

Minutes of July 21, 2008 Germantown Town Board Meeting, held at the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 7:00pm

Present: Supervisor Roy Brown
Councilwoman Joan Snyder
Councilwoman Graceann Lamberta
Councilman Joel Craig
Councilman Jeremy Smith
Town Lawyer, Sonya Smelyansky

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Charlene Diehl

Supervisor Brown opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to approve the minutes from the June town board meeting made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to pay audited bills made by Councilwoman Snyder, and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilman Craig: Aye
Councilman Smith: Aye

Tara Sullivan, representing the Explore NY 400 Committee, gave the board and audience members a presentation of some of the events and activities being planned to celebrate New York's upcoming Quadricentennial. She was appointed to assemble a team to start preparations for next year's celebration of the 400th anniversary of deChamplain and Henry Hudson bringing French and Dutch colonists to New York and the Hudson Valley. She mentioned the renovation and improvement of eight parks that NYS Parks & Recreation is planning; Agriculture & Markets working on enhanced farmland protection and gathering information on Hudson Valley produce to incorporate into the Hudson Valley Bounty Trail of where products are sold; school districts as well as towns, villages, counties and cities will be flying the Explore 400 flag as well as all NYS Thruway stops. Ms. Sullivan presented a flag to Supervisor Brown and the board for the town to display, as well as a Quadricentennial Book. Funding has been approved by the legislature and equal shares will be distributed to every town that touches the river to supplement costs for celebratory events.

She also said plans are underway for a Henry Hudson commemorative stamp. The Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts will also have a patch to earn for next year. A First Annual Medal of Discovery, to a distinguished New Yorker, will be presented by the Governor, and members of the Dutch royal family will participate in events in New York City and Albany. June 6, 2009 is Hudson River Opening Day and there will be a relay regatta and all boat clubs will be open to the public.

The website to contact for more information is www.ExploreNY400.com, and there will be a newsletter coming out as well.

Councilman Smith, along with Nadine Rumke, are co-chairs of the Celebration planning committee and Mr. Smith reported on the meeting last week. They have

some ideas coming in but are looking for the community to continue submitting ideas. Mr. Smith mentioned having a BBQ festival at the boat launch, with residents taking their boats out on the river.

Supervisor Brown thanked Ms. Sullivan for her presentation.

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Councilwoman Lamberta and seconded by Councilwoman Snyder, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Lamberta, with all in favor and none opposed.

Communication from the Clerk

The clerk read a letter to the board from the Columbia County Fire Coordinator thanking the Germantown Fire Company for their assistance in extinguishing a barn fire, and from the Germantown Sportsmens Association thanking Rich Jennings for assistance he lent during Germantown Community Day. She also announced that Hunting licenses for the upcoming season go on sale Monday, August 18 at the Town Clerk's office.

Department Updates

Highway Department - Rich Jennings is convalescing and there is no report.

Sewer Department:

- 3 service calls for the month;
- maintenance done on the blower, generators and UV lights;
- 29,000 gallons;
- 10 new UV bulbs were replaced;
- working with homeowners on replacing pipes

Parks:

- big limbs cleared from Parsonage;
- new replacement grills installed and being used;
- railing fixed at Cheviot;
- portable radar units placed on Main St. daily and they have received positive feedback about it;
- volleyball nets are up and residents can get the balls from lifeguards;
- playground and trails raked;
- paddle boats are installed and working, though one needs parts;
- lights being replaced under the Pavillion

Anthony Cidras noted that there was a car show at the park on July 19th and they left the park in good shape and have plans to return next year.

Mr. Cidras has gathered costs for the posts, sleeves and fencing for the parking lot project and they are just under \$300.

Police Department:

- 264 hours worked, 84 of which were at the fireworks celebration. Police Commissioner Rekow reminded everyone that only 19 hours are paid; the rest are voluntary.

Parks Commission:

- Basketball poles came in and will be installed next week;
- paddleboats are in;
- Friday night events will occur at the Activities Building during the month of August;
- the Cub Scouts had a successful car wash with \$430 raised and 6 boxes of donations received. This will enable 24 care packages to be sent out. The American Legion will help with the shipping costs and the packages will be put together this Saturday at the Activities Building if anyone is interesting in stopping by to help.

Economic Development Committee: Some suggestions Corrine Curry brought from the meeting are

- having a sign for local businesses at Main St. and Palatine Park Rd.;
- upgrade appearance of businesses along Palatine Park Rd.;
- list all local businesses on the town web site with a link to the Chamber of Commerce;
- welcome package for new businesses and residents;
- use Central Market for local products, in lieu of having a Germantown Farmers Market;
- Jim Galvin, the Executive Director of Columbia Hudson Partnership will donate \$1000 to display flags;
- Art Gallery project is in limbo at this point and a meeting will be held this week;
- work on Central Market and Central House are in progress

Councilman Craig told Ms. Curry that an arts grant is coming up soon through the Council and they agreed to get together to work on a proposal.

Hazard Mitigation Committee: Councilman Smith reported that there was a public hearing last Thursday at which he presented the Plan with maps and what the town board has to do to implement it. Supervisor Brown thanked Jerry and asked him to relay thanks to the committee as well.

Re-Zoning Committee: Councilman Craig reported that there were 5 responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the committee will be reviewing and making a recommendation to the town board.

Keep Farming: Nothing new to report. Once the town board members review it, the document *Farmers Are Farming* will be available in the Town Clerk's office for review.

Town Junk Law - Bruce Bohnsack reported that the committee is ready to set a Public Hearing for the proposed Junk Law - the date is Thursday, August 14th at 7:00pm at the Activities Building.

Mr. Bohnsack said the committee had followed the New York State Regulations which recommend incorporating junk and junk yards into the same document. Supervisor Brown reminded everyone to bring questions to the public hearing as that is the proper forum to express them.

Councilwoman Snyder said she went over the draft and believes the Building Inspector should be given full power to enforce the junk ordinance already in effect, and we should remember where we live.

Bruce Bohnsack reported that the Web cam located at the Anchorage is up and running and shows a nice shot of the Hudson River view. It's on Gtel.net's home page and there will be a link to the Germantown website as well.

Police Department Manual: Supervisor Brown said that the board is waiting for lawyer Jason Shaw to give his ok and then Larry Osgood would like to review it for grammar before it's presented to the board.

New Code of Ethics document is on the website and there is a public hearing on Thursday, August 14th at the Activities Building. Councilman Smith questioned the document he reviewed and Sonya Smelyansky said she will e-mail the correct version which establishes a Code of Ethics. Mr. Smith asked if Germantown will have to amend their Code of Ethics when New York State Ethics change and Ms. Smelyansky said it incorporates the New York State Ethics law, and that Section 808 is the only section that would supersede it.

Videotaping of Town Board meetings: Supervisor Brown stated that 2 cameras were being used to record the town board meeting; the board will then compare the two recordings and make a decision. Councilman Craig said he feels the most important objective is to inform the public and Councilman Smith stated his agreement. Mr. Craig said he was under the impression that someone was paying half of the cost of the \$100 fee that Dan the cameraman charges, for the rest of the year. After discussion about when the recordings would be available for viewing, Supervisor Brown said he will make the tapes available for comparison and speak with Dan about the next meeting to give him an idea of where the board wants to go.

Councilman Smith talked about the 300th anniversary celebration, of which Nadine Rumke co-chairs as well, and relayed what had taken place at the meeting last Tuesday, at which the 400th anniversary celebration was talked about as well. Mr. Smith said the plan is to have an update of Palatine via oral histories from older residents in the town. He is asking all organizations to host an event to celebrate the anniversary. The Committee is looking at the second weekend in October, 2010 for a celebration that will include events related to Germantown's history and they would like to restart the Oktoberfest that used to be held in the town. Mr. Smith also hopes to reprint a book by Walter Miller, as well as hold walking and driving tours through the town.

Councilman Craig said that he put in a grant application to help stabilize the Parsonage and that it needs refurbishing. Councilman Smith said he'd like to hold a seminar at the Parsonage for Palatines in the town from experts in Palatine history.

In October of this year at the Viewmont Church there will be a seminar presented by Reverend David Jay Weber and Councilman Smith plans to film the seminar for the archives. He will be asking a lot of people to make contributions and would like to introduce prizes, perhaps a 'Palatine Cup' for sporting and arts competitions.

Nadine Rumke stated she had a pamphlet about life in Germantown by Virginia Miller and that the picture on the cover is a house located on Main Street. She has received permission from the author to copy the book and said Mr. Smith should try and film her as soon as he can.

Resolution #33 - Establishing the Terms of Existing Members of the Town Planning Board

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Law §271, the Town of Germantown Town Board ("the Board") created a seven person Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Planning Board, vacancies and appointments occurring in the middle of the terms of Planning Board members have caused the terms of appointment to end at times other than the end of staggered calendar years; and

WHEREAS, by this resolution the Board restates and reaffirms the terms of the current, individual Planning Board members and conforms those terms to comply with the provisions of Town Law §271(5) so that they will continue until the end of a calendar year in which a Planning Board board member's term is to expire.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The term of Planning Board member Rick Jason is from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2008;
2. The term of Planning Board member Kerrie Abella is from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2009;
3. The term of Planning Board member Neal Burger is from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2010;
4. The term of Planning Board member Stephen Reynolds is from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2011;
5. The term of Planning Board member Rao Gaddipati is from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2012;
6. The term of Planning Board member Margaret della Ciopa is from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2013; and
7. The term of Planning Board member Ellen Epstein is from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2014.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Supervisor Brown and seconded by Councilman Craig.

Councilwoman Lamberta:	Aye	Councilwoman Snyder:	Aye
Councilman Smith:	Aye		

Resolution #34 - Establishing the Terms of Existing Members of the Town Zoning Board of Appeals

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Law §267 the Town of Germantown Town Board ("the Board") created a five person Zoning Board of Appeals ("ZBA"); and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the ZBA, ZBA vacancies and appointments occurring in the middle of the terms of ZBA members have caused the terms of appointment to end at times other than the end of staggered calendar years; and

WHEREAS, by this resolution the Board restates and reaffirms the terms of the current, individual ZBA members and conforms those terms to comply with the provisions of Town Law §267(5) so that they will continue until the end of a calendar year in which a ZBA board member's term is to expire.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The term of ZBA board member Tom Bower is from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2008;
2. The term of ZBA board member Don Westmore is from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2009;
3. The term of ZBA board member Bill Muirhead is from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010;
4. The term of ZBA board member Stephen Savoris is from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011; and
5. The term of ZBA board member Don Crews is from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Councilwoman Snyder and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Supervisor Brown: Aye Councilwoman Lamberta: Aye
Councilman Craig: Aye

Councilman Craig said that there will be Friday night events at the Youth Activities Building during the month of August and he would like the board's support. He as well as Mike George will be chaperones during these events.

Supervisor Brown mentioned an evaluation form for Camp Palatine and that he will forward to Councilman Craig a copy of what is being used at Columbia Greene, and Mr. Craig will work with someone on that.

Councilwoman Snyder has applications for Park Pass permits and will leave them out for folks to pick up. Mike George said the form is available at the lifeguard station as well.

Supervisor's Report

- the Town hosted a public forum on energy & fuel oil for senior citizens and low income residents;
- upcoming meeting on July 24th on Planning and Working with a Developer - 2 developers have been confirmed to attend.
- George Fox has agreed to let the town build a pedestrian bridge from the Municipal Parking Lot to his parking lot, with assistance from Scoob's Excavation, in order to make access easier. The town hopes to get started soon on this project.
- there will be a new camp park program, Palatine Extreme Teen Events for teens to participate in occurring on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from now through the second week in August. This is a program for older teens and to please contact Austin if interested.

Open to the Public

Ellen Epstein: the responses to the Re-Zoning RFP for the consultant are really good, very instructive with budgets structured for comparison. She is disappointed in attendance at the meetings and hopes the consultant will help energize folks to attend, but the board may have to look at the commitment required and restructure the committee.

Kay Abraham: wanted to know if the contents of a letter she received from the Police Commissioners had been relayed to town police officers. She said she still has not received a response to the letter she sent to the Police Commissioners requesting a meeting. She also inquired if the Safety Committee will meet to discuss the Draft Police manual and comments received, and if the police officers have discussed their issues with the Safety Committee. She hopes for a response soon and thinks it's a simple issue to get the facts straight.

Dale Flansburg: thinks there is a compelling case to sit on the \$20,000 budgeted for a planner in lieu of skyrocketing fuel costs, and says in his experience planners are only interested in drawing a check.

Larry Osgood: asked how many people had responded whether they were in favor of or against the town continuing the camera-man taping of the town board meetings. Supervisor Brown said he will forward all correspondence he and the board received to the Town Clerk to add to what she received, which is available for public review. He thinks the costs of taping the meetings is well worth it and the town is shirking its responsibilities if they discontinue it and that he will pick up the other \$50 of the cost of the taping if it comes to that.

Ellen Epstein: wanted to state her concern about the Planner issue and reiterated that it's to hire a consultant to implement Zoning and Planning to be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. She wishes the town board would clarify the issue and show leadership to implement the Plan.

Mike George: the Comprehensive Plan hasn't been adopted yet and questioned the dispute. Councilman Craig said new zoning adoption needs outside assistance and the town needs to align zoning and planning regulations to reflect the Comprehensive Plan. The advice of the attorney is to adopt it as one package. He said the idea of a planner is to facilitate the exchange of ideas.

The next Town Board meeting is August 18th at 7:00pm.

Councilman Smith asked about the six-month financial status report and wanted to know if it could be put on the town website. Supervisor Brown said he will make a copy for Mr. Smith and look into having the document put on the website.

Motion made by Councilwoman Lamberta to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilman Smith, with all in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,