

Town Board Workshop Meeting
October 17, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Susan Zimet, Councilwoman Kitty Brown, Councilman Jeff Logan, Councilman Kevin Barry. **Absent:** Councilwoman Jean Gallucci.

At 7:35 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to open the meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to add a discussion point on Brook Farm. There was no second to this motion.

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, Councilman Barry voted no. Motion carried.

Announcements:

A grant from the Hudson Valley Greenway was awarded in the amount of \$8,500 for the New Paltz Flats Bike Ped Trail project.

Public Comment-Woodland Ponds/Lent Farms:

Vici Danskin, Woodland Ponds, indicated that the design of the Lent Farms roads was meant to be wide and traffic calming. She also indicated that she personally does not use Lent Farms as a cut through, she uses N. Putt. There are only 121 parking permits issued to residents of Woodland Ponds, which means that not a lot of residents drive, and if they do, not very much. The Ulster County Planning Board requires at least 2 full time permanent non-emergency access roads for residential developments the size of Woodland Ponds.

Marianne Winfield, Lent Road, urged the Board to keep the gate up for the safety of the children of the neighborhood.

Susan Blickstein, Old Mill Road, a transportation planner who works on traffic calming indicated that employee traffic is significant and prior to the gate she had almost been hit while walking her dogs. Connectivity is a wonderful thing but the details must be thought out. She urged everyone to work towards a comprehensive approach in the short term. She also hopes that everyone can work together to come up with long-term solutions in terms of secondary access to Woodland Ponds.

Dan Winfield, resident of Lent Drive, supports the idea of keeping the gate up after dedication. He hopes various traffic-calming devices are in place before dedication.

Susan Blickstein indicated that yellow striping is usually done on higher speed roads like County and State roads, not on local streets in rural areas.

At 7:58 p.m. Councilwoman Gallucci arrived.

Alli Loyer, Lent Road, indicated she lives right next to the gate. She is asking for traffic calming measures to be in place before gate comes down. She suggested an idea for a gate that requires passes/permits from Woodland Ponds residents be scanned that would allow residential access. The employees and commercial traffic are the bigger problem.

Young Son, Waring Lane, asking that trucks and taxis be prohibited so residents can have a quiet neighborhood and Woodland Ponds residents can still have access.

Dorothy Jessup, Woodland Ponds, reminded everyone that this was not meant to be a secondary access road, intended as a second entrance/exit to Woodland Ponds. The pattern of most of the other residents is a decrease in driving. The issue is with the employees. Management indicated that legally it couldn't dictate to their employees not to use the road. The residents have been waiting four years for this road.

Hillary Wilson, Old Mill Road, indicated that she has three kids and two dogs. Before the gate went up, there were a lot of people speeding and using Old Mill as a short cut and getting the most traffic.

Trina Green indicated that speed bumps and 25 mph traffic signs should be implemented. These two communities should cooperate with friendship.

Ira Margolis indicated that he was not taking sides, but does not want to have to pay for a private road.

Rebecca indicated that she wants safety; it is not about having a private road. Even 25 mph is too fast for Old Mill Road. There is no watch for children. Scanning tags for Woodland Pond residents and employees is a good idea.

Highway Superintendent Chris Marx indicated that stop signs have been put up at all intersections for 3-way stops with painted lines to bring attention to these signs. He has ordered one bolt down speed calming hump to use for a trail run, installation date to be determined. He also indicated that the Town couldn't designate speed limits for roads. In an attempt to draw attention to the blind, sharp curve on Old Mill, he has also ordered a large shiny arrow sign that will be installed.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that Public Comment relative to Woodland Ponds and Lent Farms has ended and that later in the meeting, the Town Board will be setting a Public Hearing date on Weight Limits and Truck Traffic on Lent, Waring and Old Mill Road.

Public Comment- OSI and Brook Farm:

Councilwoman Brown stated that the Town Board has no authority or involvement with the Smiley Brothers Inc two-lot subdivision that was approved by the New Paltz Planning Board in 2011. One of the two resulting lots is the 856-acre parcel sold to OSI, and the other lot, which includes the golf course and main gate to the hotel, was retained by Smiley Brothers Inc. The total assessed value of the 856-acre parcel is approximately \$947,000, upon which town, school and county taxes are paid by OSI and Smiley Brothers, Inc.

Councilman Barry indicated that the Smiley Brothers sold the property to OSI for \$8.8 million for 853 acres. The Assessor's records indicated a taxable value of \$4.1 million. Then a Conservation Easement *Exemption* was granted to a portion of the property, which they are not entitled to, which brought the taxable value down to \$947,000. They should be paying taxes on \$8.8 million. A law passed in New Paltz in 1982 would permit the Town to tax the parcel at the full value of \$8.8 million, which would bring in \$240,000 in Town, County and School taxes.

Everett Payne feels that it is ridiculous that OSI is not paying their share of taxes.

Larry Badendyke, Calvin Blvd, was present to speak on behalf of 2 groups, "Friends of Brook Farm" and "Shawangunk Citizens" who feel there has been a lack of transparency and accountability for large nonprofits involved in land preservation in the area. They want the Town Board to put a moratorium on all decisions and approvals involving the 857-acre tract (parcel 86.1-1-40.1) known as "Mohonk Foothills". They have collected 350 signatures on a petition, requesting this moratorium that will later be presented to the Town Board. Mohonk Preserve announced plans to purchase 534 acres from OSI including the Testimonial Gatehouse to develop the Gatehouse area as an entry point to the Preserve. OSI plans to lease the remaining portion of the 857 acres to Glynwood Farms to use as an incubator for livestock farming. The current Brook Farm CSA will be closed 12/31/13.

Jaklin Levine-Pritzker, SUNY student, indicated that this is not a legal issue, it is a moral issue. The purpose of non-profits is to serve the community, and right now the community's needs are not being heard, including herself and other SUNY students. Brook Farm is the only group that has been supportive of her efforts to start an agricultural club. Feels Brook Farm is an asset.

Ray Lunati, Springtown Road, indicated that the Bike Trail is wonderful but the focus should be on fixing the roads and infrastructure. It is the duty of the Town to help save Brook Farm. He also indicated that the Recreation Director position should not be changed to full-time. He asked if the Town has allocated enough money to the Water/Sewer Districts to make them self-sufficient?

Can the DEC confirm the data from the Riverkeeper regarding the Wallkill River's dangerous conditions? It is the duty of the Town to get the most up to date information.

Andi Weiss Bartczak, Gardiner, indicated that with every new project that comes in, the traffic will increase. She is asking that these projects hold public forums for discussions with the residents. She is also asking the Town Board not to cooperate with the groups proposing the "Foothills" project.

Irwin Sperber, Gardiner, indicated that Mohonk Preserve should be acting on behalf of the interest of the Community, not out of Town entities. Another important issue is transparency. The people should know what's going on and what the impacts on the community will be.

Chris Ullrich spoke in support of Brook Farm and feels as though the Town Board has lost its moral compass.

Mike Fink indicated that at the last presentation by Mohonk Preserve, they said they would not interfere or compete with any farming and agriculture in the community.

Lisa Mitten asked if the Town Board has applied for the \$25,000 grant from NYS Ags. & Markets for a Farmland Protection Plan. Councilwoman Brown indicated that the grant has been completed.

Ira Margolis indicated that at last week's Planning Board meeting, the Chair was not allowing anyone to speak during Public Comment, except representatives from Wilmorite. He had a real problem with this because he wanted to ask questions about the report prepared by CGR regarding Park Point.

Rebecca Armstrong, member of Brook Farm CSA, nothing in Glynwood's Plan gives anyone a chance to own farmland, protected or otherwise. The biggest challenge to farmers in the Hudson Valley is to find affordable land to farm. This would lead them to go elsewhere where land is more affordable. She feels the Mohonk Preserve is being secretive in terms of their plans. Her hope is that this organization won't go against its own principals and evict this cherished farm.

Sally Bersenmire, Rosendale, member of Brook Farm CSA, feels that this is an opportunity to work together for grassroots community oriented projects in the area. Brook Farm has been a hub for that.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that she felt it was disrespectful to the Town Board for people to say that the Board does not care and is brushing people off. They have spent many hours listening to concerns and trying to get questions answered.

Councilwoman Brown indicated that the Town Board will not take action on this project, because it can't. It has to go before the Planning Board.

Set Public Hearing date on Weight Limits and Truck Traffic on Lent/Waring/Old Mill Rd.:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci for discussion. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to set the Public Hearing on the 2014 Budget for November 6th at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Public Hearing on Weight Limits and Truck Traffic on Lent Dr., Waring Lane and Old Mill Rd at 7:30 p.m. with a back-up/snow date of November 7th. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A special meeting was scheduled for November 18th at 7:00 p.m. for purposes of adopting the 2014 Budget.

Resolution- Ulster County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

A Letter of Intent was submitted by the Town to the State for a grant to fund the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan. In the meantime, the County asked for participation from municipalities to joint the updating of their plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to adopt the resolution authorizing Supervisor Zimet to fill out the Statement of Authority to participate in the first update of the Ulster County Multi-

Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

One Book One New Paltz Proclamation:

Councilwoman Brown read aloud the following:

Whereas, the One Book/One New Paltz reads Toni Morrison's *Home* 2013 initiative helps to restore reading to the center of American culture;

Whereas, a shared reading and discussion of a single book highlight the pleasure and power of reading;

Whereas, a shared reading and discussion of a single book support the expression of diverse ideas which enables people to learn about themselves and others;

Whereas, a shared reading and discussion of a single book celebrate and build community by bridging and valuing differences that sometimes separate people;

Whereas, a shared reading and discussion of a single book provide opportunities to invest in the future of the community;

Whereas, a shared reading and discussion of a single book benefit our community by contributing to lasting good;

Whereas, a shared reading of and discussion of a single book enrich the life of our community;

Be It Resolved that the Supervisor and Members of the New Paltz Town Board proclaim November as the One Book/One New Paltz Month and urge all community members to support and participate in this initiative.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to sign the proclamation. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approval of EnCB member to attend Training:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve Jim Littlefoot's attendance of "Changing Climate and Future of our Water Resources" at a cost of \$50. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, Councilwoman Brown recused herself as she is on the Board of the group who is sponsoring the training. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Plan:

The Village passed/adopted the IMA to enter into a Joint agreement with the Town to start working on a Joint Comprehensive Plan. This will be discussed at the next Joint Meeting on the 23rd.

Grants Update:

Seven Letters of Intent submitted by the Town for grant funding to address infrastructure issues.

Letter of Intent for Cragwood/Canaan-accepted.

Letter of Intent for Sewer 6-accepted, includes repayment to taxpayers for debt.

Letter of Intent for Hazard Mitigation-accepted

Letter of Intent for Loop System, to bring water down S. Putt with Cherry Hill-accepted.

Letter of Intent, Four grants for solar back-up generators for Highway Department, Town Hall, Community Center and Sewer 6-accepted.

B-Fund Budget:

Purchasing B1345-Currently at \$1,618. Bookkeeper would like purchasing charged back to the individual lines. The Preliminary Budget will reflect the appropriate changes and the purchasing line will be reduced to \$0.

Attorney B1420- \$26,000 staying the same as 2013.

Engineer B1440- Increased to \$30,000.

Central Printing/Mailing B1670- Currently at \$975. Amounts will be moved and charged back to the appropriate lines.

Central Data B1680.4-Decreased to \$2,000.

Building Department B3620-Increased to \$142,015 due to the ratification of the Union Contract.

Public Safety B3989.4- \$4,600 staying the same as 2013.
Historic Preservation B7520.4- Decreased to \$6,800.
Celebrations B7550.4- \$500 staying the same as 2013.
Zoning Board B8010.4- Increased to \$16,087.
Planning Board B8020.4- Decreased to \$20,087.
CIT B8510.4- Increased to \$5,000.
EnCB B8090- \$1,000 staying the same as 2013.
Grants Writer B8092.4- \$24,000 contract with Endeavor.
Master Plan Consultant B8091.4- \$21,750.
Scenic Byway/Tree City B7989.4- \$250.

DA-Fund Budget:

Highway Dept/Supt. DA5010- Decreased to \$78,148.
Highway/Bridges DA5120- Decreased to \$20,346. Snow removal moved to DB-Fund.

DB-Fund Budget:

Highway/Traffic Control DB3310- \$36,641.
Highway/General Repairs DB5110- Increased to \$855,445.
Highway/Machinery DB5130- Decreased to \$141,896.
Highway/Garage DB5132- Increased to \$28,440.
Highway/Brush and Weeds DB5140- Increased to \$16,384.
Highway/Snow Removal DB5142- Increased to \$254,288.

Community Partnership GCP9055- \$131,603 staying the same as 2013.

Water 1 SWA8340- Increased to \$22,155.
Water 2 SWB8340- Increased to \$12,584.
Water 3 SWC8340- Increased to \$7,693.
Water 4 SWD8340- Increased to \$7,693.
Sewer1 SSA8120- Increased to \$18,167.
Sewer 5 SSE8120- Decreased to \$10,927.
Sewer 6 SSF8120- Increased to \$103,261.

Warrant:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the October Warrant in the amount of \$425,315.83. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:09 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel to hire a consultant for the Master Plan. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:30 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to come out of Executive Session with no action taken. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:31 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Barry to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk