

**Town Board Workshop Meeting  
June 6, 2024**

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 6, 2024, 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 – [ireynolds@esopus.com](mailto:ireynolds@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**

**PUBLIC COMMENT -**

**Joanne Mead, Esopus Ave.** Came to inquire about work being done on the Millbrook Stream and Mountainview Ave. She asked if the Town was getting fined by the DEC and were permits issued to perform the work. This was prompted by a letter she received from an undisclosed towns person who slipped it into her door at home. She said she is a peer advocate, so she gets things like this relating to children’s welfare.

Councilman Geuss and Supervisor Freer responded no, the Town was no fined by the DEC. The work was done as part of the Stormwater Management Plan. Highway had approval from the DEC. A subcontractor was used to perform the work to expedite the process due to the heavy rains.

**Steven Cerini 257 Mountain Ave** update from the Tree Task committee, the planting by the Welcome Sign by the Wurtz Street Bridge and Connelly will be done within the week.

Supervisor Freer said the documentary grand opening of the Wurtz St. Bridge originally planned for 7/4/24, has been put on hold by the State, more to come.

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

### **FARMERS MARKET PROPOSAL**

Guests: Joanne Dorcent, Jimmy Germain and Marie Mezile shared their ideas of hosting a Farmers Market weekly on Fridays at Ross Park. Supervisor Freer and Town Clerk Netter had a previous meeting with them on May 20th to discuss their vision of the event.

Freedom First LLC 's mission statement is to provide significant benefits to both consumers and producers in the Town of Esopus, the objective will be to offer consumers access to fresh locally grown produce and other food items. By partnering with programs like NYS FreshConnect and My Manage Market, they will be able to enhance products affordability by providing vouchers and incentives for purchasing healthy foods at these markets. It will also support local economies and small-scale farmers by creating direct sales opportunities.

They plan to collaborate with local businesses for cross-promotions and community events that can further enhance attendance and customer loyalty. Implementing a rewards or loyalty program can encourage repeat business. Sending out newsletters and promotional emails can help keep their customer base informed about market events and special offers. Flyers, local churches, word of mouth and business to business advertisement will be used.

The question of whether having multiple markets in the area would cause confusion. Original thoughts were to have all interested parties wishing to have a farmers' market have a meeting to collaborate and work together. There is also a concern relating to the advertising of various events in Town and how the name can cause confusion. It makes people think it is an event being put on by the Town, when it is a different organization.

The group will make sure all vendors have their own insurance in addition to the overall insurance provided by the event hosts. Garbage is a concern and will need to be addressed. The Town will discuss whether it is a standard cost factored into the rental. All vendors should dispose of their own garbage. They are considering every Friday from 2 pm – 6 pm utilizing the former skating rink area. They anticipate charging between \$30 and \$50 per vendor.

Once the Town gives them approval to host the event, they will apply to the state, so they are able to get their SNAP and FreshConnect approval.

**MOTION TO MOVE**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON TO MOVE FORWARD ALLOWING FREEDOM FIRST TO HOST A FARMERS' MARKET AT ROSS PARK EVERY FRIDAY FROM 2 PM – 6 PM CONTINGENT ON RESEARCH AND MARSHALL AND STERLINGS APPROVAL OF THE EVENTS. THIS WILL ALLOW FREEDOM FIRST TO START THEIR NECESSARY APPROVALS WHILE DETAILS REGARDING PAPERWORK AND RENTAL PRICING IS DETERMINED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**ULSTER COUNTY "SAFE START TO SUMMER" TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

Ulster County has purchased portable radar feedback speed sign kits for use by municipalities to help address speed concerns as well as to collect data on speed patterns that can inform future enforcement efforts and traffic-calming measures. Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis, initially limited to one per municipality. Supervisor Freer will make the request for Broadway. In addition, the Town speed sign will be moved throughout the town on roads set as trouble areas. They will see if the data from our machine can be collected and shared with the Ulster County Sheriffs office.

**REVISED ESCROW RESOLUTION FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Supervisor Freer will revisit the Resolution that was drafted for the ZBA Escrow Fee with Paul Kellar. There is already a fee schedule in place so it will be determined if we need a new resolution or if the Escrow can be a revision to the current fee schedule.

**REAPPOINTMENT OF FRANK SKERRITT TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - ALTERNATE**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO REAPPOINT FRANK SKERRITT AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE ZBA WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND:**

Supervisor Freer:

Highway Department- Supervisor Freer has been checking on the status of work being completed by the Highway department in Superintendent Cafardo's absence.

Waterfront Advisory Board- June meeting canceled, looking for volunteers to cut the water chestnuts.

CHPE response – 102 pages essentially says everything we requested in our feedback to the EM&CP was unreasonable. WE are reviewing with our legal counsel.

TBWS 06/06/2024

Councilman Quick

ZBA – deck was approved

Assessor -finishing up with grievance day

Seniors – Ice cream social 6/17 at Freer Park 1 pm

Councilman Robinson

Old tennis court fencing at Cas Landi will be removed, they will pave the court, put in the new poles and fencing will be erected. We will continue to work through next steps on overall playground revamp.

**KEY UPCOMING DATES – VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

6.6 Water Chestnut Cutting Volunteer Session at 6:30pm at the Highway Garage

6.19 Town Hall Closed: Juneteenth

7.4 Town Hall Closed: Independence Day

Town Board Workshop Cancelled

7.18 Next Town Board Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:25 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*