

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

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 at 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY on the **17th of November 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor John Valk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Robert Miller, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Building Inspector Robert Wallner, Zoning Board Member Ryan Reid, Planning Board Chairman Mark Watkins, and several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Valk led the Town Board in a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Danon to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and the minutes of the Public Hearings held on November 3, 2022.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, aye, Councilman Miller, aye, Councilman Amthor, aye, Supervisor Valk, abstain.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Public Hearing notice from the Town of Montgomery on 11/30/22 for Mobile Food Vehicles. Report on Climate Smart Resilience Priorities was received on 11/07/22.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Events**

Donna Barczak and Kathryn Hupczey, representing Vision of Wallkill were present to provide an update on the "Holidays in the Hamlet". Ms. Hupczey explained that the sponsorships and generous donations have been overwhelming. Many residents and businesses are excited to be a part of the "marketplace". Ms. Barczak advised that the Lions Club is providing quotes for the wreaths and tree. Councilman DeWitt reported that he spoke to a local tree service company who offered to put the wreaths and tree decorations up. He advised that this needs to be done by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman DeWitt provided the contact information to Ms. Hupczey and recommended she contact the vendor directly to agree to a date. Supervisor Valk inquired if the contractor is willing to come and take the wreaths and decorations down as to not run into a problem like last year. Ms. Barczak reported that there has been a lot of excitement for the event on the Vision Wallkill Facebook page. Ms. Hupczey reported that there will be vendors, food, a D.J. and local choral groups. She asked that if anyone knew of any musicians who would like to perform, tell them they are welcome. Mr. Hupczey thanked the Town Board for their support.

**Signage**

Donna Barczak inquired if the Town Board could place some sort of signage for residents to locate the Community Room. She stated that many people don't know how to get in. Many events are held there and some type of signage on the door would be helpful.

**Knolls Road Driveway**

Supervisor Valk explained that the driveway issue for the Pellegrino Sorice property on Knolls Road had previously been discussed by the Town Board. The matter was sent to the Town Attorney for an opinion. He explained that the Town Board needs to reach a consensus. Councilman Miller stated that there was no note on the approved subdivision map for the driveway location. In 1986 the locations for the improvements were only conceptual. Supervisor Valk noted that a policy was adopted by the Planning Board on November 26, 2006 that driveways needed to be located on the maps. Mr. Valk stated that prior to that policy there were a lot of driveways that were moved.

Chairman Mark Watkins stated that he disagrees because the house was built in 2022. He stated that in the past seventeen years the previous Highway Superintendent and Building Inspector allowed these types of things to happen. Presently there are people in these positions that are doing their jobs. He inquired at what point can they do their jobs. Supervisor Valk noted that in 2006 the houses were located, not the driveways. Since then, there were many improvements that were moved. Followed by a lengthy discussion, Councilman Miller stated, after reviewing the issues with the 1987 site plan approval, those were the rules in effect at that time. There was no stipulation that needed to be followed. Building Inspector Robert Wallner reported that the driveway is reasonably close to where it was proposed. Councilman Miller stated that it is his opinion the site plan in 1987 should be followed. Councilman DeWitt stated that the owner got a driveway permit, a building permit and certificate of occupancy from former employees of the Town. The only issue was the driveway permit was not closed out. Councilman Amthor stated that the current Highway Superintendent was doing his job by reviewing the location of the driveway. The elevation was the reason it was moved, how can we go back and change it now, it was built as per the former Highway Superintendent. Councilman Danon stated his concern is with the locations on the map. Mr. Sorice explained that the reason his engineer changed the location from the map was because it was better site distance. Mr. Watkins stated that the new Highway Superintendent realized that the permit was not closed out and there was a complaint from a neighbor. The maps and locations were reviewed. Mrs. Sorice explained that she called the Town to close out all of the permits, she did not know the driveway permit was not closed out. Building Inspector Wallner explained that the homeowners did nothing wrong. Mr. Sorice stated he has made every attempt to keep the peace with the neighbor. He would like to move forward and get this matter resolved. Zoning Board member Ryan Reid explained that there is case law that the applicant must submit plans all over and the Town could go back and not issue a certificate of occupancy. Supervisor Valk stated that the Town Board would like to rectify what is in front of them presently, he does not feel like they should go back to 1987. Councilman Danon inquired if the former Highway Superintendent issued the permit on site. Mr. Sorice stated that the driveway was staked and approved. Mr. Watkins stated that the new Highway Superintendent does his job where the former one