

Town of Claverack
Workshop Meeting Minutes - June 27, 2022
629 Route 23B, Claverack, NY 12513
6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Clifford Weigelt, Supervisor Stephen Hook, Councilman
 Katy Cashen, Councilwoman Douglas Colwell, Councilman
 Michael Brandon, Court Judge Vonda Teaney, Deputy Clerk

The Board heard a presentation by Gail Wittwer-Laird and John Bradley on the Town Hall Concept Plan Approach.

Ms. Wittwer-Laird discussed the planning process and the need for a road map for moving forward. She suggested as the Board is thinking and discussing the new Town Hall that they consider the site as a whole because of the incredible resources there. She spoke of the pedestrian connection with High Falls and reminded that things don't have to be done at once. Take an in depth look at the site itself and how that impacts possible use. She suggested to start simple and build on plan - things don't need to be done at once.

Ms. Wittwer-Laird posed questions to be asked. How do you want to approach the site? Do you want to embrace the mill site and have a historic interpretation as part of the site? Are there other community uses needed from the site? What does the Town need in that location?

What could a planning process look like? Get programming (basic needs) set down and attach square footage to those needs. After that, incorporate this information with site analysis to move forward from there. Then a phased sequence of environmental permitting and then other projects.

Ms. Wittwer-Laird reiterated the key to this is coordination. May mean several groups working on different parts at the same time. She also suggested getting an architect on board to help guide some of the layers of this process.

Councilwoman Cashen questioned the timing of demolition. Ms. Wittwer-Laird stated that demolition can work side by side with the planning. One doesn't need to hold up the other. One consideration will be safety once it's a construction site.

Supervisor Weigelt advised that we are working with an engineering firm to move forward with demolition but taking into consideration what they find left from old mill as demolition happens.

Katie Fleming (architect) voiced an architect's point of view to be careful of demolition time line. Think of how long it will be a construction site and the needs surrounding that. So much State funding available for much of what this site offers.

Supervisor Weigelt stated this is an ongoing process. It is not set in stone that the new building will be going on this specific site (there are others available) but to him, this seems the best option because it's unique. Now need to put a group together to discuss needs (how much space) and needs. And also keep in mind cost.

Ms. Wittwer-Laird suggested to consider nominating the mill site for the National Register because certain grants require that and that perhaps we should pull in a resident historian to assist with this. Just because it would be on the National Register wouldn't mean you can't make changes. Your engineers can document what the changes are and can assist with the process of preservation. State preservation office can assist with this as well.

End of presentation.

Councilman Colwell gave a park program update. In the process of hiring counselors. Sign-ups are coming in but the first day will be a big influx of registrants. Program Director will be putting in an order for counselor t-shirts. July 7 & 8 will be orientation and CPR training for staff. Councilman Colwell will be meeting with Undersheriff about their presence for the summer. Supervisor Weigelt talked to one of the village board members about police presence from 9-2 - possibly a revolving patrol. Not trying to scare the community but feels presence is important.

Supervisor Weigelt spoke of speed limit signs. We have two signs available and he wants to get them out - especially on 23B. He talked to the State Engineer and was told as long as they are not on state land it's fine. Councilman Hook feels they must have changed the rules because they had one by the old Barnard's and the state moved it. Supervisor Weigelt advised he spoke to the state directly and said this is what he was told.

Judge Brandon gave an update on the Court stored paperwork from "the dungeon". OCA has to send out a designated person to observe and say what they have to keep and what can be shredded. Judge Brandon talked to Town Clerk Mary J. Hoose, who is going to talk to the Town Clerks Assoc. to find out the same because she has as much if not more than the Court in the old building.

Supervisor Weigelt gave a Fire Department update. He got a call from George Keeler from AB Shaw - they are moving ahead with joining with Churchtown. Mike Johnston provided audit/study to Board about each fire company - Mellenville - Churchtown- AB Shaw. Supervisor Weigelt is trying to get companies to work together more. He is waiting on Mr. Keeler to give him the go ahead in writing. Has letter from Mellenville that they want to do something different from what Claverack wanted to. Need to get all the information in writing and then Board will have to make a decision of where they're going to go.

