

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**May 10, 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 by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Brian Keeler	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town

**Presentation on Proposed Planting Project in the Hamlet Park** – Committee members Peter Bevacqua, Betty Grindrod and Heather Grimes were introduced by Councilwoman Cashen. Preliminary sketches were presented to the Board along with an overview of the project and objectives. The Park is at the crossroads in the center of the hamlet area. This Park will make a statement about the Town and will be a reflection to welcoming people to the Town. It will be low maintenance, with plants looking good for a long period of time. They have an idea for a sign and may also include a sign on the south side. The maple tree presently there needs attention and the two crabapple trees need pruning. Also, it was brought up that the flower tree could be seasonal instead of just summer months. Councilwoman Lee brought up that some type of irrigation will be necessary.

Once in place, the project will not need much care. Most of the plantings will not require a lot of maintenance. Prep-work before the project gets started will be needed.

There was a suggestion of a bench instead of a tree that the post office employees wanted to plant in memory of a postal worker who died in an accident last fall. Someone will speak to them to see if this would be a possibility that they would agree to.

The timeline for this would be to do most of the planting in the fall. The prep-work at this time will take the longest. Highway Superintendent LaMont is authorized to do whatever needs to be done with the trees.

End of presentation.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of April 12, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting and April 30, 2018 Monthly Workshop/PDD Meeting. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Department has been assisting Host Tree Service with the removal of dead trees along Town roads.

Completed sweeping in all zones and grading dirt roads in all zones and ditching on Carlson Road and Lockwood Road.

Working in the Town Park getting ballfields ready and also mowing and trimming. Water has been turned on.

Still looking for completed handbook. Have been working without it for about a year.

End of report.

**Dog Control Officer's Report** for April received and on file in Town Office for review.

#### Committee Reports

"None received in the Town Office for this month."

#### Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Patrick J. Prendergast, P.E. – Re: Town of Greenport Public Hearing for new fitness center  
Information on Town of Claverack website Business Directory  
Planning Federation Course Attendance (3) by Stephen Hook  
NYS Ag. And Markets – Inspection Report  
Columbia County Board of Supervisors Resolutions 149-2018 and 150-2018 appointing Ricardo Martino and Stephen Hook to the Columbia County Planning Board for Towns of Ghent and Claverack  
Won Dharma Center – Re: 2018 Won Festival, Sunday, April 29, 2018  
NYS Deferred Compensation Plan – Information  
Penflex – Re: Churchtown Volunteer Fire Company  
A.B. Shaw Fire Company – Invitation for Supervisor Weigelt to attend Annual Fire Company Banquet  
National Grid – Re: Natural Gas Safety information

NYS Building Officials Conference – James W. Trapp completed 21 hours of Code Enforcement and Administration, Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and Energy Conservation Construction.

NYS Department of State, Division of Building Standards and Codes, awarded James W. Trapp certificates of 4 hours each on Best Practices and Field Inspection Techniques and Procedures for Residential Buildings

NYS Building Officials Conference certified James W. Trapp for attending 3-hour PDE Course – Legal Issues

Theresa Tutt – e-mail – Re: Driveway issue on Old Lane with photos

Dog Control Officer's Report for April 2018 received

National Grid – e-mail – New York Outdoor Lighting Program Expansion news

Emily Warrington – Re: Hands on Summer 2018 Program from 4-H by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia/Greene Counties

Jeane LaPorta – Re: Shaw Bridge marker

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services – Information on responding to opioid overdose

### **Supervisor's Report**

Meeting of Columbia County Board of Supervisors last evening. Mortgage Tax distributions down. Towns get nothing if paid in cash. There were six pages of bought and sold properties in the Town of Claverack.

County is bonding some projects. Fire tower for training center will be located near Columbia County Airport – originally near Pine Haven. Over one hundred twenty hours of training are required now for active firefighters. Approximately twenty new members were recruited by going from school to school.

Two million will be spent on bridges and one million on roads. There will be rehab done on Columbia/Greene Community College.

Discussion at Town Monthly Workshop – Large solar fields. Will be State mandated that by the year 2020 twenty-five per cent (25%) of power will have to be solar or wind power. The County owns three landfills and may good places for projects like this.

### **Town Board Member Reports**

**Councilwoman Cashen** - Drumlin Field Ventures project was approved. This company will produce field-to-glass brandy using ingredients grown on-site. Distillery and tasting room project expected to create 25 jobs.

Participated in meeting with Planning Board and Zoning Board, reviewing and discussing the draft PDD law. This was an open meeting, with public being able to attend, but not participate in the discussions.

Attended May Planning Board Meeting.

Spoke with the volunteers working on the Hamlet Park project.

Answered questions from several Town residents on various zoning issues.

Gave feedback on issues questioned in employee handbook.

Followed-up with architects on status of plans for shared fire company building where Town Hall/Town Court are located. **Supervisor Weigelt** said that there is a possibility of taking present building down and putting the two companies (Mellenville Volunteer Company and Philmont Volunteer Fire Company) under one roof and also the possibility of a bay for an ambulance. There are grants available for this type of project and it would also be promoting shared services.

Followed-up with Steve Winkley regarding his Source Water Protection Plan. He is willing and able to come and share his findings and has offered to come to the June meeting.

Would like a list of the roadwork to be done from Highway Superintendent. Palmer Road, Donnelly Road, a piece of Wentzel Road and the remainder of Snyderstown Road are to be done.

**Councilwoman Lee** – Attended Columbia Economic Development Corporation meeting. By poll conducted by Siena College 176 business owners in Columbia County. Business owners optimistic but there is a lack of skilled laborers and also a rising drug problem. County is seeing more technology and manufacturing and also agribusiness as one of the county's strongest creative economics.

Attended Planning Board Meeting. Drumlin Field Ventures to be located at 2554 County Rte. 27 was approved.

Will be sending out a letter announcing the new website directory to area businesses. The Assessor's Department has been asked if there was a possibility of creating a list of current businesses in the Town from their information. It is being worked on at the present time.

Town Board members have been notified that Robyn Reynolds, outreach coordinator from Capital District Regional Planning Committee is leaving her position to take on job as Commissioner of Buildings and Planning with the City of Cohoes. The Committee is interviewing new candidates and should have a replacement within the next couple of weeks. For the Clean Energy Communities Program, our Building Inspector, Jay Trapp, has completed the Energy Code Enforcement training in best practices in energy code enforcement. At the present time, the Town has successfully submitted the Benchmarking, Unified Solar Permit and Energy Code Enforcement Training. Next, the Town will have to decide on at least one more high-impact action which is deemed appropriate for our Town.

Heard from Joe Pallone from National Grid. He is going to get back with information.

Contacted the insurance carrier regarding the missing Shaw Bridge marker to see if it would be covered under our current insurance policy.

Contacted Mr. Frick on the guardrails on State Rte. #23 near Craryville. No guardrails have been put up yet, are still in design, but was hopeful that they would be installed by the end of the summer.

Contacted Dave Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cablevision to see if there was anything new to report for the Town. He does not have a timeline as they are still working on getting the pole make-ready work done on Snyderstown Road. Once this is complete and they can issue the pole licenses, they can begin construction.

Received a call from Lotus Energy, Inc. They do energy efficiency upgrades (internal lighting upgrades) and solar installations. Would the Town want a representative to come to a workshop and discuss this in more detail, as they would start by doing an energy audit of each building?

**Councilman Hook** - Attended mandatory 4-hour class for Columbia County Planning Board.

Went to check out several locations with Building Inspector.

Stops by office almost every day to see if there is anything to be done.

Will be marching in Memorial Day Parade in Philmont with other members of the Town Board.

End of reports

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to endorse the 4 hours training credit classes of the Dutchess County Planning Federation Course completed by Columbia County Planning Board Representative from the Town of Claverack, Stephen Hook. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept the draft January – December 2018, draft January – December 2017 draft April 2018 Financial Reports. Carried.

Meeting opened to the public:

**Steve Formel**, a resident of Claverack, gave a presentation on his property on County Route #11 and what he would like to do in the future with this property. The property was purchased in 1990. It is known as the old Barton cider mill, sawmill, blacksmith shop and woodworking shop. These mills are completely restored and fully operated by nearby waterfalls. This property has great historical and educational purpose. Mr. Formel is proposing use as a site for weddings and small family gatherings, which is not an addressed use in the Town Zoning Ordinance. He was told by the Building Inspector to start with presenting the plan to the Town Board. **Nick Tipple** stated that there are only two water powered mills in New York State. **Stu Sommer**, a resident of Maple Avenue and a teacher at Hawthorne Valley said that he has walked the creek to the dam. It is a great piece of local history. **Tom Decker**, the closest neighbor, said that he had been friends with Mr. Formel for many years. The only problem he might foresee is the time of the events and if this was addressed, he has no problem with it.

**Mr. Decker** also spoke on the local fire companies and hopes that the Town will assist them in whatever their needs might be.

**Michael Brandon** spoke on what he considers to be a lack of liberal policy in the ZBA when something is not in the Zoning Ordinance. He hopes the roadblock can be eliminated for Mr. Formel. The use would have to be listed and the event venue is not an accepted use at the present time.

The Board was also thanked for working out an agreement for keeping Jay Trapp as the Town's Building Inspector. He is also the Zoning Enforcement Officer and will be working on grants. He has already applied for a grant for an extension of the water lines and sidewalks installed to the Town Park; also refurbishing of the tennis and basketball courts, working with the Town bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff.

**Mr. Brandon** also thanked Highway Superintendent LaMont and the Highway Department for the painting and lighting of the hallway in the Town Hall/Town Court building. During the Tuesday night Court session, someone had a gun, which was discovered because of the improved lighting.

**Lisa Bowe** would like to see a map of the lighting district.

No further comments or questions.

General A bills, totaling \$10,315.73, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,687.04, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$8,163.75, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$750.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Councilwoman Cashen:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Councilman Hook:** \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Lee: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

