andrews stated this is a County position and her choice. Councilman Johnston stated Board should at least in the choice have had input.

Jennifer Post – If anyone is having difficulty getting Broadband, let Claverack Library aware.

Gretchen Stearns – There are GIS maps on website.

Bill Blaauw – Question on Shaw Bridge. It will be open to pedestrian and bicycles only. Also noted that the old Hallenbeck barn on Rte. 9-H, formerly Cathy Cotton property, is being rebuilt.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$58,102.09, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,884.61, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DA bills, totaling \$3,349.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$15,837.97, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

SW Water bills, totaling \$5,307.46, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____