

June 4, 2019 – Workshop Meeting

The workshop Meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this evening at 7:00 PM at the Gardiner Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilmen Dukler & Carucci and Councilwoman Walls. There were approximately 40± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Recreation – There are still a few openings based on age of the camper. There are almost 200 campers.

3rd Annual Craft Walk – held this past weekend and was well attended.

Noise Issue Update – 14 business owners in Gardiner received a letter requesting that they abide by the town law for amplified music to end at 8 PM weekly and 10 PM weekends.

Southern Ulster Alliance – 20 years ago the Southern Ulster Alliance was formed. Interest in the group has dwindled over the years and it has been decided to dissolve the alliance.

Wallkill Watershed Alliance – the alliance is working on a paddling trail to be used in place of the river.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter was received from Ulster County stating the first quarter sales tax was \$40,763.38 and the Mortgage Tax from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 was \$51,023.69
- The town received a letter from Ulster County requesting lead agency for the widening of the shoulders on Route 299. All board members believe the Ulster County DPW would be best as lead agency.

RIVER WALK

Councilman Dukler informed the Board that he participated in River Walk and helped plant trees & shrubs around the Town of Gardiner.

SMALL SCALE FOSSIL FUEL PLANTS

Gardiner resident Lori Morris recently attended a meeting with regard to small fossil fuel plants. Dr. Morris made a presentation on why the Town should not allow for small plants and how it can be done through zoning. These small plants are called “peaker plants”. Peaker plants are used only during high energy use and they are popping up all over the Hudson Valley. Dr. Morris suggested that 1.) a moratorium be adopted prohibiting these small scale plants while the Town Board develops a law in which to follow 2.) create a law that sets guidelines or excludes the plants entirely from the Town. Currently a bill, sponsored by Sen. Jen Metzger, is in the NYS Senate committee for consideration.

A concern for the Town Board with enacting a moratorium is the timeframe in which to draft and adopt a law. With a big workload it would be difficult to complete before the moratorium expires.

Supervisor Majestic thanked Dr. Morris for her presentation.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Chairwoman Roberta Clements made a presentation on the proposed wetlands and water course law. Her presentation described the difference of this law compared to the proposed aquifer law. The presentation covered the benefits of the law, development proposal, function, jurisdiction, restrictions and possible issues.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATE PRESENTATION

Mark Varian presented to the Board the reasoning behind a community choice aggregate for energy use. He explained the use of renewable energy and the town's commitment to a specific administrator – Jule or Good Energy. This is at no cost to the community or residents, however any resident who does not want to participate must opt out. They discussed waiting until the rate is more favorable. As more towns participate the rate improves. The Town would have to adopt a local law in order to participate.

SMART GROWTH

Ralph Erenzo set forth a proposal to study for economic growth in the Town of Gardiner. With a million visitors to the area last year, the study would cover what visitors bring and leave in the community. This study will be done with a SUNY New Paltz professor who would take this on as a 2-term course where students would do the work. Mr. Erenzo also suggested the formation of an ADHOC committee.

STERLING ENVIRONMENTAL

Mark Millspaugh of Sterling Environmental was present to discuss the dimensional requirement camp chart that he created for part of the zoning definitions now under the moratorium. The chart covered dimensions for campgrounds, camp space and camp units. Dimensional parameters discussion included a 10-acre maximum for campgrounds. This was discussed at great length.

SHORT TERM RENTALS

Board members reviewed an updated version of the Short-Term Rental law. A few changes were made and the Board decided to send the law to Attorney Allyson Philips to tweak.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

Supervisor Majestic was authorized to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with the County on motion of Councilman Dukler, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Conversation about the Comprehensive Plan included expanding the HC & HR districts in the hamlet to help with pedestrian friendliness. There is a bit of activity at Ireland Corners and Supervisor Majestic thought this might be a good time to talk about what the Town would like to see happen there. Councilwoman Walls suggested imposing a moratorium specifically for Ireland Corners until the Comprehensive Plan for this area of Town is complete.

SAM GRANT – RAIL TRAIL BRIDGE – BID PACKAGE

Thomas Harvey of CPL is ready to prepare the bid documents for the replacement of the bridge on the rail trail by the Forest Glen Rd area. Mr. Harvey suggested purchasing the bridge decking which can be reimbursed with the SAM grant money. Board members discussed getting bids with and without the decking.

APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

On motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried, Richard Cerruto was appointed to the ZBA to fill the vacancy left by Ralph Erenzo. His term will expire July 1, 2020.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT REPORT

Recently the Town accepted an easement for the Kiviat Subdivision. We now need to do a baseline report on the easement. Supervisor Majestic suggests using Wallkill Valley Land Trust. A motion was made by Councilman Dukler, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried to request them to do this report.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Scott Mosher – asked if a moratorium to a specific area was allowed. Asked what the Intermunicipal Agreement was

Lisa Lindsley – asked if there was a task force for the zoning changes/definitions

Kay Hoiby – asked where the fees collected for the Kiviat subdivision will go

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried the meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk