

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 20, 2023, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on April 20, 2023 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting was also available on TV 23, and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson - Absent
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Guess
Supervisor Danielle Freer**

Administrative Recorder: Erin McNierney, Deputy Town Clerk

4 WAYS TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) **In-Person – Attend the Workshop**
- 2.) **Phone in: Leave voicemail on 845 331 0676 prior to the meeting**
- 3.) **EMAIL – lreynolds@esopus.com with the subject line “Public Comment”**
- 4.) **MAIL – mail written comments to:
*Town of Esopus, P.O. Box 700
Port Ewen, NY 12466***

Supervisor Danielle Freer called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Triscari, 220 Clay Rd. was there on behalf of his neighbor Dennis Suraci. Tim asked the Town Board to please inform the neighbors of Lindorf & Clay Rd. regarding what has been done to date as sited in the Town of Esopus Stormwater Plan review 2019. He said he understood there may be funding available and pipe that was purchased for the project. He asked if there was a timeline developed for this and what are the plans going forward to address items and issues that have yet to be addressed.

Kristy Nelson, 172 Lindorf St. stated a petition had previously been submitted to the Zoning Board, Planning Board Town Board and Building/Zoning Code Officer. She wanted to make sure everyone had received a copy and supplied Supervisor Freer with an additional page of the petition. She asked if Supervisor Freer would read the 8 items on the petition into the minutes.

Supervisor Freer responded yes she did receive it, and it was shared with the Board and no for reading it into the minutes. She said if someone would like to use their 3 minutes to read it they were welcome to do so.

Roger Bergold, 676 Old Post Road There has been a yellow shipping container placed directly in front of his home for the past year. It was initially granted a 1-year permit for the purpose of building a house. At the end of the 1 year the Building Inspector gave a renewal for another year. Mr. Bergold said in the first year no house building was going on. The container is still there although the permit renewal has expired. He said he has emailed the Board and the Building Inspector asking why this has not been moved per the permit. He made the request of asking them to figure out why it hadn't been moved.

George Post Commander of American Legion Post 1298 thanked Supervisor Freer and staff for all the help this year with the planning of the Memorial Day parade and obtaining the permits to close down Broadway. The parade will be May 29th and will kick off at Dollar General 10 am, proceed to Riverview Cemetery for the ceremony and then return to the Port Ewen Fire Department for refreshments. The invitation is open to all businesses in town if they would like to be involved. Interested participants can contact George at 205 Lindorf St., Ulster Park, NY 12487. George also invited all elected officials to participate as well.

Stephanie Letereri 219 Clay Rd. She said the two recent meetings for the Planning and Zoning Boards are what brought her here to the meeting. As a resident of Clay Road, she feels the projects in the area are bringing some issues to light that have been in their neighborhood for a long time. There are various real reasons they have not been addressed. She believes the new proposed neighborhoods are one thing and the remaining issues in their neighborhood are another. The stormwater management project and a comprehensive study were done. At the end, there was a meeting, and a lot of information was given about what the project was and how much it was going to cost. She feels like everything that needed to be done for that project was done except for the actual work that was going to be done on Lindorf St. and Clay Rd. Another problem in the neighborhood is the traffic and the speed that people travel. They now have issues on Clay Road where people are passing each other; backing out of the driveway is difficult and dangerous. Prior to COVID she spoke with Shannon Harris about speed being monitored there. In retrospect she wondered if that was the traffic study for Lighthouse Village. Where the monitor was placed was irrelevant to the complaint that had been made because it was placed at the corner where people had to slow down to make the corner by Mountainview Ave. The monitor should have been placed by the Graney and Sahloff residences. Rate of speed, amount of traffic and water issues are before the proposed Lighthouse Village and Page Property Plan. Whether those projects get passed by the Planning and Zoning Board, the remaining problems still exist and need to be addressed.

Dennis Suraci, 177 Lindorf St. said the petition was drafted for people who live in Esopus who live on Clay Rd., Lindorf St., Roger St. and some on Mountainview Ave.

We, the undersigned homeowners/taxpayers of the Town of Esopus, hereby notify the Town of Esopus Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Town Board, and Building Inspector/CEO/ZEO that we do not approve of the Lighthouse Village/Cuney Ranch Holdings, LLC/Case No. 2020-8/364 Broadway & 159-189 Clay Road/SBL Nos. 56.83-4-10.123 & 124 project which is currently before the Town of Esopus Planning Board.

This project, as proposed, will have adverse effects on the Clay Road/Lindorf Street/Rogers Street and Mountain View Road neighborhood as well as other areas of the Town as follows:

1. Will Increase traffic within a residential neighborhood and on local roadways.
2. Will Increase stormwater drainage issues in areas where problems already exist and raise water table levels even higher. The Town has yet to implement some of the fixes noted in the Stormwater Plan Review 2019-2020 Assessment by Tighe & Bond in the Primary area of Lindorf Street and Clay Road. We think these issues should be addressed prior to any new projects being constructed in a neighborhood that may contribute to some additional flow of stormwater in these aforementioned streets and roads.
3. Will create unnecessary, dangerous entrances/exits onto Clay Road.
4. Will Increase usage to both the Port Ewen Water & Sewer Districts in which there are already unknown answers regarding the current capacity of both districts.
5. Possibly create over capacity conditions to our local elementary school, causing some Town children to be bussed to other schools.
6. Create financial burdens for existing homeowners/taxpayers in the way of lower property values, increased cost for sewer and water services, and repairs needed due to increased water issue from drainage. (i.e. see comment in #2 above).
7. Does not meet the character of the Clay Road/Lindorf Street/Roger Street and Mountain View Road neighborhood, not only in the type of residential use (1-2 family versus multi-family dwellings) but also in its massive size facing the residential area of Clay Road, 160 feet long by 60 feet deep and some 40- 45 feet in height.
8. Will impair the mental and physical well-being of the existing homeowners/taxpayers of the Clay Road/Lindorf Street/Roger Street and Mountain View Road neighborhood.

We also believe, the applicant has not, to date, submitted a complete application for review and the project seems to have some unanswered zoning issues that may need to be addressed.

Barbara Carroll, 678 Old Post Rd. Acknowledged Holly for verifying the opinion petition format for reconsideration of the Noise Ordinance is an acceptable format. They are still obtaining signatures and will submit in the future. ** Format holds no bearing in this particular instance because it is just to share their opinion and hold no legal obligation on the Board's part to resurrect the law.

Christine Fabbie, Heavenly Valley Thanked the staff for renovating the tennis court at Ross Park. The street sweepers were in Heavenly Valley today and she said they did a superb job. She said she just wanted to take the time because she doesn't feel the Board hears the positive as much as the negative feedback, so she wanted to make sure she conveyed her complements.

Dylan Lacombe 354 Broadway Ulster Park wondered if the Town was continuing with the goals outlined in the town comprehensive plan update done in 2019 that he found on the website. Also, he wanted to know where to go to view the processes and decisions that have been made by all Town Boards concerning the Lighthouse Village proposal. Is there anyway the Board can explain to us what the definition of a neighborhood is?

Tim Triscari submitted a handout to the Board relating to the definition of a neighborhood.

Stephen Cerini Mountainview Ave. recognized Building/Grounds, the Water Department, and the Highway Department for all of the excellent work that has been done around town. He also made his annual appeal to ask people to tolerate things like the dandelions for a little while until the other flowers come in bloom to support the bees.

Councilman Geuss replied to some of the questions/comments:

In 2019/2020 a Stormwater Task Force was formed and worked with Tighe & Bond. The study was done throughout the town hamlets and Clay Road was a big factor in that. Pipe was purchased at the end of the year for the past 2 -3 years. \$50,000 each year was approximately spent. Pipe and catch basins are stored at the Highway Dept. so they can be installed to address the areas identified in the study.

Last year Clay Road was on the list to start but unfortunately there was a major wash out of Hudson Lane where they had to rebuild the road and drainage was addressed. There was also a wash out in Sleightsburgh that took a lot of time. The work done on Horton Lane was a follow-up from a previous project. Those three areas being done last year didn't leave much time for the Highway Department to get to what was scheduled; not saying Clay Rd. wasn't an issue. Councilman Geuss said he would follow up with Mike Cafaldo to see when he plans to get started. We do have the right to get on near Harry Van Vliet's property and plan to work their way up. Councilman Geuss said he owes a few people in the neighborhood updates and asked them to share info with the neighbors so they can spread the word with the plan of action and when it can possibly start. Superintendent Cafaldo was unable to make it to the

meeting but will try to get there for the workshop. Councilman Geuss ensured them the project was not forgotten about.

Councilman Geuss replied to Mrs. Lettieri's comments regarding the traffic study on the bend. The Sheriff Dept. also patrolled the area, but it was closer to school; it was not the traffic study for the proposed Lighthouse Village. Councilman Geuss addressed Mr. LaComb - The Board has not seen anything in front of them. They will not really see anything because it is a Planning Board issue. The only way the Town Board would see it is if the project was in the new mixed floating zone. In that area, the Board works with applicants beforehand to review the project. Some asked if the Board approved the bus shelter and he explained there is standard regulations for glass bus shelters.

A question regarding manholes that was made at a previous Planning Board meeting was asked by the audience and if it had anything to do with Lighthouse Village. Councilman Geuss said the Water Department has been looking into the Interceptor lines for some time and this was not related to that study. It was deemed we needed to repair these two because they were getting the ground water into the sewer line. A grant was received to continue the manhole projects because the issue had been previously recognized.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GEUSS. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

WURTS STREET BRIDGE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION AND REQUEST

Neville Bean and Robert Vandeweghe are filmmakers working on a documentary about the renovation of the beautiful Wurts Street Bridge after a century of spanning the Rondout Creek. This suspension bridge connects the City of Kingston and Port Ewen and was built as the last link of roadway running continuously from NYC to Albany and opened with great fanfare in 1921. The bridge is also a metaphor connecting communities, connecting the past to the present... connecting us with those who came before. We look forward to its reopening!

While renovating this century-old structure, a completely forgotten time capsule, its contents ruined by time, was discovered. We are organizing a special event in celebration of a new time capsule asking the question; "What is your message to the future?" We would love for you to participate in this celebration.

The Time Capsule Exhibition unfurls Father's Day Weekend, June 17th and 18th, 2023. The Event will take place at the Barn at the Maritime Museum on the Rondout in Kingston, NY. They would like the Board's feedback on best ways to invite the Port Ewen and Connelly communities. We are also hoping you might recommend a spokesperson to speak about the bridge from the Esopus perspective. Perhaps shine a light on the rich history of the area and the compelling personalities that reach out to us from the past. The Event: This FREE community

engagement event is part of the larger documentary project. The exhibition will feature displays of materials (artwork and interviews) that have been created for the time capsule. At the family friendly event, they will have a community arts workshop for kids and their families and an opportunity for visitors to record their own message to the future as well as write messages in a bottle for the Time Capsule. Contributing organizations and guest politicians will be part of the proceedings with displays and tabling opportunities. They will have food and musical performances. Talks and displays will put the history of the Wurts Street Bridge, the Rondout Creek and the neighborhoods in historic perspective.

They will be documenting the whole process. The documentary film itself has a three-pronged message:

- Highlighting the extraordinary engineering of the bridge reconstruction.
- Communicating the importance of preserving our built historic inheritance.
- Celebrating this vibrant, creative community of individuals and organizations that make this area a sought-out destination.

A follow up meeting will be set up to see how we can get people involved and creating awareness. Town of Esopus is onboard.

MID-HUDSON NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) REQUEST

Andrea Ralfielle Daskie with NAMI Mid-Hudson has requested the town to proclaim May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Esopus.

NAMI-MH volunteers will be responsible for putting up the ribbons during the weekend of April 29th and remove them no later than June 1st, 2023. The eco-safe ribbons will be the same as we used in past years: 4-inch-wide white ribbons with our NAMI logo, website information, and our message: Find Help. Find Hope.

NAMI-Mid Hudson's mission is to continue to preserve the dignity and improve the quality of life for all families, caregivers, and individuals living with a mental health condition and to eliminate the stigma of discrimination and prejudice surrounding mental health conditions. By advocating for a more compassionate community, NAMI-MH continues to save lives by changing the face on mental illness and bringing mental wellness to our community.

The Board was in agreement to give permission to the volunteers of NAMI-MH to display ribbons throughout the town to create Mental Health awareness.

She asked the Town to consider putting information on the website and becoming familiar with classes so we can share the information with the community. There are support groups and free educational programs for individuals and families. Information can be found at contact@namimidhudson.org.

TOWN BOARD LIAISON UPDATES

Town Clerk Holly Netter will be attending the Annual (NYSTCA) New York State Town Clerk Association conference in Syracuse from April 23-April26.

Councilman Laura Robinson –

Eagle Scout completed the Gaga Pit

Sometime in May the Planters will be going up through town.

5/13 Planters will be put together at the Town Hall if anyone is interested in helping.

Rec commission planning 3 movie nights with food trucks at the park

KATHIE QUICK

Waterfront Advisory Board continues to work on the Revitalization Plan

ZBA/ Planning - Homework is to research the meaning of Character of a Neighborhood

Assessor will deliver the Tax Roll to the Town Clerks office on May 1. Shannon will schedule the dates for sitting with the roll for people to view after hours.

Environmental Board is having an Earth Day event in the community center on Sunday April 23rd.

NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR April 2023.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS APRIL 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

WHEREAS the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND	231122 - 231183	\$103,292.07
HIGHWAY FUND	232058-232085	\$61,770.62
STREETLIGHTS	236000-236001	\$14,149.17
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	233051-233071	\$ 17,245.67
PORT EWEN WATER	234038 - 234060	\$43,895.32
Capital Water	235002-235003	\$56,934.50

ARPA	237000-237002	\$15,294.72
Visa		
		\$312,582.07

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK

COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON	AYE
COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE	AYE
COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK	AYE
COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS	AYE
SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER	AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

KEY UPCOMING DATES – CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS:

- 4.23 Earth Day Event + Sapling Giveaway hosted by Environmental Board
- 5.4 Next Town Board Workshop
- 5.6 Riverkeeper Sweep (Registration now open)
- 5.29 Memorial Day Parade in partnership with American Legion Post 1298
- Town Hall Closed

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:08 PM TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS. THE BOARD INVITED BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCER MARK JAFFEE INTO THE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:16 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: NONE

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:16 PM TO CONDUCT A PHONE INTERVIEW FOR THE SEASONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS POSITION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:25PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO HIRE BRADLEY CLARK AT THE RATE OF \$16 FOR THE SEASONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS POSITION TO BEGIN MAY 15, 2023, WITH AN END DATE TO BE DETERMINED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE, AT 9:26 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter

Town Clerk, RMC