Councilwoman Cashen brought up Solar Law next steps. She did a summarization of meeting comments both in writing as well as through the public special meeting and will have them put on website. Councilman Hook advised we're in the process of setting up committee with 2 Board members, 2 from PB (Steve King, Timmy Wyman), 1 from ZB (Dave Graziano) and we're going to

ask for 2 members of the public. We're going to take all names of public and pull two from a hat - no interviews. Will put an request for public volunteers on website.

Supervisor Weigelt got a letter in April from solar applicant in Mellenville. Do we respond? Councilwoman Cashen said they asked her what the response was and she hasn't responded as yet. Councilwoman Cashen suggested contacting the Town Attorney about the legalities. She suggested at next Board meeting they pass another 3 month moratorium which would be in place while the committee is working on any additional changes. Many big decisions remain to be decided.

Councilwoman Cashen spoke of Zoom access for town meetings. Per Open Meeting laws, minutes are to be available in draft within two weeks of any meeting and that is not currently happening. We have to either continue to do Zoom or get the minutes up in draft form on the website in order to be in compliance. Councilwoman Cashen is not interested in or able to continue doing all the Zoom stuff. She is recommending to put out a call to hire someone for probably three meetings a month at most for a couple of hours to take over that piece. Supervisor Weigelt questioned what if we just get the minutes up within two weeks? Councilwoman Cashen said it's not just Town Board minutes - it's also Planning Board and Zoning Board. Supervisor Weigelt said we may not have always followed this but we need to. Councilwoman Cashen said people are asking about it and she thinks it's important. She stated if getting draft minutes out is not possible, then we'll have to find someone to do this. Supervisor Weigelt said we will just have to get the minutes out. Councilman Hook feels we should stay with Zoom because the current building may not always be big enough for meetings. Supervisor Weigelt said that's fine, but if the rules are the minutes need to be out that's what we should do. Councilwoman Cashen suggested putting a call out on website for someone \$15-20/ hour for maybe six hours a month and see what we get.

Motion by Councilman Hook, Second by Councilman Colwell to hire someone. Carried.

Supervisor Weigelt discussed the possibility of an Anti-Hate Resolution. He feels he sponsored the one on the County level and a resolution there covers all county residents - doesn't feel one is needed for the town unless the Board is going to consider something different (like what Councilman Colwell brought to the table). Supervisor Weigelt feels the one presented by Councilman Colwell is better as it has more information about where to go for anti-hate legislation. If we're going to do the same thing - why? But if it's something better, then yes. It's important to have more information for people. Councilwoman Cashen feels whatever is done it should meet the state definition in the resolution. Supervisor Weigelt said that it is up the Board as a whole how to proceed.

Councilman Hook provided information from Louie Lamont, Superintendent of Highways, about the purchase of the new dump truck. The cost is \$130,762 with an option for a different style bed for a total of \$162, 345. The price is only good for 30 days and the truck won't arrive until next year. Councilwoman Cashen asked if there will be any other big expenses requested - Councilman Hook said no.

Motion by Councilman Hook, Second by Councilman Colwell to proceed with purchase. Carried.

Councilwoman Cashen had an inquiry from a resident on Stickles Road about paving. This individual said Louie (Lamont, Superintendent of Highway) promised it was considered a farm road and would not be paved but now they are. Resident is very upset about speed on the road. Supervisor Weigelt advised it's actually stone and oil, not paved. Councilwoman Cashen advised this resident the Board approves budgets but as highway superintendent it is at Mr.LaMont's discretion to decide what needs to be done. Supervisor Weigelt stated stone and oil is better and less costly for the town to maintain than a dirt road. Unfortunately, it's a catch 22.

There being no further items for discussion, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell and all members in favor, the Board adjourned to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Teaney, Deputy Clerk