

Special Town Board Meeting
April 29, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Susan Zimet, Councilwoman Jean Gallucci, Councilman Dan Torres, Councilman Jeff Logan, Councilman Kevin Barry.

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

Agenda: +Emergency purchase of Server for Police Department
A motion was made by Councilman Logan to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Parking situation on Butternville, Gatehouse, and surrounding roads:

Supervisor Zimet explained that this discussion was brought on after a situation over the winter when cars that were parked along Butternville were towed when plow trucks could not get through. People park there to go walking, hiking and to access the Preserve.

Andi Weiss Bartczak, Gardiner resident, indicated that she does not have a problem with the parking on Butternville. The cars are usually parked on one side of the road. However, going under the Lenape Bridge is dangerous. It would be helpful if the Preserve opened Lenape Lane for parking.

Lisa Chason, Outlook Farm, suggested residents could display stickers that would allow specific parking privileges.

Councilman Torres indicated that the Town Board is not prepared to make any decisions about the parking situation yet. They are just here to listen to the public.

Betty Marton, Gardiner resident, frequents Lenape Lane and the concerns stem from the Preserve's plans to shepherd everyone to a parking area. She is uncomfortable with the idea of access being restricted.

Norman Turner, New Paltz resident, has handicap parking tags on his vehicle and can only walk moderate distances. He enjoys parking on Butternville and walking to Brook Farm, and does not want that taken away from him. He suggests having 2 handicap spaces, parallel to the road and on the right of way.

David Porter, New Paltz resident, feels as though this discussion is untimely because at the present, there is no alternative. Lenape Lane is a major community resource. The topic of this meeting should have been more widespread to include the entire Town. Suggested warning signs on both sides of the bridge.

Sue Stegan, New Paltz resident, indicated this is not an easy situation, but it's solvable. The biggest problem is the Gatehouse situation where there is a lot of traffic and a lot of cars parking on the road. It is a safety issue and people should be parking off the road. Let's work together as a community to solve this problem.

Ron Stonitsch, New Paltz resident, feels it would be a goodwill gesture to open up Lenape Lane. The parking along Butternville is dangerous especially when there are 130+ cars. Residents don't want signs everywhere. One alternative is to allow people to park on Pine Road. Usually, the parking on High Pasture is spill over from the driveways. Suggested "No Thru Traffic" signs. Recognizes the importance of the Preserve and Open Space.

Todd Mathews indicated that signs are a permanent interruption on the landscape. Suggested digging ditches that could help prohibit parking.

Rich Gottlieb, New Paltz business owner, believes that the Preserve is an excellent neighbor and a key player. This is going to take time and we need to have patience.

Nancy Heiz, New Paltz resident, indicated that she was happy about this open forum, but a parking ban is premature until there is an alternative because there is no place else to go.

Mr. Mathews and Mrs. Stegan mentioned that the Preserve mailed out a survey about a parking ban.

Bridget Regan, Mountain Rest Road, wanted to know that the problem was. She would like to see data about all the roads with problems. Suggested free resident parking permits for Lenape Lane and to allow parking on Pine Road. She is concerned with the speed limit on Butternville and Canaan.

Johanna H, White Oaks Lane, indicated there are a lot of cars parking along Gatehouse. This is dangerous for people who walk along the road.

David Gilmour indicated he was glad that this was being talked about.

Anne Finn, Village resident, indicated that older people like to park along Butternville and go walking early in the morning on Lenape Lane. She hopes there is a possibility to get safer parking at the top of Lenape.

Gail Gallerie, New Paltz resident, indicated that she was here in a personal capacity. It seems premature to be talking about banning parking. She does not want to see the roads littered with signs. Passing laws relative to parking is a costly issue.

Don Kachmor, New Paltz resident, has counted 20+ cars parked on the West side of Butternville. Thinks it's offensive for people to park in front of someone's home. Suggested having limited parking on East side only where there are no houses.

