

The workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this date at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Katz presided with Councilmen Wiegand, Koenig & Mele and Councilwoman Lemmon present. Approximately 33± audience members were also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 8 – Cupcake Festival Main Street from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

May 15 – Friends of the Gardiner Library Annual Plant Sale Gardiner Town Hall 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

BOARD OPENINGS

Supervisor Katz announced that there are still vacancies on the Environmental Conservation Commission and the Open Space Commission. If anyone wishes to serve on either Board, submit a letter of interest to the Town Supervisor.

GARDINER SPRING CLEAN-UP

Supervisor Katz announced that the Gardiner Spring Clean Up held on April 17 and April 18 was very successful. He thanked all that participated.

ULSTER COUNTY SAFETY NET

There has been much in the papers in recent days regarding the cost to the towns of the Ulster County Safety Net Program (welfare). The vast majority of the cost is directed to the cities of Kingston and Wawarsing. All other towns each pay their share. The cost to the Town of Gardiner is approximately \$28,000.

NAMING OF TUTHILLTOWN BRIDGE

Glenn Noonan presented a plan to the Town Board to name the Tuthilltown Bridge in memory of Barney Hansen. Barney was a longtime resident who was very active in the community, both politically and personally. He recently passed away after a battle with cancer. The Town Board would need to adopt a resolution and forward it the Ulster County legislature for their approval.

PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION BUILDING

Mike Gagliardi, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission, presented a proposal for a new building to be constructed at the park. The plan is to use this building initially for rainy days during the summer recreation program. In the past either the Fire House or the Gardiner Reformed Church was used, but the program has expanded so much they cannot accommodate for the number of children attending. Mr. Gagliardi stated that the Commission would like to erect a pole building. A bid package has been put together and will be available right away to any who are interested in bidding. The bid opening is scheduled for May 20. Completion of the project is required by June 30.

CABLE SERVICE

Petitions were received from residents of McKinstry Road and Bruynswick Road requesting cable service installation along these roads. Time Warner Cable requires a certain number of homes to have them run the cable. Since these roads do not meet the requirement, cable installation will be paid from the Gardiner Construction Fund established by Time Warner Cable for this purpose. We currently have \$116,246.00 in the account. Cost to run cable for these two (2) roads will be \$19,768.96. On motion of Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, the Supervisor was authorized to expend the cost from the construction fund and move forward.

OSI GRANT – KIERNAN FARM

Board members discussed at great length the federal grant applied for by the Open Space Institute (OSI) for the purchase of the development rights of Kiernan Farm. OSI is look for the Town of Gardiner to

partner with them for the funding. The current appraisal is at \$880,000. \$440,000 would come from the federal grant, with the remaining \$440,000 to come from OSI. There is a window of three (3) years to meet this obligation. Although this was not a public hearing audience members were allowed to voice their opinion of this issue. Brief statements are listed below.

Michael Yukoweic – with all due respect OSI may be a good partner for Gardiner, but in general he believes they are deceitful. Would rather the Town not partner with them. Has very strong opinions of members of OSI.

Kristi Ferguson – from Wallkill Valley Land Trust who has partnered with OSI on a 167 acre easement in Ulster County with very good results.

Ginny Coleman – concerned with the bottom line, the cost for the individual taxpayer. Is also concerned with land preservation as this sets the character of the Town.

Kathy Hudson – OSI is a partner helping Town of Gardiner meet their fund goals. This is not something they are doing to benefit themselves. Inconceivable to her that the Town will not make a commitment to OSI.

Sadell Cantor – supports the OSI on their efforts.

Pam O'Dell – is opposed to the OSI grant.

Ray Smith – asked if the bond adopted was available for the Town's funding support.

Gale Foster – commended the Board for looking for a way to raise the funds without raising taxes.

David Straus – suggested the Town commit 1/5 of the \$880,000.

Janet Kern – It is very important for the community to have a sense of ownership of Kiernan Farm, not just the deep pockets that may provide extra funding.

John Habersberger – A dollar here, a dollar there adds up to real money.

Comments from the Board were as follows:

Councilman Koenig – supports opens space and appreciates what OSI has done. The land will stay on the tax rolls and the Town will have the opportunity to work with OSI now and hopefully in the future. As the town makes a commitment to OSI, he asks that they be sensitive with the Town towards taxes. Supports OSI and their request for partnering, but needs more time to think about it. Asked that this be tabled to next weeks meeting.

Councilman Mele – its obvious preservation of open space very important to the Town Board.

Suggested being creative to cut expenses and reduce taxes.

Councilman Wiegand – we need to keep our eyes focused on the goals – protecting open space. It is very important to create a relationship with OSI. The issue is not how to get the funding, but just get it. Mr. Wiegand spoke with Laura Kesolosky at OSI and they are looking for a letter of support/commitment. If we do not commit we will be undermining our relationship with them. He suggested committing \$50,000 from town funds or by fund raising.

Councilwoman Lemmon – stated that OSI is definitely looking for a commitment from the Town.

They will go forward no matter what, but she is certain that they would not work with the Town again without a commitment.

Supervisor Katz – the Town needs to make a proposal to OSI. He suggests a commitment of \$50,000 to be raised privately by fund raising over the next three (3) years. OSI is 100% committed to doing this regardless of what the Town does.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Mele motioned to table the vote on what to do to next week's meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried.

LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 220-11

Supervisor Katz gave a copy of a draft local law that he is proposing to change Section 220-11 of the Zoning Code. Councilwoman Lemmon would like to get feedback from Joel Russell before scheduling a public hearing.

SIDEWALK UPDATE AND PARKING AT LIBRARY

An updated version of the sidewalk plan and the library parking was projected onto the wall for all to review. Councilman Mele believes everyone should have the opportunity to see the plan. Board Members discussed the parking area at the Library. A question was raised about the catch basin on the eastern side of the lot. They believe that it is encroaching on the adjacent property owners and requested that the engineer review this.

RETURN CHECK CHARGE

Resolution No. 85 – Offered by Councilwoman Lemmon

Resolved, pursuant to Section 85 of the General Municipal Law that a \$20 charge be imposed on each check tendered and returned for insufficient funds.

Seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Michael Yukowiec – commented that Sam’s Point located in Ellenville was sold to OSI. The Town of Ellenville believes the money they received was not sufficient and they believe they deserved more. Went on about how dishonest he believes this organization is.

Pam O’Dell – asked the status of the ECC vetting the Green Task Force Resolution. Secondly she asked the status of allowing residents to remove the dead trees on the Awosting property. Supervisor Katz had contacted the state for their permission and they will not allow this due to liability.

John Habersberger - status of cell tower

Scott Bittner – commented that the post office is the busiest building in the town. Why is there no parking.

Pam O’Dell – asked how someone would be able to get a link from the Town website. Supervisor Katz did not know and will look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilwoman Lemmon and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk