

**Workshop Meeting**  
**April 25, 2022**  
**629 Route 23B, Claverack NY, 12513**  
**6:00pm**

Attendees:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor	Stephen Hook	Councilman
Katy Cashen	Councilwoman	Douglas Colwell	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman	William R Michael	Deputy Clerk

The Board met with Don Varney, via zoom, about property that he is looking to purchase and some ideas that he has with the property. The property is located on Gahbauer Road near the intersection of Rt. 66. The property is zoned both Commercial Industrial Park and Agricultural. Mr. Varney would like to use the property as mixed use having residential, cannabis cultivating, and a cannabis dispensary. He was wondering from the board if this were something that were permissible. Board members advised Mr. Varney that the best first step would be to contact Town Attorney Fitzsimmons. It was also advised that he should contact the building department to help find which projects would be permissible, if approved, at that property.

Troy Weldy from Columbia Land Conservancy spoke with the board to help advise them on adjustments to the town's large scale solar law. The law is currently under a three month moratorium. Mr. Weldy advised the board of a new model solar law put out by New York State. The new model law has new recommendations by the state that have been updated since the model law used by the town when the solar law was put together. Mr. Weldy suggested that the town take the model law and adjust it to what the town's needs are. Mr. Weldy brought up possible revisions to setbacks, glare issues, etc. Mr. Weldy was asked several other issues such as having solar on prime farmland. Mr. Weldy stated it was a town issue as to where solar can be installed but he will look into it further for better advice. At this time, Mr. Weldy is waiting to receive a word document of the NYS model solar law and work with board members to create adjustments using the model. Supervisor Weigelt said that additional public input would also be sought as the Board makes decisions on this updated law.

Discussed ARPA funds and what items to use them on. Both Supervisor Weigelt and Councilwoman Cashen advised the board of the difficulty both the town and the county are having in filing ARPA paperwork required by the Treasury Department. Supervisor Weigelt expressed his interest in obtaining a boat to put in the town park that children can climb on and crawl through it. It was something he had seen in another park and thought it would be a good thing for the children. He asked the board to think it over and he will look into it further. He next then asked the board what they thought of having cracks in the basketball court and the tennis court be filled before someone gets hurt. Members responded back by saying that a grant that has been approved for quite some time, states that if any work described in the grant application gets done prior to receiving the grant, it could jeopardize the process. Supervisor Weigelt thought that it may be a chance the town has to take due to safety concerns.

Councilwoman Cashen mentioned items on a list that she had compiled from several workshop meetings with different options of where to spend the funds. One main topic of discussion lately was to use funds to help the Claverack Free Library put in seven new parking spaces near the area of the old library. Councilwoman Cashen stated that she thought this was a good use of the ARPA funds, given the fact that the library serves as a community meeting space, along with the fact that the Town is now using the old library building for our court and meetings and parking is needed. At this time when asked, **other** board members said they are on the fence in using ARPA funds for this purpose. The town is waiting for more estimates from the library for the work. Supervisor Weigelt stated he will speak with the **town's** accounting service to see what the funds can be used for and when it should be used by and report back to the board. Board members will continue to explore the options. Some funds will be directed to the conversion to LED lighting in the lighting districts. Also funds may be used to purchase new needed water meters for the water district. The items in which the funds can be used on are very broad and not totally clear so the board will investigate further.

Discussed the Towns' Summer Youth Program. Board members were given a list of persons interested in being counselors as well as their applications and resumes. Closing date for applications are June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and interviews will begin after that date. Councilman Duntz stated he will follow up on a grant in conjunction with the Claverack Library for field trips for children at the program as well as check on setting up transportation to the trips.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hook , seconded by Councilman Duntz, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael – Deputy Clerk