

**Town Board Workshop Meeting
April 7, 2022**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop meeting was held in person at the Esopus Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY. on Thursday April 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance;

**Supervisor Danielle Freer
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Geuss
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Laura Robinson**

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC

4 ways to give public comment:

In person at meeting

Phone – 845 331 0676

Email – lreynolds@esopus.com with subject line “Public Comment” and meeting date

Mail – Town of Esopus PO BOX 700 Port Ewen, NY 12466

**Public Hearing on Local Law 1 of 2022 Accessory Marina Campgrounds was held prior to this meeting

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING AT 7:14 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Marta, Sleightsburgh gate is inconsistent and not closing every night. He said the new signs looked good. He asked about the backside of the trail not having signage. There is still a trail open and asked if they both should be closed. Chris also reported that there was an individual who was taking down trees and felt the trees were being removed from the Spit property not on the landowner's property.

Councilman Geuss said two sensors for the gate have been ordered, they believe this will eliminate the need for the blacktop pad. There are constant eyes on the park watching to make sure everything is good.

Supervisor Freer said they have met with the insurance agency and placement of the signage on the trail is sufficient.

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

Zoning Board Application Fee Change Request

April 7, 2022

TYPE	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Residential	\$100 + \$15 / Dwelling Unit	\$200
Commercial	\$300 + \$45/1,000ft. of building area	\$300
Appeals	\$0	\$100
Public Hearing	\$200	\$200
Use Variance	\$0	Replenishable ESCROW of \$500

COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ZONING BOARD APPLICATION FEE CHANGE REQUEST. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO APPOINT ALTERNATE TO THE ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT LISA MANCE AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AS REQUESTED BY THE PLANNING BOARD CHAIR, ROXANNE PECORA, TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2023. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

RENTAL FEE WAIVER REQUEST TEVAS

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE THE RENTAL FEE FOR FREER PARK AND USE OF THE KITCHEN FOR THE TEVAS APPRECIATION PICNIC WITH THE UNDERSTANDING TEVAS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING AN ALCOHOL PERMIT AND PROVIDING A COPY OF THEIR INSURANCE NAMING THE TOWN OF ESOPUS AS AN ADDITIONAL INSURED TO THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND

Supervisor Freer

Justice Court – Janine Harris resigned, and we are looking for a new court clerk, job description will be posted tomorrow. Pierce Gallagher is in school 4/6/22-4/12/22 and is sitting in with the Judges to observe during court.

ERT – Supervisor Freer provided an update on ongoing efforts to retable the Esopus Response Team. Work is being done to figure out Town’s role within existing efforts already put in place by the County and our local first responders. This group will continue to plan, and once specific names and roles are determined, they will explore making this an official ad hoc committee.

ARPA Planning – All Town Board members are to be culminating their “wish lists” from groups they are liaisons to. Continued discussions and planning with Laberge.

Town Clerk – Ross Park-Ulster Phillies will be using the field 6pm – 8pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mid May – October and Sunday Mornings 9am – 12pm. They will be setting up their batting cage and making updates. They will be donating \$500 to the Town for the use of the field.

HV Soccer Stars adaptive soccer program will use the field Sept 18- November 6 from 11 am – 1 pm. There is a small overlap in time that can be worked out.

Mid Hudson Tiger U9 & U11 baseball is also requesting use of Ross for practice; more information is needed.

Cas Landi Park- Kingston Thunder is looking to grow their youth soccer program for children 12 – 15 years old. The organization runs a highly competitive league and are looking for a home field. They are a not for profit and have insurance. They are requesting use of 3 evenings a week and a weekend game on either Saturday’s or Sunday’s from 10 am – 2 pm. Only conflict is Saturday Aug 6th when the drum corps will be using the field for practice for the March of Champions. Councilman Geuss said he had received comments in the past that people park and block stop signs. Suggests placing cones to keep everyone safe.

Update Kayak Shed Freer Park - A request is being made to relocate and build a separate space for the rowboat used for the water chestnut machine. Currently the boat is being stored on its

side, is very heavy and difficult to remove from the shed. A proposal of building a space on the rear of the kayak shed to accommodate the boat has been made. By doing so it would allow the boat to be stored in such a way that the wheels are usable for easier access in and out of the shed. Also, by relocating the rowboat it would allow space for 3 additional kayaks to be stored. Board was in favor of looking into the additional storage option.

Supervisor Freer said she felt the fob price was a barrier for some and asked the Board to consider amending the Sleightsburgh fob fee to \$50 for the 2022-2023 season. Kathie Quick said she felt that was more reasonable; cameras and the gate add more security. Laura Robinson said it was a good idea to lower. Councilman Geuss said in the Scenic Hudson contract it mentions fees may be charged but should not be prohibitive costs for use of the park; would entertain lowering cost so more can take advantage of the park. Councilman Clarke thought there may be too many people interested if the price was lowered. The vote was tabled for a future meeting.

Councilman Geuss

Water & Sewer Department- Nick Butler, Water Superintendent has drafted a letter for the Board to review. Not everyone in the water district has had their equipment swapped out for the new remote read meter. There is an issue with Connelly Terrace where the owner of the land and structure differs. Nick would like the property manager or maintenance from Connelly terrace present when those meters are installed because the Town is not responsible for old pipes. The plan is to replace all other meters prior to starting Connelly Terrace.

Planning Board – Burg field Property /Esopus Farms (Streamside Farms) Development had requested not to schedule a public hearing at this time and will return at a later date.

Transfer Station all is well, Central Hudson owes us a pole.

Councilman Quick

Zoning Board of Appeals -The ZBA did not meet during the month of March. They will be meeting on April 19 at 7 PM in the Town of Esopus Community Center. There will be a discussion regarding property at 15 North Broadway regarding a variance.

Waterfront Advisory Board -The Riverkeeper Riversweep will be held this year on May 7th. Some of the locations in the Town of Esopus will be Lighthouse Park/Esopus Meadows Parks, Sleightsburgh Park, James Rieker Park in Connelly, Freer Beach Park, Mount Community Shoreline and the LLC Property in front of Riverview. Due to personnel changes at LaBerge Group, the update of the LWRP was not discussed, but will resume on April 27. Several candidates willing to join the WAB were interviewed.

Assessor's Office-The Assessor has been busy with updating assessments of recent construction and numerous home improvements that were made during 2020-21. There were over 600 properties that needed adjustments. The office has been receiving many new building permits that will need a review. The Assessor's Office is working a tentative 2022 Tax Roll that is due by May 1. The Assessor is also busy furthering her required education.

Councilman Clarke

EB / Environmental Board

- Member Lee Gough article in “The River; A Project of Chronogram” – The Champlain Hudson Power Express – Not the Green Energy We Want. Cited the effects on the river ecosystem, drinking water for the Hudson 7 towns.
- Goals for 2022 – Working on list/prioritizing
 - o Charging Stations - Member Nina Nichols applying for Central Hudson Grant to install a EV charging station at T/Hall
- Greenway Grant – L. Petit working with Matt Rogers to write grant proposal
- River Clean Sweep – May 7 with RiverKeepers; additional sites (LightHouse Park, Reiker Park, Freer Park)
- Sapling Giveaway at the Transfer Station – Also pollinators, milkweed (takes about 3 years to grow) to attract Monarchs. Mark orders through D. Kain for about 50 giveaways. Will also contact DEC for free giveaways.
- MS4 education – Will provide Stormwater Management Education to the public

EDC / Esopus Development Committee

- New volunteer – Courtney Schwam – T/B approved
- Commercial Property list form for businesses – Mike Rice re-designed the form which links to the T/E website
- Revamping brochure
- Newsletter updated – provide business exposure, outreach
- Kiosks
 - o Perrine’s Bridge – Highway and Parks Dept. will revamp our current parking lot, EDC will add kiosk and discussions of a “Perrine’s Bridge Walk” from existing parking lot are ongoing.

Building Dept

- Following up on property violations

Councilman Robinson

Esopus Egg Hunt has been postponed to Sunday April 10th 2-4 pm due to the inclement weather expected on Saturday.

We are resuming Freer Food Truck Fridays this summer at Freer Park in Port Ewen. This year, we will do two nights, both second Fridays in June and August; Friday, June 10 and Friday, August 12, 4pm-8pm

General Code

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE TO AUTHORIZE THE UPGRADE OF THE CURRENT E CODE SUBSCRIPTION FROM LITE TO PREMIUM; ANNUAL COST \$1,195. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR FREER. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:45 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES FOR THE WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD AND TO DISCUSS AN ONGOING LITIGATION MATTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCILMAN JARED GUESS MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:30 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

INTERVIEW ACTION

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT TIM TRISCARI AS A MEMBER OF THE WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2023 AND LYNN CORCORAN JOHNSTON AS A MEMBER OF THE WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2022. THE MOTION WAS SECOND BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

LITIGATION ACTION – NONE

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS AT 9:33 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,
Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC*