



VILLAGE & TOWN OF NEW PALTZ
Regular Joint Meeting of Wednesday, October 25th, 2017
Village Hall -- 7:00 PM
MINUTES

Present: Town Supervisor Neil Bettez; Town Deputy Supervisor Dan Torres; Town Councilperson Marty Irwin; Town Councilperson Julie Seyfert-Lillis; Village Mayor Tim Rogers; Village Deputy Mayor KT Tobin; Village Trustee Don Kerr; Village Trustee Dennis Young; Village Trustee William Wheeler Murray

Not Present: Town Councilperson Jeff Logan

Also Present: members of the press; approximately 9 members of the public; Alex Wojcik, Deputy Clerk

Following the VONP opening & Public Hearing, the Boards switched to the Town Agenda

Public Comment -- Eamon Burdick and Dylan Vitale spoke on behalf of a local drag organization that has been performing at Bangkok Cafe, stating that the multi-cultural, intersectional events that have been organized at that location have been shutdown due to unfair application of “maximum occupancy” laws; New Paltz needs more safe spaces for multicultural, intersectional, LGBTQ events.

Announcements -- Councilperson Irwin stated that Mohonk is hosting the Nature Across Boundaries conference on November 6th; more information is available at mohonk-consultations.org

1. **Presentation: Sue Stessin, Town Historian** --

<https://omeka.hrvh.org/exhibits/show/missing-chapter/for-educators>

<https://www.hrvh.org/exhibit/aa07/education/>

2. **New Paltz Community Energy: Michael Burr, Microgrid Institute** -- Mr. Burr joined the table via telephone and offered a synopsis of the work done so far on the New Paltz Community Energy project; the RFP created thus far relies on fossil fuels in the long term for backup generators, but transition strategies have been discussed. Town Councilperson Irwin motioned to draft and support a resolution stating that the Town and Village support a

100% renewable future and starting work on a transitional plan; lacking a second, the motion fell to the floor. The topic will be continued at the next Joint meeting.

3. **Mill Brook Preserve Vernal Pools** -- Jim Bacon provided background information on the Clean Water Rule and the EPA's recent (and ongoing) actions, particularly in reference to wetlands, requesting the T & V to sign-on as petitioners in defense of clean water protections. In the face of repeals, a number of local wetlands would lose their federal standing. The Boards were generally in favor and requested a document for review first. To be continued.
4. **Mill Brook Preserve Recreation Plan** -- Dennis Moore (MBP), Christie DeBoer (WVLT) approached the table and stated that the next steps include completing the drafting and approval process of MBP recreation plans for the Town and for the Village, and the MOA. The master recreation plan is on its way, but first needs to be finalized by both MBP & WVLT.
 - a. **MBP Memorandum of Agreement** -- the MOAs are still being prepared for review as well.
5. **Marijuana Arrest and Court Data discussion** -- Supervisor Bettez introduced the topic, stating that following public comments made during the last Town Board meeting, both Boards decided to do research regarding non-violent criminal arrests. Deputy Mayor Tobin shared national stats regarding marijuana arrests and usage by race; the usage is equivalent between races, but arrests of black Americans is disproportionately higher. The Town Board can only influence what is emphasized and what is deemphasized. This topic, as well as issues pursuant to the opioid epidemic, to be continued at the next Joint Meeting.
6. **Crash Rates from the Ulster County road safety assessment project** -- Town Supervisor Bettez introduced the topic and summarized the County's plan to do road safety studies; one location is Butternutville/299 in New Paltz. Crash rates in the Village are pretty high as well and should be looked at too. Town Councilperson Seyfert-Lillis motioned to request that the UC Transportation Council, via Board resolutions, also conduct an audit on 299 from N Putt down to Manheim; Town Councilperson Irwin seconded; all Town Councilmembers voted

Aye (**Passed 4-0**). Trustee Young motioned the same for the Village; Trustee Kerr seconded; all Village Trustees voted Aye (**Passed 5-0**)

7. **Discussion of proposed water drilling in Moriello Park** -- Mayor Rogers introduced the topic; Boards briefly discussed.
8. ***BeL's proposal for outfall*** -- *TABLED due to pending documents*

Adjournment -- The regular Wednesday, October 25th 2017 Joint meeting of the Town and Village of New Paltz Boards adjourned at 9:39 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Alex Wojcik, Deputy Clerk