

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 11, 2016

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 opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of January 07, 2016 Organizational Meeting and January 07, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Representatives from the West Ghent Fire Company contacted the Town Office this morning and said they were unable to attend the meeting this evening as planned.

Ann McPhearson, a resident of Greenport, but living near the bridge to be replaced on Rte. 9-H, discussed the many problems she feels will exist, including emergency vehicles and fire and rescue squad timing. Communication has not been done by the State. **Supervisor Weigelt** said that communication has been lax and no one is sure exactly what is going to be done. When Ms. McPhearson said road on Stone Mill Road was going to be widened by 16', Highway Superintendent LaMont said according to the map he was given, they are not widening road. According to the time frame, tree cutting will start in March and bridge will be down in April. Discussion went back and forth, but the meeting next week may bring to light some of the plans.

Supervisor Weigelt stated that according to Al Porreca, the bridge on Rte. #66 will be closed to northbound traffic only. Southbound will remain open. This will begin in March with completion by November 30th. There will be more than usual traffic on Rte.s. #23 and #23B.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has been removing dead trees with Host Tree Service in all zones.

Ditching being done on Stevers Crossing and Millbrook Roads.

Men have been servicing equipment.

Department worked two small storms with men doing good job even with too soft condition of the roads.

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

Jeane LaPorta gave historian report as well as a report on the newly formed Claverack **Historical Society**, which will be meeting quarterly. There is now a brochure with information on participating and also contains some history on the Town of Claverack. They are working towards obtaining 501C3 status (not-for-profit organization) and are looking for interested new members. There are two websites for information – www.claverackhistoricalsociety.org and claverackhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The next general meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 09, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at the Claverack Dutch Reformed Church Christian Education Building Library.

Historian Report – Reviewed “National Historic Preservation Grant Assistance Program for Historic Properties” relative to potential historic projects within the Town.

Researched genealogical questions for several families.

Takes advantage of, and participates in, continuing education for historians through the American Association of State and Local History, including: Preparation for Grant Applications, teaching History and texts, “Understanding and Using Nontextual Sources”.

Gave information regarding Stone Mill Bridge and requested Town Board work with Town of Greenport and Columbia County to resist destruction of the bridge.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

- Letter – Re: Wellhead Protection and Overlay District
- Berkshire Botanical Garden – Winter Lecture – 02/13/2016 – 2:00 p.m.
- Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress – Think Tank – Across the Isle and more
- e-mails – Re: Issues at Stone Mill Bridge
- Town of Greenport – Letter stating water rate increase as of 01/01/2017
- Website Design and Development proposal
- Jim Van Deusen – Interested in vacancy on Planning Board
- Request from Wendy Guntert to waive fees for Park, which will be used for fund raiser on June 12th for Everlasting Hope Animal Rescue, Inc., to help cover veterinary expenses incurred.
- NYS Ag and Markets – Dog Control Officer Inspection as of 01/22/2016. All Satisfactory

C2G Environmental Consultants LLC – Petroleum Bulk Storage compliance deadline – October 2016 – Will be at Association of Towns Meeting on Monday, February 15, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

Guterman Shallo & Alford – Town of Ghent Public Hearings for Local Laws 1 and 2 of 2016

Senator Marchione – e-mail – Requesting calendar of events each month

NYS Department of State – Re: Municipal Restructuring Fund webinar 02/11/10`6 and 02/18/2016

Columbia Land Conservancy – Upcoming events

Claverack Historical Society Report

Claverack Historian’s Report

Patterns for Progress event – 02/17/2016

Choose Columbia – CEDC Strategic Planning Public Session 02/26/2016

Environmental Facilities Corp. – Applications available for water infrastructure grants

Laberge Group – Water and Sewer Grants

Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. – e-mail – Re: Lighting District

U.S Department of Commerce – U.S. Census Bureau

Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. – e-mail – Re: Animal Control Officer information

Supervisor’s Report

There are Grants available for Inland Waterways. Need more information to see what it will entail, how far it will go and how it will affect the landowners who may have land nearby.

Met with Highway Superintendent LaMont and Councilman Hook – Have shovel ready projects and Town is looking to apply for whatever is available. Will be contacting Crawford Associates to get grant applications ready.

CEDC has planning session at Columbia/Greene Community College on February 26, 2016 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Has been appointed to County Water and Sewage Committee. Need to get water and sewer lines in the County updated.

Key Bank is moving from the Village of Philmont. Town is looking for another bank for this area.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Working on lighting district to see if there is updating that can be done.

Councilman Keeler – Met with West Ghent Fire Department – Will invite them to workshop to review 2016 contract.

Worked with Supervisor and others to discuss obtaining new bank for area.

Met with Judge Brandon and looking into possible funding to help with the storage of records, which there is no longer any room for at the Town Hall Building. Possible to start on scanning process and go back 25 or 30 years with the records. We would compile information and it would be scanned by an outside source.

Councilwoman Cashen -Communicated and also met with several people regarding proposed Stone Mill Bridge detour, including landowners, Assemblywoman DiDi Barrett, Town Historian, Town Board members and some members of the public.

Attended Village of Philmont Board Meeting to explain Wellhead Overlay Protection Area study. After explaining, Village Board approved moving forward with a study of the Philmont overlay area. Contacted New York Rural Water Association staff to tell them to have Steve Winkley proceed with study. He stated it should take only a couple of months.

Met with Insurance Broker yesterday to review and update information for 2016 policy.

Worked with Deputy Clerk in regards to required content for updated website proposal.

Spoke with Town Attorney in regard to inquiry on right-of-way easement for farmland behind Town Park and Mellenville Cemetery. Right-of-way would go along fence between cemetery and entire length of Park.

Councilman Hook – Met with Village Mayor “Skip” Speed regarding Wellhead Overlay Protection Area.

Met with Highway Superintendent LaMont regarding basketball and tennis courts. Are in need of resurfacing.

Met with group on the Stone Mill Bridge project.

Met with group, including Norma Barnard, regarding sign for Dutch Reformed Church 300th Anniversary.

No further reports.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to schedule a Public Informational Meeting regarding Wellhead Overlay. Actual study is on the website. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve Resolution #18 of the Organization Meeting as read by Supervisor Weigelt and is as follows:

Assessors	Hook and Weigelt
Buildings	Hook and Weigelt
Clerk’s Office	Hook and Weigelt
Court	Keeler and Hook
Highway	Hook and Weigelt

Historian	Lee and Cashen
Planning	Hook and Cashen
ZBA	Keeler and Lee
Youth and Park	Hook and Keeler
Buildings and Property	Hook and Weigelt
Finance	Lee and Keeler
Village of Philmont	Hook and Keeler
Insurance	Keeler, Lee and Cashen
Web	Cashen
Grants	All Board Members
Emergency Management	Keeler and Weigelt

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept draft January – November 2015, draft January – October 2015, and draft November 2015 Financial Statements. Carried.

After explanation by Town Clerk, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to waive Park fees for Wendy Guntert, who is planning a fund raiser on June 12, 016 for Everlasting Hope Animal Rescue, Inc., to help with veterinary expenses. Carried.

Supervisor Weigelt would like to form a committee to look into what improvements might be made to the ~~the~~ Town Park in the Hamlet to make it more visible to the public. He would also like to have a committee formed to study the Town Hall Building. There has to be more room for the Town Court. Building is very old and something needs to be done to improve the situation and he would like to have a committee come up with some ideas.

Jim Van Deusen – Would like to on the committee looking into a solution for the Town Hall and Court building.

Supervisor Weigelt has been contacted by a powerline company wanting to purchase property near the Town Garage for a substation for the transmission line expansion. Councilwoman Cashen stated caution must be taken in regards to this.

After brief discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to Town to pay \$250.00 per person or \$500.00 per family policy to assist in hospital co-payments. It has been determined that many years ago an insurance fund had been set up and can be used for this purpose. It will be in effect for this year only. Next year Town will try and get employees more involved in the choices available. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Jim Van Deusen – Will talk to the Columbia County Safety Board and see if there is anything they can do in regards to the Stone Mill Project. Per Highway Superintendent LaMont, the meeting next week is supposed to be no more than 30 people.

Bill Blaauw – Gives Town Board credit for trying to get a bank for area after hearing Key Bank is closing branch in Philmont.

In regards to the rescue squads and emergency personnel, mutual-aid plans can be put in place for coverage during replacement of the bridge on Rte. 9-H. This has had to be done in other instances in the past.

Lisa Bowe – Has anything been done in getting an AED for the Town Park and the Town Hall/Court? Terry Guntert has been put in charge of this project. Will check with him.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$14,262.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,729.27, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$19,522.15, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$3,975.43, 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 Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk _____

