

**TOWN OF ESOPUS  
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP  
June 3, 2021 – Starting at 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on June 3, 2021 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park in addition to being available via zoom and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus’ Facebook page and TV 23 due to the ongoing pandemic. The following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Jared Geuss  
Councilman Kathie Quick  
Councilman Chris Farrell  
Councilman Evelyn Clarke  
Councilman Laura Robinson**

**Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**Public Comment:**

**Jay Van Vliet Sleightsburgh Resident** – Wanted to reiterate his comments from the last meeting since the microphone was not working well; no one down in Sleightsburgh changed the lock on the gate an employee did it. He didn’t know where the information came from. Jay said his fence is not on Town property. He talked to the Code Enforcement Officer, Highway Superintendent and Town officials and said it is on his property. We are not being bullies. He wants the Board to address these concerns so misinformation stops. Current hours are working at the Spit; still some speeding issues. Last night it was a black pickup truck.

**Chris Marta** – Bear sighting at the gate entrance of the Sleightsburgh Park; nice to see wildlife back. They called the DEC.

**Perry Gallo Sleightsburgh Resident** joined via zoom but unfortunately the caller had difficulty getting unmuted and was asked to send his comment in or call the outreach number provided.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR.**

Sleightsburgh Park

## Sleightsburgh Spit Park Input and Discussion History: 2019 - 2021

Within the Past 3 Years:

<b><u>Public Comments Received re: Sleightsburgh Spit Park @ Town Board meetings:</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion of Sleightsburgh Spit Park @ Town Board meetings:</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4/23/2019</li> <li>• 5/7/2019</li> <li>• 7/23/2019</li> <li>• 2/4/2020 - Dialogue held with recreational Spit users &amp; 3 TB members</li> <li>• 4/7/2020</li> <li>• 4/21/2020</li> <li>• 7/7/2020</li> <li>• Sleightsburgh Mediation Sessions held August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of 2020</li> <li>• 10/6/2020</li> <li>• 10/20/2020</li> <li>• 11/17/2020</li> <li>• 1/19/2021</li> <li>• 3/21/2021 – Meeting @ Sleightsburgh</li> <li>• 3/22/2021</li> <li>• 4/15/2021</li> <li>• 5/20/2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/5/2019</li> <li>• 3/28/2019 – Cameras</li> <li>• 4/2/2019 – WAB proposal for Steward @ Spit</li> <li>• 4/23/2019 – ADA compliance, law enforcement</li> <li>• 5/7/2019 – Cameras follow-up, lighting</li> <li>• 6/4/2019 – Signage proposal</li> <li>• 2/4/2020 – Dates Open (hunting/fishing seasons), cameras &amp; patrols</li> <li>• 2/18/2020</li> <li>• 3/3/2020 – Signage verbiage/post-vandalism repairs</li> <li>• 3/30/2020 – Opening 4/1, cameras, patrols</li> <li>• 4/7/2020 – response to comments</li> <li>• 4/21/2020</li> <li>• 5/5/2020 – Update, discussion of parking lines</li> <li>• 9/15/2020</li> <li>• 10/2/2020 – Budget for Gate</li> <li>• 11/17/2020</li> <li>• 12/1/2020</li> <li>• 1/19/2021 – in-depth discussion</li> <li>• 3/21/2021 – Meeting @ Sleightsburgh</li> <li>• 3/22/2021</li> <li>• 4/1/2021 – Proposed Rules, temporary signage</li> <li>• 6/3/2021 – Today</li> </ul>

Everyone’s comments have been recorded and taken into consideration. Board members had put ample time in to review.

Councilman Evelyn Clarke said the past 3 yrs have provided enough information for the Board to make an informed decision. Not everyone will be happy with the decision that we make but

she hoped they would appreciate the fact that they are all striving to make sure the park is the best it can be for the people of the town; taking into consideration everyone's concerns.

Councilman Laura Robinson, being newly appointed, asked if they would be putting up signage for No Alcoholic Beverages. Supervisor Geuss said temporary signs had been put up but final language needs to be approved by the Sheriff's office and DEC once the final rules are in place. There will be a sign campaign starting at the top of the hill.

Councilman Kathie Quick asked if there could be way of finding signs by Second St. and Third St. No loitering signs put the outside of the gate and by the bus stop.

Councilman Laura Robinson asked if there was a study done to have someone man the entrance on the weekends. Kathie and Shannon had done the research it was cost prohibitive and would be very difficult to find man power to work the temporary position the peak of the season.

Councilman Chris Farrell contacted various town parks up and down the river and they do not have personnel manning the entrance. Verbiage "Violator Will Be Prosecuted" needs to be included on the signs so it can be enforced. Councilman Farrell suggested a 5 mph sign to encourage people to go slower going down the hill to the park and in the park as well to prohibit the gravel from flying.

Supervisor Geuss made the following proposal for a Sleightsburgh Recreation Lottery Program.

This program will allow off hours access to our FOB holder for the purpose of boating, fishing and water fowl hunting (kayaking will be classified as boating)

Applicants must provide a Boater license, Sportsman License or intent to kayak

A rearview mirror hanging tag will be provided for the FOB's designated vehicle. This will help law enforcement to identify program participants

There will be a signed agreement of understanding of the Town, State and Federal Law which may apply to the activity they are engaging in

Any violations will result in suspension of the FOB.

\$25 deposit and \$125 Fee will be collected – a percentage can go towards the park upkeep, signage and enforcement of rules.

Once the lottery application is complete it will be posted to our website as a printable PDF and paper copies will be available at Town Hall prior to the State date. Proposed start date is August 1, 2021.

Regular hours would remain 6am – 9pm; FOB holders would have off hour access

All rules will need to be followed or FOB holders could have privileges revoked.

FOBS would have an annual renewal.

Councilman Evelyn Clarke asked if there would be a limited number of FOBs, we should know how many need to go to EMS fire, DEC, Sherriff. Thinks there should be a limited number of people who can get the FOB. She said likes it's a lottery so there is no hint of favoritism. She wanted to ensure the cost of the deposit would cover the cost of the FOB.

Councilman Kathie Quick asked if there was any price difference for our residents. Supervisor Geuss said there wasn't any discount just a flat fee. Councilman Quick would like to ask users to sign a waiver to hold the Town harmless. Since it is after hours they also need to be respectful of the speed to enter and exit the park.

Supervisor Geuss said the agreement will be presented to the Sheriff Dept. and Paul Keller, Attorney for the Town, for input and final approval.

Councilman Chris Farrell would like to see any residents who want to go for nature study to also be included in the group to be able to use as well.

Councilman Evelyn Clarke asked how the lottery would work. Jared said depending on how many applications we receive there could be a percentage applied to each category/use.

Councilman Farrell said based on the number of keys that we have given out in the past it is not expected there would be more than 30 people applying especially with the fee attached. The FOB is not transferable and is good for one vehicle.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO ADOPT THE RECREATION LOTTERY PROGRAM DEPENDENT ON THE TOWN ATTORNEY AND UC SHERIFFS INPUT TO MAKE SURE WE ARE COMPLIANT WITH THE LAW AND TO HELP THEM WITH ENFORCEMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **BOCES MOU**

**Memorandum of Understanding Between Ulster County BOCES And  
Town of Esopus  
Town Hall Community Room as a  
Secondary Sheltering Site**

This agreement is made and entered into between the Ulster County BOCES and Town of Esopus to establish shelter site locations and terms of use in the event of an evacuation of the students and staff of the Ulster County BOCES.

The Ulster County BOCES will make every effort to notify the Town of Esopus of evacuation possibilities with as much notice as possible. Contact information for the Ulster County BOCES shall be maintained in appendix A and is considered confidential information and is not subject to public disclosure.

Town of Esopus agrees to open their Community Room at their Town Hall building located at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, New York as a secondary sheltering site for your programs as an emergency evacuation center for your students and personnel of the BOCES Complex. Students and staff will be evacuated during emergency situations when the students and staff have a need to be sheltered. Town of Esopus has a capacity to accommodate approximately 240 people.

Town of Esopus understands that their organization will be responsible for opening the building and developing procedures for making the building accessible, including rest rooms and an area with a phone for Ulster County BOCES administrative personnel. Furthermore, Ulster County BOCES will provide supervision for all students and staff during the time that the facility is used as an emergency shelter site.

The Ulster County BOCES agrees that it shall exercise reasonable care in the conduct of its activities in said facilities and further agrees to replace or reimburse Town of Esopus for any items, materials, equipment or supplies that may be used by the district in the conduct of its sheltering activities in said facilities.

The Ulster County BOCES will be responsible for replacing, restoring or repairing damage occasioned by the use of any building, facilities or equipment belonging to Town of Esopus.

The Ulster County BOCES shall provide any and all releases of information to the press and media. Requests for interviews or information submitted to Town of Esopus shall be directed to the Ulster County BOCES' District Superintendent or Designee.

Nothing in this MOU is intended to conflict with current laws or regulations of New York State. If a term of this agreement is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this MOU shall remain in full force and effect.

This agreement shall become effective immediately and may be modified upon the mutual written consent of the parties.

The terms of this agreement, as modified with the consent of both parties, shall be self-renewable for a period of five (5) years from the end date of the agreement unless written termination is given by either party. Either party, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party, may terminate this agreement.

Councilman Chris Farrell said he appreciates the Town's willingness to provide emergency shelter to the students. He will vote because there is no conflict of interest since there is no fiscal ramification for this.

**OFFERED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK**

**SECONDED BY : COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARK**

<b>Councilman Laura Robinson</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Evelyn Clarke</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Chris Farrell</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**GIRL SCOUTS FREE LIBRARY – ROSS PARK**

Colleen Maher would like to install a free library at Ross Park. Councilperson Quick said she thought it was a good idea. Cas Landi has one and they are working on one at Freer Park. Councilperson Farrell said anything to promote literacy is a positive thing. Supervisor Geuss will coordinate with Parks and Recs as to the best location to put it. Evelyn Clarke said as a former Girl Scout she thinks it's a good project for them

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY EVELYN CLARKE TO APPROVE THE FREE LIBRARY AT ROSS PARK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**BQ ENERGY**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO SIGN THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE EDITS THAT WERE DISCUSSED FROM THE LAST MEETING WITH AN ANNUAL LEASE AMOUNT OF \$26,500 FOR THE NEXT 20-30 YEARS. SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**UPDATES**

**Now Hiring** – 3 open positions: (2) Seasonal Maintenance Workers and (1) Building Department Clerk. Visit [www.bit.ly/EsopusEmployment](http://www.bit.ly/EsopusEmployment) for more information.

**Summer Camp** – registration open, discounts available for families with multiple campers registering. Visit [www.bit.ly/CampEsopus2021](http://www.bit.ly/CampEsopus2021) to register.

**Friday, June 11:** Food Truck Friday @ George H. Freer Memorial Beach Park, 4 PM to 8 PM – *hosted by the Town of Esopus Recreation Committee*

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO ALLOW THE RECREATION COMMISSION TO UTILIZE AN ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR ANY MONEYS COLLECTED FOR VENDER FEES AT THEIR FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY EVENT TO GO TOWARDS THE BUILDING AND FUNDING OF PLANTER BOXES WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT IN TOWN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.**

\*Councilman Evelyn Clarke asked if the escrow account was managed through the Town. Supervisor Geuss said it will be managed through the Town Bookkeeper.

**Executive Session**

**SUPERVISOR GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:55 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THE BUILDING CLERK VACANCY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS AT 8:50 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Evelyn Clarke thanked Post 1298 for holding the Memorial Day service which was very nice and for keeping the tradition alive.

**Joe O'Brien Connelly, resident of Connelly** joined the meeting late and missed the public comment section in the beginning of the meeting but wanted to address the situation with the marinas putting pressure on the town. This past weekend the traffic was bumper to bumper and couldn't get down First Street. The hamlet is surrounded by commercial property. A lot of residents are upset and it is bringing too much traffic into the hamlet. Mr. O'Brien's other concern was with the road being cleared off of Connelly Road. All he hears is rumors so he wants to know what is going on. Councilman Farrell asked if there was no on street parking. He does not have a problem with the marinas they have to be on the water. The campers are way over people walking around the streets with beer. Pictures were given to the Outreach Coordinator to share with the Board. Supervisor Geuss said the town is aware of the violations and the town is proceeding forward on them; camping is not an allowed use at this time. The clearing area was to store materials for repairs for the bulkhead at Rondout Marina.

Perry Gallo had left the meeting and forwarded a message in chat. The message was forwarded to the Board as an email. Mr. Gallo your message was forward and will be read by the Board. Sorry for the issue with the audio.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:55 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectively submitted,  
Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC