

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 14, 2018

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. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor, Clifford Weigelt, who requested a moment of silence in respect to Councilman Hook's family in the loss of his sister-in-law this week, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Stephen Hook	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways

Supervisor Weigelt turned the meeting over to Town Judge, Michael Brandon for a special presentation, organized and researched by Dr. Carrie O'Hare, presently a Town Judge in the Town of Stuyvesant, New York. The Justices in the Town Courts are members of the Columbia County Magistrates Organization and the Town of Claverack is one of the first Towns honored. With some in the State wanting conclusion of Town and Village justices, she is trying to preserve the local courts. After reading the inscription and names of the justices on the plaque, Judge Brandon turned the meeting over to Dr. O'Hare who said that she is fulfilling a dream and trying to make a difference. The Town Justices are peoples' judges and are not paid by the State. She gave each Town Board member a copy of a map from 1878 from "History of Columbia County, New York", and a history of the Justices and dates the Justices of the Peace dating back to the Year 1786 thru 1827.

The plaque will be placed in the Town Hall for the public to see. The son of Erwin Schneider, was present to hear the presentation honoring his father as one of the past judges. There were many other judges also present who have served in that capacity in more recent years.

After the presentation, the meeting was turned over to the Town Historian, Jeane LaPorta, who reported on the Shaw Bridge historic marker, which has been missing since about May 4th, 2018. She contacted Christie Fuller of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, where the grant was received for the original marker, to see if it was possible to have the marker duplicated and what the cost would be to

have this done. She was told that when this had happened to others, they had contacted the local newspaper. In the Town's case, law enforcement has already been notified. After this was discussed, a resident of the Town in the audience said that the marker had been found alongside of the road. Many residents had walked along the area many times searching for the marker, to no avail. Mrs. LaPorta will follow through with this information as she had heard nothing in regards to this finding.

Mrs. LaPorta then proceeded with a proposal granting Stephen Formel permission for a historic marker from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for his property formerly known as Barton's Mill, now called the Mill at Green Hole. Mr. Formel has documentation that will designate the property eligible for the marker. Approval from the Town Board is necessary because the William G. Pomeroy grant is for municipalities or 501c3 non-profit entities.

Also, Mark Lawler, Paleontologist of Antioch University New England, asked Mrs. LaPorta to request for consideration that he address the Board sometime in July, or at the Town Board meeting, on the topic of the Claverack Mastodon, which he has been studying for many years. He is interested in promoting study about the mastodon, particularly in relation to the developing U.S., during the time period it was first discovered in Claverack in 1705. He is fully aware that the Town boundaries changed since 1705. However, documentation notes the discovery as the "Claverack Mastodon".

Supervisor Weigelt suggested that the Board meet with Mr. Lawlor at the Monthly Workshop. We will be in contact with him to set up a meeting.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of previous Monthly Town Board Meeting of May 10, 2018. Carried.

There was no report from the Superintendent of Highways this month, due to his absence.

The Dog Control Office's Report for May was received and on file in Town Office for review.

Committee Reports

There were no reports received at the Town Office this month.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Columbia County Historical Society – First Columbians 2018 celebrating our Towns, Villages & the City of Hudson invitation.

Board of Supervisors Columbia County: Re: Resolution #201-2018 Mortgage Tax Monies Collected

Hudson River Valley Greenway – Re: 2018 Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program

Town of Claverack Planning Board – Re: Notice of Public Hearing

NYS Department of Transportation – Re: Available funding through the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
Senior Services of Albany – Re: Caregiver Teleseminar, Thursday, June 14, 2018 0 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Jay Shulman – e-mail – Re: Hamlet speed reduction
The American Legion Post #252 – Certificate of Participation – Louis LaMont and Highway Department
NYSEG – Re: Energy Efficient Lighting Incentive for Schools and Municipal Buildings
Barbara Skaarup – NYS Department of Taxation & Finance -e-mail – Re: Town of Claverack 2018 Tentative Equilization rates
Jay Shulman – e-mail – Re: Hamlet speed regulations follow-up
NYS Archives – e-mail – June 2018 newsletter
National Grid – Before, during and after the storm – Your guide to natural gas and electric outage preparation and safety
Churchtown Dairy – Re: A Pitchfork Rebellion: A talk by Thomas Linzey, Esq.
Claverack Free Library – Re: Update Summer 2018
National Grid – Re: Street Light Audit results
Jeane LaPorta – e-mail - Re: Speaking at the Town Board Meeting
COARC Fusion – Re: Park fee waiver
NYS Department of Taxation and Finance – Re: Hearing Date – Re: Tentative Equilization Rate
PENFLEX, Inc. – Re: Annual Report

Supervisor's Report

It has been quiet on the County level. Law passed banning sparkling devices. Not saleable under the Sparkling Law. Counties around Columbia County allow this, but Columbia County will forbid it.

Second Reformed Church of Claverack in Philmont would like to donate funds to the Summer Youth Program so that lunches can be made available for those who are attending and would like to have them. Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve. Carried.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Contacted Insurance Agent regarding the missing Shaw Bridge sign. There is a \$1,000.00 deductible on the policy. The Columbia County Sheriff's Department was notified.

Met with **Councilwoman Cashen** and **Councilman Keeler** to discuss questions that needed clarification in order to finalize employee handbook.

Notice of the new website business directory available is being hand delivered by Economic Development Advisory Committee. Also, the Assessors Office was requested to provide a list of businesses and their addresses for a mailing. This is in the process of being completed at the present time.

Met with Building Inspector, Jay Trapp, to discuss various zoning issues.

Attended June Monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Participated in the Memorial Day Parade in the Village of Philmont.

