

**JUNE 14, 2007**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

The Stuyvesant Town Board held its monthly meeting on June 14, 2007 at the Stuyvesant Town Hall at 7:00pm. In attendance were Supervisor Valerie Bertram, Councilperson Edward Scott, Councilperson Ronald Knott, Councilperson Bradlee Webster, Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer and Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli. Superintendent of Highways Bernard Kowalski and Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, carried

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- ✧ A letter from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets regarding advance notices to potential applicants seeking state financial assistance for farmland protection implementation projects.
- ✧ A letter from Senator Charles E. Schumer regarding the Edward Byne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program.
- ✧ A letter from the NYS Department of Public Service regarding energy conservation.
- ✧ A letter from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to Councilman Ronald Knott regarding the status of the proposed Stuyvesant Boat Launch.
- ✧ A letter from Carey Dunne, Chair of the Special Commission on the Future of the New York State Courts regarding public hearings being held to gather information on local justice systems.
- ✧ A letter from Richard Frick regarding the development of the Sharptown Road site.

Motion made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster to approve the communications as read, seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott, carried.

**SPECIAL SPEAKER**

Fire Commissioner Warren Leiser addressed the Board regarding the redistricting proposal by the Stuyvesant Fire District #1 to take over the protective districts current contracted to Kinderhook, Schodack and Stuyvesant. Mr. Leiser reported that he has been in contact with the Kinderhook and Schodack Fire Districts and they are agreeable to the plan. They would still provide coverage for the same areas but the contract would be between the fire districts and the Town would be taken out of it.

Tal Rappleyea explained that there would have to be a public hearing and a permissive referendum. If the Fire Commissioners got the petition to the Town Board with adequate notice for public notice a hearing could possibly be held in July.

Mr. Leiser fielded questions from the public regarding coverage issues and cost increases. Coverage would not be impacted in anyway and there would be cost increases for those in current protective districts to bring everyone in line with what those in the fire district are paying.

**REPORTS:**

***Town Clerk***

In the month of May, the Town Clerk's Office took in \$603.75 and a check for \$318.84 was given to Supervisor Bertram after expenses were paid. The Town Clerk's Report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Melissa Naegeli also reported that the tax warrant and all accompanying information were returned to the County Treasurer's Office. The Town collected 90% of the taxes due.

***Highway Department***

Superintendent Bernard Kowalski reported that trash day went okay. He had some complaints about the rain day issue and has decided in the future that the trash day will be held "rain or shine".

Superintendent Kowalski has been in contact with FEMA for assistance with various problems through out the town and they have pledged their support. He has been unable to get an answer from DEC regarding the pond on Gypsy Rock Road.

***Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer***

Report was read by Supervisor Bertram and is on file with the Town Clerk.

***Dog Control Officer***

Report was read by Supervisor Bertram and is on file with the Town Clerk.

***Planning Board & Zoning Board***

No report

***Greenway Committee***

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that conversations are continuing regarding economic development. Met with Steven Kirk of DBS Planning Consultants – who works with small communities. Perhaps he will be a guest speaker at a future date. There were rumors that DEC was going to demolish the ranger house on Ice House Road. Councilperson Knott reported that those rumors are untrue. There have been discussions regarding the transfer of development rights to the Town of Stuyvesant.

The next meeting will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm regarding Soils and Tom Kilcer will be there with maps.

***Agriculture Committee***

No report.

***Recreation Committee***

The recreation committee held 2 meetings since the last Town Board meeting, on May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer reported that were 40 kids signed up the Kinderhook Playground Program through the Town and that the deadline is June 15<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that providing transportation to Kinderhook would be too expensive (over \$5000) so everyone will have to provide his or her own transportation. Councilperson Gumaer will make up a list of participants to facilitate car pools, if desired.

While calling town residents regarding the playground program, the Recreation Committee had asked people who hadn't received the survey, their opinion on the issues. They will compile that information and present it to the Board.

The playground clean-up in the Landing and the Falls were held. There was a good turn-out at the Sandbar but the Landing had only a few participants and Councilperson Gumaer thanked those that did help

Councilperson Rosalind Gumaer, Bob Green and Sean Cummings attended an Office of Parks & Recreation Workshop on Grants in May. They got a lot of information and assistance on how to proceed and what the parameters are. Since then, the Committee has written a paper regarding the Grant Application process. The value of the property could be used as the Town match to the Grant monies.

Discussed the resolution to start the driveway and parking lot. The discussion was along the line of more planning was needed before anything should be done. The committee is unsure of the next step and would appreciate feedback from anyone with ideas on how to get a site plan and other necessary information without funding.

The next meeting will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am at the Town Hall.

Allied Health Company in Stuyvesant Falls have built and donated 3 new picnic tables to the Town. They would like them sited at the overlook, the playground at Stuyvesant Falls and at the sandbar. The tables will need to be sealed but will have to age for about a year first. Councilperson Ed Scott offered to pick up the tables over the weekend.

Since Committee meetings fall under the "Open Meetings Law", all future committee meetings will be held at the Town Hall unless properly noticed that the meeting will be held at another public location (i.e., Railroad Committee meetings at the Railroad Station).

### ***Railroad Committee***

Marilyn Burch gave the Committee Report. She gave an accounting statement of money taken in since last meeting and from the beginning of the year. Since the last meeting, the following money was raised:

Farmers' Market:	\$ 249.00
Monday mornings:	66.37
Library Sale @ Station:	79.00
Author's Lecture & Signing:	1,375.00
Art Show:	2,141.75

Ms. Burch expressed displeasure that Supervisor Bertram's letter to the community said that taxes may have to be raised to pay for some of the ongoing projects in the Town.

Karen Hummel reported that she has put together a board of pictures from the Art Show held at the Station. She thanked everyone for his or her help.

### ***Cemetery Committee***

Councilperson Bradlee Webster reported that we have the bill for \$5600 and that the tree work is complete. The Highway Department will grind the stumps.

### ***Old Business***

Councilperson Bradlee Webster reminded everyone that the clothing bin was in the back parking lot of the Town Hall and will accept clothes, shoes and toys. There is another bin in the parking lot of the Firehouse. They are trying to get a bin in Stuyvesant Falls also.

Supervisor Bertram asked the Assessor's Clerk, Cathy Knott, if there was any progress on the Request for Proposals from Revaluation Companies. Cathy said there hasn't been any change.

### ***New Business***

Councilperson Ronald Knott reported that the Town Zoning Book is now available on the Town Website and thanked Town Clerk Melissa Naegeli for retyping it. He also said that while reviewing it he thought some of it needed to be looked at again for some revisions.

Town Clerk, Melissa Naegeli, announced that the Town Clerk's Office will be closed July 7<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a question about the formal appointment of a Deputy Clerk. Supervisor Bertram explained that there isn't a need for Deputy now.

A motion was made by Councilperson Ronald Knott to start collecting information for a new Salt Shed. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Edward Scott and carried unanimously.

Marilyn Burch announced that the Farmers' Market is now certified to accept WIC Coupons and Sr. Nutrition Coupons. She also asked for anyone willing to volunteer to be a Meals-on-Wheels Driver. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month needs a driver.

### ***Public Comment***

Matthew Asbornsen, M.D. apologized to Supervisor Bertram for only addressing his letter and comments last month to her directly instead of the entire Board. He again expressed his displeasure at the delays in the development of the land on Sharptown Road.

Supervisor Bertram addressed everyone regarding her letter that had accompanied the survey. She said she didn't consider her letter to be negative and that it was realistic. The Board has a duty to consider everyone when making financial decisions and she wanted to make sure that all of the taxpayers had the facts before making comments on the survey pages. She said that regarding the property on Sharptown Road, a three-phase plan sounds like a much better idea and that a site plan is the first step. Supervisor Bertram expressed her hopes that future conversations regarding this project can be civil so the work can get done.

A conversation between members of the audience ensued regarding the project on Sharptown Road and Supervisor Bertram's comments.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Bradlee Webster and was seconded by Councilperson Ronald Knott. Motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

## JUNE 2007 ABSTRACTS

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE PRESENTED FOR AUDIT:

183	National Grid	\$1761.57	211	Joanne Mistler (BAR)	\$60.00
184	Fairpoint Communications	306.98	212	John DeLong (BAR)	31.25
185	Morris Associates	2331.70	213	Warren Leiser (BAR)	60.00
186	Tal Rappleyea	3093.75	214	Main Care Energy	2347.63
187	Col. Co. Sheriff's Office	143.64	215	Bernard Kowalski	251.59
188	Nova Information Systems	31.64	216	Mario's Home Center	181.65
189	Empire Alarms	87.80	217	Catamount Consulting, LLC	120.00
190	Catseye Pest Control	285.00	218	Colarusso Quarry Co.	2188.78
191	COARC	33.00	219	Farrell Oil Co., Inc.	70.76
192	Col. Co. Treasurer	4514.45	220	Gorman Bros., Inc.	68,021.82
193	ProPrinters	434.42	221	Unifirst Corp.	109.63
194	Stuyvesant Town Clerk	32.00	222	CarQuest of Valatie	119.11
195	Ron Knott	183.81	223	Hudson Valley Gas & Welding Supplies	175.00
196	Williamson Law Book Company	161.04	224	Sam's Club	37.80
197	Xerox Corp.	124.92	225	Mooradian Hydraulics & Equip. Co., Inc.	160.00
198	Staples	237.34	226	Tractor Supply	423.91
199	The Independent	38.27	227	Columbia Tractor, Inc.	74.30
200	Johnson Newspaper Corp.	125.07	228	Main Care Energy	489.12
201	Thomas Locker	1125.00	229	Culligan	27.00
202	Robin Guthridge	281.25	230	Lacal Equipment, Inc.	81.40
203	Yaun Co., Inc.	257.71	231	Air Compressor Plus	10.59
204	Schodack Septic	216.00	232	Nextel Partners	45.99
205	University Press of New England	1260.82	233	Fred Cohn, III	700.00
206	Stuyvesant Fall VFW	600.00	234	Hudson Valley Tree Service	5600.00
207	Columbia-Greene Humane Society	305.00	235	Columbia County Solid Waste	1779.78
208	Charlene Leach	104.16	236	Karen Hummel	97.07
209	Cheryl Trowbridge (BAR)	60.00			
210	Michael J. Naegeli (BAR)	60.00			

Recorded this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2007

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2007

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TOWN CLERK

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SUPERVISOR

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COUNCILPERSON

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COUNCILPERSON

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