Glenn Hoagland, Mohonk Preserve, indicated that the Preserve currently maintain four trailheads, 3 in Gardiner and 1 in Marbletown. These parking areas total 460 parking spaces, with designated handicap stops. There is no formal trailhead in New Paltz. The goal is to purchase 500+ acres from OSI and to install two off-road trailheads, which would allow parking for a total of 110 cars. Pine Road, which is a public road, is the best way to access the Preserve. Lenape Lane Bridge will not be raised. The Preserve shares the neighbors' concerns about roadside parking, especially on Butternville, Gatehouse and Route 299. In favor of a ban, but times to the opening of the new trailheads. Supportive of a no parking ban along Cragwood Road.

Ed Warzala, New Paltz resident, indicated that the Board should be most concerned with the public safety of the citizens and visitors first and foremost. It is dangerous to walk on Butternville under the bridge.

Chris Ullrich presented a petition signed by a majority of the neighbors in favor of banning parking from Dug Road to the end of Canaan. Suggested that parking be allowed on Pine Road.

Ron Knapp, President of the Board of Mohonk Preserve, indicated that over the last two years, the Preserve has carried out a voluntary preplanning exercise with the public where there were many meetings held to discuss the Preserve's "evolving plan". This was done to help deal with the plan that will be presented to the Planning Board on May 28th. He finds it distressing that there have been letters in the paper and comments on Facebook that mischaracterize "The Plan" before the plan is presented. What is being planned is a sensitive restoration of a historic and iconic landmark.

Harry Ellis, lives on the corner of Route 299 and Butternville, indicated that 2.8% of all accidents that occur in New Paltz happen at that intersection, often times very violent. When the grass along that area is not mowed it makes it hard to see and that creates a problem. Litter is also a problem. He has picked it up many times along Butternville near the bridge. Suggests that the Preserve place a trash barrel in that area.

Hank Alicandri, Preserve's Chief Ranger, commended the Board for having this open meeting. He strongly believes that safety trumps all these other concerns. We should work together to address all these concerns.

Dee Ruger, lives on Preserve land on Lenape, feels that safety is the most important issue. Emergency vehicles would not be able to access the mountain or the homes because of the cars parked along Lenape Lane. The intersection at Gatehouse and Butternville is the biggest concern, it is very dangerous.

Nancy Schnedewind, New Paltz resident, indicated that people value the beauty of the community and this should be a town-wide issue, not just in specific areas. This issue is not timely because there are no other alternatives. The real problems occur on the weekends and during the fall foliage.

Highway Superintendent Chris Marx indicated that the Highway Department's biggest concern is safety and the accessibility of Emergency Services. He explained that this all began when the plow trucks could not plow Butternville due to the cars parked along the road. He had those cars towed. The white lines were put in to help visibility. Since the white lines have been installed, people have been parking off the road and he has not received anymore complaints. The parking problems extend to other roads in the Town. Signs are a problem because there are certain laws and restrictions, and they are very expensive. They are only as good as the people who read them.

Joe Snyder, Police Chief, urged people to call the PD with concerns about speeding, etc., and an officer will go out for STEP Detail and issue tickets. The PD can also move the speed sign to areas of concern.

Councilman Logan read aloud letters from Dan Winfield, Stephanie Wagner, Clay Spencer and Kimiko Link, who were urging that parking continue to be allowed for access to the mountain and the Preserve.

Supervisor Zimet received a phone message from Mary Ottaway who requested that everything be kept open and available.

Superintendent Marx asked how everyone would feel if Lenape Bridge was narrowed down to one lane as traffic calming. The reaction from the audience was positive.

Break at 9:45 p.m. the Board thanked everyone for coming out.
At 9:45 p.m. Councilwoman Gallucci left the meeting.
Reconvened at 9:56 p.m.

Emergency purchase of server for Police Department:

Chief Snyder explained that there was a total crash of the server. Everything is down, however some emails are up and running. The upgrade to the server had been spoken about during budget time. The Chief included money in his budget for a new server but was told by the Police Commission to remove it.

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to approve the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for a new server from Dell, on State bid for the Police Department, to be funded by Contingency and/or Seized Assets. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:15 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk