

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP  
Tuesday July 7, 2020**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on July 7, 2020 in the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris  
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke  
Councilperson Jared Geuss  
Councilperson Kathie Quick  
Councilperson Chris Farrell**

**Matt Rogers- Laberge Group via zoom  
Heather Blaikie, Scenic Hudson  
Nancy Beard, NYDEC**

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

**THIS MEETING WAS TELEVISED LIVE ON CHANNEL 23 PUBLIC ACCESS and LIVE-STREAMED ON "TOWN OF ESOPUS" FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: call (845) 328-0483 to leave a voicemail or email outreach@esopus.com for assistance.**

**SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PLEDGE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Legislator Laura Petite left a message saying she had some concerns. She understands there are some Building Code concerns with Certified Marina. Given the fact we are looking at increasing our waterfront activity and opening up the to the public, we have to be aware of additional traffic in small communities like Connelly and Sleightsburgh. They have a lot of pedestrian traffic and children playing. People racing up the road and doing wheelies is not what we are looking for with our public access development. Legislator Petite said she was hoping the Town Board will consider decreasing speed limits or installing speed bumps in the area to slow traffic down.

Sheriffs have been out there and are aware of the issues. Legislator Petite's comments were based on recent phone calls she received from the residents in the Connelly area who are concerned with the recent increase in traffic.

Dinae Hult, resident of First Street Connelly; Speeds are too high inappropriate for the conditions in the area. King Cab Pickup and Dump trucks at 2 am, machinery haulers loud and too low to make the corners, motorcycles want to race. Many people walk or ride bikes and it is unsafe because there are no sidewalks. She has witnessed a driver fishtailing on the corner of First Street and Plantasia a month ago. She is afraid someone is going to get hurt or worse. She said 35 mph is too fast for the area and recommends 15 – 20 mph. Numerous complaints have been made to Sheriff's office.

Supervisor Harris will look into speed limits and marina issues.

Kathie Quick suggests we borrow signs to highlight speed and make people stop and think how fast they are actually going. There are also several other roads that it would be useful on.

Jared Guess suggested having Mark Jaffee, Code Enforcement Officer, call the marina owners and ask them to stress it to their members so that they are aware there is an issue.

### **RIVERFRONT ACCESS PLAN**

The Esopus Riverfront Access & Connection Study was conducted with project partner Scenic Hudson. Rita Shaheen, Directors of Parks & Community Engagement and Heather Blaikie, RLA, Park Planner were key participants. Project funding was through the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program. Nancy Beard, Assistant Public Information Officer, played an important role. The study included:

Sleightsburgh Park  
George Freer Memorial Park  
Lighthouse Park  
Esopus Meadows  
Black Creek Preserve

Matt Rogers, Laberge Group, gave a presentation via zoom of the Draft Esopus Riverfront Access Plan. Heather Blaikie and Nancy Beard also participated via zoom. The Draft plan and presentation information will be available on Esopus.com Wednesday 07/08/20. Participation and feedback on the plan is encouraged. All information can be found on the web. August 26, 2020 will be the kick off meeting to begin the local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Two excerpts are included from the presentation.

# Effort to Date

- November 2018: Grant Awarded
  - March 2019: Kickoff Meeting
  - April 2019: Site Visits to all Parks/Preserves
  - May 8, 2019: 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting
  - May 22, 2019: Public Informational Meeting #1
  - June 5, 2019: Stakeholder Meetings
  - July 1, 2019: Site Visits with NYSDEC Staff
  - July 24, 2019: Public Design Workshop
  - August 28, 2019: ADA Site Visits with RCAL
  - December 19, 2019: NYSDEC Pre-Application Meeting
  - May 2020: Draft #1 to Committee
  - June 24, 2020: Committee Meeting #8.
  - July 6, 2020: Release of Public Draft.
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# Next Steps

- ***Accepting public comments through July 17 – Town Website***
  - July 22: Next Committee meeting to review comments, identify any final revisions and prioritize recommendations.
  - August 4: Town Board meeting to accept Study.
  - August: Boundary and topographic surveys for Freer and Lighthouse Parks and bulkhead evaluation.
  - August 26, 2020: Kick-off meeting to begin the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.
  - Evaluate potential 2021 grant opportunities for implementation of select projects.
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## **LABERGE – TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

A Proposal for Professional Services from Laberge Group for work associated with topographic surveying of Freer and Lighthouse Park for continuation of the Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access was discussed. Authorization to sign the contract will be granted once the comments have been added to the contract and the attorney is satisfied that all terms have been addressed. Chris Farrell said he prefers to see the final contract prior to giving authorization because Paul Kellar had suggested many modifications.

## **TOWN WATER TREATMENT PLANT/WATER MAIN REPAIR PROJECTS THROUGH WIIA**

When the Town Board authorized the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, they did not specify these documents. She wanted to make sure the Board was clear that she had the authorization to sign. Councilperson Farrell said the authorization given was sufficient. Supervisor Harris said she just wanted to check as the appointed officer getting us in a position heading into a Bond and Public Hearing leading up to get the low interest funding. The Town Board had previously motioned to sign. Partial waiver MWBE liability total project need to seek the waiver but said they did not hit the goal on this aspect. Overall project is \$247,000; they were looking for \$64,000 to go to minority/woman providers. Esopus is at \$32,000 for this phase but feel they can make it up in the upcoming phases and will overall meet the goal. Councilperson Jared Geuss asked, "does that open us up to a liability since there was a shortfall". Supervisor Harris said for this phase it seemed to be a challenge, however down the line there are providers that we will be able to use and the Town should be ok. Supervisor Harris clarified that a motion that was made in a prior meeting included authorization to have her sign the waiver. Board agreed.

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Supervisor Harris said she could follow up and provide explanation beyond good faith that we will be using woman and minority down the line and the overall percentage would be met by the end of the project.

### **JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Supervisor Harris said new grant today for improvements for COVID Safety. They have received two bids for the Justice Court Secure vestibule entry and back door secure alcove to make sure the justices are protected. If the Judges are comfortable with the design we can apply early for the grant. Drop Box already installed will also be covered.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO PURSUE THE JCAP GRANT AND APPLY FOR THE JUSTICE COURT SECURITY PROPOSAL IN PACKET IN COORDINATION WITH THE TOWN JUSTICES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **MISCELANEOUS**

Transfer Station - shout out to Lenny for doing a fabulous job on the Transfer Station.

Councilperson Chris Farrell asked for an update on the RV Park in Connelly. Supervisor Harris said there are open violations from the Department of Health and Building Department. The marina is before the planning department. Building inspector and Waterfront Advisory Board need to meet to see how it should be zoned. It could be permitted under certain stipulations and guidelines. Not sure if it will happen for this season.

Current owners are in violation on certain levels with the DEC. A cease and desist order from the Ulster County Department of Health and Building Department has been issued.

In advance of this, Supervisor Harris was told there were ATV's and scooters going back and forth into the marina.

Chris Farrell asked if they have not ceased is it possible there could be a court order from the County level since it deals with UCDOH?

At this point the owner has submitted a site plan approval and has a very small window to comply to cease to comply and Supervisor Harris will follow up.

The Town supports marina business and if their business model needs tweaking to allow RV 's in the future we would consider it but it has to be done in a proper way. A sit-down with the marinas, WFA members and the Building department to discuss the possibility will be scheduled. The Town welcomes and supports changes but need to go through proper channels.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL AT 8:40 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF INDIVIDUALS AND INTERVIEWING FOR A VACANCY IN THE ASSESSORS OFFICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:38 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Action:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO HIRE PETER KOELLI AS A WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR AS A FILL IN FOR VACATION TIME AT HIS PREVIOUS RATE \$25.90 WITH A START DATE RETRO TO JUNE 29, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,*

*Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk*