

September 3, 2019 – Workshop Meeting

The workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board met this evening at 7 PM at the Gardiner Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Majestic and Councilmen Carucci, Dukler and Wiegand. Councilwoman Walls was absent. There were approximately 23± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept. 7 – Gardiner Day from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm throughout the Town, specifically the Town Hall, Station Square and the Park.

Sept 7 & 8 – Annual Library Book Sale in the Library Community Room

Sept. 12 – A Town Hall style meeting will be held this date by County Executive Pat Ryan here at the Town Hall at 7 PM.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – HIGHWAY PERSONNEL

Negotiations with the highway crew will begin this month for a 3 -year contract term.

Councilman Wiegand will be joining Supervisor Majestic in these negotiations. The first meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9 at 9 AM.

GARDINER OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tonight Jean McGrane, chairman of the Open Space Commission presented the 2019 annual report. There are 7 members to the commission – Jean McGrane, Linda Geary, Kellie George, Kay Hoiby, Laura Rose, Laura Wong-Pan and Rebecca Benner. Ms McGrane and Ms Rose did a detailed overview of what has been done from May 2018 – August 2019. They handed out an outline that covered past, current and futures plans of the commission. The commission drafted a very thorough conservation easement template and is asking the Town Board to review it and authorize the adoption of this draft. Councilman Wiegand commented that he has been involved with the OSC since it's inception. Thanked the Commission for such a detailed report. The Town Board will review the conservation easement document and will discuss at a meeting in October.

ACCEPTANCE OF SEWER EASEMENT – LAURA & RICHARD MAJESTIC

Resolution No. 96 – Offered by Councilman Wiegand

WHEREAS, the above property owner has been granted a Residential Connection Permit in Gardiner Sewer District #1 and has installed the necessary facilities, and has agreed to grant an easement to the District, and

WHEREAS, an easement is required for future maintenance and repair of sewer lines, tanks, pumps, etc. by the District, then

RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 64 of Town Law, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner, acting on behalf of Gardiner Sewer District #1, does hereby accept as a gift the above easement, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor is authorized to act on behalf of the District in this matter and cause a deed or other instrument to be filed with the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL

Town Board briefly discussed establishing a committee to help create the short-term rental law. Supervisor Majestic feels the committees are not productive enough. Councilman Carucci believes that you need the right group of people to make it productive. Councilman Wiegand stated that this law needs to be done rather quickly. The group must be efficient. The Board can

give them an outline of what the committee should look at and give them a timeline for completion. Councilman Dukler commented that it is important to carefully select the committee. He believes that the Town Board makes good laws and is confident that they would reach out to the public for their input. Mr. Dukler agrees with Councilman Wiegand on setting up guidelines and a timeline for completion. No formal vote was taken but 2 board members thought they might be in favor, while 2 others would be in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The ECC Chair, Roberta Clements, was present to speak to the Board about a proposal to create a committee to help the commission move 2 laws forward, the aquifer law and watercourse law. Supervisor Majestic received information from another commission member that they were unaware of this proposal – that is was never discussed with ECC members. Because of this Supervisor Majestic would like to table this item on the agenda. Ms Clements argued with the Board to no avail and then angrily left the meeting. Councilman Wiegand sees no reason to have a committee. Supervisor Majestic stated that there are many issues as a whole on the proposed laws, specifically they are very difficult to understand. On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the Board decided not to create a committee.

TOURISM RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS LAW UPDATE

Supervisor Majestic has corresponded/spoken with attorney Allyson Phillips regarding a definition for “seasonal”, maximum allowable acreage, low-impact recreation, residential camping, campgrounds on state, town or county roads, increasing approval time for the Town Board on a special permit, no expansion of existing campgrounds over 20 acres and illegal campgrounds to name a few. Attorney Allyson Phillips advised addressing illegal campgrounds at another time. Board members discussed these items and all changes will be forwarded to the attorney to incorporate into a draft law.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATE LAW

Councilman Carucci is looking for authorization to send the draft of the Community Choice Aggregate Law to our attorney for review. Mr. Carucci would like to schedule a public hearing. Councilman Wiegand is opposed for a few of reasons – 1. Citizens do not need the Town to force an energy company on them, 2. He feels the law is unfair to force and only have an opt-out option. He feels many would be unaware of this option, 3. the Town does not have resources to administer this law, 4. believes it may put the Town in legal jeopardy, 5. it is an unproven concept and 6. minimal savings - invest in more important plans that will benefit the Town. He recommends saying no for now.

Councilman Carucci stated that there is significant outreach and that auto-inclusion is needed for success of the program. Residents can opt-out at any time. There is nothing for the Town to manage. The law allows for the Town to give all management to the administrator which would be the company that is chosen. The Town negotiates their own terms. Councilman Carucci stated that he would like to move ahead and get this on the table for negotiation. Councilman Dukler believes the Town Board has an obligation to at least take a look. Supervisor Majestic commented that it is good to have a lower energy rate available to the residents, however as Supervisor she has trouble with telling residents who they have to get their energy from. She will send the law to the attorney for review.

ZBA APPOINTMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, David Gandin was re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5-year term to expire July 1, 2024. Board members discussed the fact that the alternate has never attended a meeting since his appointment a couple of years ago. Supervisor Majestic will reach out to him about this.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Tom Kruglinski – Thank the Town Board for their work. Explained the new early voting in Ulster County. He is looking to help promote this and he handed pamphlets and posters to the Town Clerk for her office for out-reach to the community.

Mr. Kruglinski also spoke about the current vandalism to a resident’s property on Dusinger Road. A rainbow flag representing LGBTQ rights was torn off a mailbox. Mr. Kruglinski asked for the Town Board’s assistance in requesting the State Police to patrol more frequently. A statement of condemnation will be issued by the Town Board. Councilman Dukler suggested a resolution and will take the lead in drafting it. Supervisor Majestic reminded him that it needs to be well drafted.

Scott Bittner – asked about the status of Heartwood. Still waiting on the judge.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk