

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 4, 2019**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held by the Town of Shawangunk Town Board, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building, 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY on the 4th day of April 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Matthew Watkins and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also present was Highway Superintendent Joe LoCicero, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, County Legislator Ken Ronk, Planning Board member Rich Barnhart and several members of the community.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Emergency exits were announced by Supervisor Valk, followed by a brief moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The approval of minutes from the March 21, 2019 meeting was tabled until April 18, 2019.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received: News Release dated 3/22/19 regarding a prescribed burn at Shawangunk Grasslands was received; Public Hearing Notice from Town of Mamakating for a DEIS and Draft comprehensive Plan on 4/16/19 was received; letter from Sal Patella dated 3/27/19 regarding Red Top Road was received.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

### **Holiday Decorations**

Mr. Sal Patella, representing the Wallkill Lions Club, discussed the quote that was obtained for the LED light bulbs for the wreaths at the last Town board meeting. He explained that the quote was for a better quality bulb which has a stronger filament inside and burns brighter. Supervisor Valk stated that he also located a price for purchasing in volume at \$1.07 each with the price being good for the entire year. Mr. Valk also explained that he spoke to the company regarding the purchase of the wreaths, and the price was extended until tomorrow. He stated the decision that was reached is the best option, and the wreaths will be ordered at this time. The purchasing of the bulbs can be held off until October since the price is good all year.

### **Bridge Parking Area**

County Legislator Ken Ronk reported that he met with the Lions Club regarding the county owned parcel of land which is about 1/3 of an acre. Mr. Ronk stated that he has walked to the parcel several times this past week and has realized how beautiful it is. He has spoken to the county, the town and the Lions Club on the plan for this parcel. The Lions Club will take responsibility for the maintenance if the town would maintain the ownership. Mr. Sal Patella explained that the Lions Club would fund improvements and maintain them. The improvements may consist of tables & benches, plants, possibly a patio area and mulch. He spoke of the Trees for Trails Program.

Mr. Ronk stated that today he met with Supervisor Valk, the County Commissioner of Public Works Engineer and the Deputy County Executive. The plan is to make the parcel safe. Mr. Ronk explained that the county is not interested in keeping ownership. Currently the parcel is on the tax sale list. The county is willing to deed the parcel over to the town at no cost. They county is willing to install a guard rail at the roadside. The county will also bring in a machine and materials to clean up, grade and seed the parcel prior to deeding it over to the town. Councilman DeWitt inquired if there was a parking plan. Mr. Ronk stated there is no way to create parking spots, provisions for a wider shoulder will be provided. Supervisor Valk stated the parcel will be offered for sale on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ronk stated they will try to have it removed from the sale. Supervisor Valk stated that the board members have been concerned with the town acquiring additional parkland. He stated that this will be a walking park only. Mr. Patella stated that this is a great opportunity to enhance the parcel. Residents have been upset with the lack of the river view since the new bridge was built. This is what motivated the Lions Club, to provide residents the opportunity for a good view of the river. Mr. Ronk stated that just by cleaning up and thinning the trees, it will enhance the view of the river. He encouraged everyone to take a walk over the bridge to the parcel as the view is very scenic. Mr. Ronk suggested the town could post a no parking zone to eliminate any liability. Mr. Ronk also advised that the county will be out to trim the branch that is obstructing the light on the pole.

Councilman Miller inquired since the bridge and the road are county owned, if they would consider putting in a crosswalk to the parcel. He also inquired if the guardrails will have a break in them so people can get in.

Mr. Ronk stated the county probably would not install crosswalks because of the expense. It would have to be ADA complaint and curb cuts would have to be installed. Possibly the sight distance may be an issue as well. Supervisor Valk stated that this solution would encourage foot traffic across the bridge without having cars pulling off in the area. He stated that cars presently park at their own risk. He also stated that someone could purchase the parcel and apply to do something with it. He feels it would be a bonus for the town and if parking becomes an issue, they can post the no parking signs. Mr. Patella stated that the Lions Club is willing to do the work and on-going maintenance.

Supervisor Valk stated that a lot of work transpired today, he suggested that the Town Board table the issue so they have the time to walk to the parcel and discuss further. Mr. Ronk advised that he will have the parcel pulled from the tax sale. He further advised that other reasonable requests will be considered by Ulster County.

### **Walker Valley Day**

Mr. Charlie Garrison and Joe Russek, who are business people in Walker Valley, spoke to the Town Board about the Shawangunk Day plans for 2019. Mr. Garrison explained that the event will be held at one location this year instead of being spread out. It will be held at the Walker Valley Firehouse. The quilt and art show will be held inside, the food vendors will be in one area, the Touch-A-Truck in another. The fire trucks will be parked at the veterinarian's office for easy access in case of an emergency. Parking will be off site at the corner lot on Route 52 that is owned by Mr. Russek. A shuttle bus will bring people up to the Firehouse. Presently they have the Paint Up Walker Valley program going on which will be displayed and raffled off at Shawangunk Day. Mr. Garrison explained that they have come to the Town Board to inquire how to gain access to the Community Enhancement funds to