

**Town Board Workshop Meeting
June 2, 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 June 2, 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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Steve Cerini , Mountainview Ave. Acknowledged the American Legion, Town Staff and Highway Department for their hard work put forth with the Memorial Day parade.

Lynn Corcoran Johnston , Doris St inquired about the pit dug at Rieker field filled with water and insects. Councilman Geuss said he met with the contractor today, they are bringing in backfill and making sure all is good before they pore the floor for the pavilion.

She also said traffic control has been discussed in Connelly for over a year and residents recommended where signs should be placed. There has been a lot of discussion over placement. Supervisor Freer said in December the Highway Superintendent gave his recommendation of what signs would be placed and where and said she respects his decision. Signage includes a stop sign, children in area, and 2 new speed limit signs. Deputy Supervisor Shannon Harris conducted the meeting in December and shared the final ruling on Superintendent Cafaldo’s decision.

Nina Nichols, Connelly Community Garden proposal.

Nina and other members of the Connelly community are proposing a community garden at Rieker Park. The intention is to bring the community together and have more opportunity to meet neighbors while growing food or flowers. The garden would be a wonderful space for educational and intergenerational learning.

There would be one garden coordinator responsible for emailing neighbors about events, build days, potlucks etc. One compost coordinator in charge of checking the composting and it would not include food waste. Lee Gough has offered to be the compost specialist and ensured if done properly it would not smell. One pollinator garden coordinator to weed and manage the pollinators around the edge of the garden. The group felt it should be a fairly easy project. They would also like it to be assessable for individuals who are elderly or disabled and need assistance. Each participant would receive a 10' x 10' raised plot which will be their responsibility. A deer fencing will surround the garden with some pollination flowers planted around the periphery. The project is expected to cost approximately \$2,300. She felt people would be able to donate some of the wood and items they had around their home to reduce the cost. All labor will be donated. On their wish list but not included in the price is a wheelchair ramp, a municipal water spigot and drinking fountain.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO ALLOW THE CONNELLY GARDEN GROUP TO EXPLORE THE BUILDING OF THE PROJECT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Lightning Round Updates

Supervisor Freer-

Highway- Finished the major work on Hudson Lane, paving still needs to be completed. They will be moving down to Sleightsburgh to address an issue and then onto Horton Lane. Councilman Geuss said last year Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo said he would split the staff into 2 crews; one for paving and one for stormwater so we can move ahead with both projects simultaneously.

Court – Court Clerk position has been filled and we will meet the new clerk soon

Ulster County American Legion – would like a display case in the community center under their plaques on the wall. Need to check size of case and if it locks since the community center is rented on a regular basis.

David Longendyke and Louis Timperio – Display case needs locks on main court floor. They will be changing the display to show history of the town.

Transfer Station – Lenny found a company that has a donation box (styled like a clothing donation box) to collect recycled books which are heavy. The Board was in agreement to allow Lenny to pursue the placement of the donation box. The mission of the box is to “keep books out of the landfills and in the hands of readers” Books are either sold, donated or made into pulp.

Councilman Jared Geuss –

Water Department - Plant had a break on a 12-inch line over the weekend. Jared, Nick Butler, Department of Health and Brinnier and Larios met and came up with 2 temporary fixes. They were able to pull off a permanent fix by midnight and there were no service interruptions for residents

Freer Pump Station was serviced today

Letters were sent in the mail to residents with broken meters as well as residents who need new water meters.

Planning Board

Rescheduled their 5/16/22 meeting due to the impending storm; meeting was held 5/23. End cut patio extension was approved and can move onto zoning. Port Ewen Fire Department is looking into a subdivision. They are continuing to move forward on the firehouse. Next Planning Board date is June 29th.

Kathie Quick- Zoning Board of Appeals

The ZBA met on Tuesday, May 17 at 7 PM

1. There was an informational meeting on the revised plan Area Variance for George Cuney at 159 Clay Road.
2. There was also an informational meeting for a variance regarding the height of a fence for Daniel and Marianne Frampton 20 Old Mill Road
3. There was a Public Hearing for a Use Variance pursuant to Chapter 123-44 (A1) Port Ewen Corp., 15 North Broadway. There were comments pro and con. They voted to close the Public Hearing
4. A motion was made to go into executive session to interview potential candidates. Members will email their choices to the Secretary to be forwarded to the Town Board.

Waterfront Advisory Board

The WAB met on Wednesday June 1 at 7 PM

1. David Gilmour of LaBerge Group presented design guidelines for the LWRP. Next step will be advancing projects for Freer Park.
2. Discussion of the Draft Local Law 1 of 2022, led by Chet Allen.
Members decided to revert to original wording that at no time will there be more than 15 campsites.
3. Members agreed to change p 13 (j) requiring staff to be available on site or by telephone to be available on site within 10 minutes or if there are special events someone needs to be present.
4. Members suggested to change the quiet time p 14 (o) (l) from 9 PM to 10 PM on weekends and remain 9 PM on weekdays.
5. Chester has been serviced and is ready for training and a refresher for those previously trained, which will begin on 6/2.
6. Carol had a conversation with the DEC regarding a permit to be issued to cut near Sleightsburgh. She will forward a summary of that conversation to all members of the WAB.

Assessor's Office

This month the Assessor's Office met/spoke over the phone with dozens of residents about changes to their assessments. The Assessor negotiated 11 "stipulation settlements" with residents prior to Grievance Day. This reduced the number of grievances filed to 6 grievances in total. The Board of Assessment Review met for two sessions on Grievance Day, which was on Tuesday, May 24th. The "BAR" fulfilled its duties and reviewed the stipulation settlements and all grievance petitions in detail. The BAR affirmed the Assessor's decision in all cases after much discussion.

Seniors

The Esopus Seniors had a chance to complete a Defensive Driver class, which was full. Another Defensive Driver class has been scheduled on August 15 from 10 AM to 4 PM. There will be a speaker, Rose Gagnion, RN at our meeting on June 6 at 1 PM. We will be going on a trip to a Strawberry Festival, BBQ lunch and a musical tribute to female country singers at the Summit View Park in Holyoke, MA on June 15.

Scenic Hudson

I responded to a request for a meeting with Ned Sullivan, one of the leaders of Scenic Hudson. He has been asked to inquire if we would be willing to change the color of our water treatment plant to a color that would blend in with the colors of the shoreline. The person requesting this is a landowner and would be willing to pay for the paint and expenses getting this accomplished. I told him that I would present this to the Town Board and the Water Treatment Superintendent before we would be able to make a decision on this. He suggested that we could be artistic with our designs. I think several people need to think this over before we respond.

**Councilman Evelyn Clark
EB / Environmental Board**

- Climate Smart Communities
 - o EV Charging station Central Hudson grant application is being worked on by Nina Nichols with the Town
 - o Lee Gough is working with the county's Solar Mapping Committee
 - o Green Fleet Inventory
 - o Laura Petit, Mark Ellison developing action steps
 - o Repair Café – June 25 at Ascension Church Rt 9W
 - Qualifies for points for Climate Smart Communities
- MS4 education – Will provide Stormwater Management Education to the public

EDC / Esopus Development Committee

- Planters placed May 9th. American Legion provided flags
- Event Calendar on the Town's website. Provide communication and coordination with Town agencies, businesses to provide information regarding upcoming events
- Headless Horseman event – Raised funds to provide scholarships for 7-8 youth

Building Dept

- Request for P/T staff
 - o Staff needed for 2023 FY to provide the added code enforcement which will be needed due to new/updated codes (B&B, short term rentals, etc)
- Code Violations
 - o 9W property is being cleaned up
 - o Meeting with attorneys to close out the injunction regarding the property violations

Camp Esopus

- Registrations
 - o Session 1 – 16 youth
 - o Session 2 – 11 youth
 - o Session 3 – 5 youth
- Scholarships and donations for youth on waitlist in need of funding
 - o Please add donation information on the Town website
 - o Contact Jhaunelle Anderson janderson@ymcaulster.org or Karen Rutkowski krutkowski@ymcaulster.org (845) 338-3810 x122

Councilman Laura Robinson-

Hoops purchased for all of the parks, working on estimates for tennis and pickleball improvements

Movie Night Ross Park 7/23, 8/27 Pop Corn and Food Truck vendors, a possible third move on 9/24 Flyers going out next week

Freer Food Truck Friday June 17th 4pm – 8 pm

Eagle Scout working on getting donations for the Gaga pit at Ross Park

Cas Landi updating planting and sign

Strawberry Festival June 11, noon – 5 pm Klyne Museum

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:20 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING FOR VACANCIES ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:58 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT KATHY MURPHY TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2022. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS AT 9:00 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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