Contacted Health Insurance broker regarding the renewal in September 2018. She is scheduled to come to the June Workshop.

Lotus Energy, Inc. is also scheduled to attend the June Workshop to talk about energy efficient upgrades, incentives and solar energy.

Contacted Senator Marchione's office regarding the NYS Rte. #23 guardrail installation and also check on the State and Municipal Facilities Program grant awarded to the Town for improvements to the Town Park. Jeffrey Cleary, from Senator Marchione's Office, returned the call and said that Town should be receiving information from DASNY, which was received and contained a questionnaire that had to be completed before DASNY would process the grant application, and could be held up if the paperwork is not submitted. This grant can take up to two years and during that time the Town cannot start any improvements.

The street light audit was done to ensure accuracy of National Grid's billing records. Two discrepancies were found that will result in a monthly bill increase of \$21.02. Two lights were not being billed and they could either be removed or added to the bill. There is a limited one-time waiver under the lighting tariff to back-bill for the service that was delivered, but not previously charged. If the Town is not agreeable to this, it must be responded to within 30 days from the date of the letter, which is dated May 21, 2018.

With **Councilman Hook**, visited Town of Stuyvesant's Town Office Building. Very similar to the Town of Copake's. When visiting Copake, they said that there were things that they would have done differently. Stuyvesant is very satisfied with theirs and would do nothing different.

Checked with Dave Fingar at Mid-Hudson Cable for an update and was told that he is still waiting for licenses to attach to the poles.

Contacted Tara Donaldio, the new Clean Energy Community Coordinator for Clean Energy Communities, to see if she would be able to attend the July or August Workshop to discuss next steps in moving forward.

Attended the walk-through of the Town Park with the representative from the Columbia County Department of Health. This is done every year before the beginning of the Summer Youth Program.

Requested permission from the Town Board members to look into the "Think Differently" Initiative program and bring back to the Board what opportunities could be considered in making the Town of

Claverack more accessible to people of all abilities. The “Think Differently” initiative supports individuals with special needs and their families.

Councilwoman Cashen – Regarding the cleaning of the water tank, followed up with Attorney Fitzsimmons and the Town Board. Cleaning is now done robotically. Need RFP wording. Will follow-up with **Councilman Hook**.

Announced Town Summer Youth Program dates to various websites.

Continued to follow-up with the volunteers working on the Claverack Hamlet Park garden plan.

Met with other Town Board members on issues needing finalization in the employee handbook.

Worked with **Councilman Keeler** on a meeting with the Mellenville and Philmont Fire Departments and architects on a proposed shared fire company building at the current Town Hall/Town Court building.

Followed up with Steve Winkley from New York Rural Water Association with questions on the Source Water Protection Plan for the Town.

Participated in the Memorial Day Parade in the Village of Philmont.

Councilman Keeler – Will be meeting again with Philmont and Mellenville Fire Companies representatives to help with coordination of information in regards to a new building to house both companies as each is in need of more space.

Along with other Board members, has asked for some clarification of parts of the Employee handbook which is very close to being completed.

Worked with Summer Youth Program Director, Brett Holmes, getting ready for the upcoming program.

Spoke with West Ghent Fire Company representatives – very constructive. Will want to meet with them again to go over the information which they agreed to furnish as a result of last year’s meetings. They are optimistic about the future of the company.

Spoke with Mr. Fingar at Mid-Hudson Cablevision. Many e-mails were not working. Took about five days to clear up the problem.

Supervisor Weigelt has information that dams in Philmont and Churchtown are in “bad” condition. Borings were done many year ago. **Attorney Fitzsimmons** said that Philmont is aware of the problems concerning their bridge.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve the summer workers for the Summer Youth Program as recommended by Camp Director, Brett Holmes. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft January – December 2017, draft May 2018 and draft January – December 2018 Financial Statements. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to approve request by COARC for a waiver of the Park fees for use of the Park on September 28, 2018 for their annual ARCNY picnic. Carried.

It was also agreed by the Board members to allow volunteers from the COARC Program to set up a clean-up time and pick-up to assist in sprucing up the Park by picking up litter, weeding, etc.

It was also agreed that again this year the out-of-Town Park fee be waived for a participant in the Summer Youth Program. Last year his caseworker made the arrangements because he lives at his grandmother's in the summer on Rte. 23B, just outside of the Town of Claverack and financially, it is difficult for her. He enjoys it very much and benefits greatly from the summer program.

Meeting opened to public:

“Mike” Brandon – Spoke on care of large animals. Would love to be able to do this. He called Town Building Inspector, Jay Trapp, who said he never had a request for this. A call to the NYSDEC received an answer of “NO”. He is asking that a letter be written to DEC to see if there is any room for “maybe’s”.

Ian Nitschke – Mr. Shulman sent an e-mail regarding the speed limit on #23 and #23B. Mr. Nitschke feels the speed limit should be reduced from 40 mph to 30mph. **Jim Sherman**, another resident of the Town present stated that the weight limit reduction should also be explored. **Councilwoman Lee** said that the road also is not up to what it should be.

Mr. Nitschke also contacted Ken Flood, who is familiar with the Consolidated Funding Program, regarding the Shaw Bridge grant. **Attorney Fitzsimmons** explained that the County will transfer ownership of the bridge to the Town. It was owned by the County, dating back many years, but cannot find where ownership was transferred to the Town. The County will transfer the ownership to the Town who, in turn, will accept ownership. This is required documentation.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept ownership of the Shaw Bridge from the County of Columbia. Carried.

No further comments or questions.

General A bills, totaling \$13,444.82, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,524.56, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$30,730.50, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water A bills, totaling \$848.97, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

T & A Escrow Account, totaling \$414.10 were audited and ordered paid from the Clover Hills Account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____