

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Workshop Meeting of the Durham Town Board held August 1, 2017 at the Town Hall commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Present: William Carr, Supervisor
Shawn Marriott, Deputy Supervisor
Nick Nahas, Councilmember
Jerry Cunningham, Councilmember

Absent: Joan Breslin, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Janet Partridge, Town Clerk

Others Present: Chris Kohrs, Deputy Clerk
Patti Fetty, Deputy Clerk
David Cunningham, Building Inspector
Thomas Sutton, Police Sgt.
Lois Rockefeller, Building Department Clerk
Cindy Moore, Bookkeeper
20 community members

Supervisor Carr called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm followed by the pledge to the flag.

Supervisor Carr read an email from Anthem Sports reminding the community about their 10th Annual Tour of the Catskills on Saturday, August 5th. They also included a course map for anyone interested in a copy.

Carr read an invitation from the Athens American Legion Post 187 for anyone to join them for the Annual Flag Retirement Ritual Ceremony at their Post in Athens, NY on October 14, 2017 at 9:30 am.

Councilmember Nahas read a letter from the NYS Director of the Division for Historic Preservation who agrees with the State Review Board and will now list the Oak Hill Historic District on the State Register of Historic Places. He will also forward the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, DC.

Carr touched base on a phone call his office received from a community member who had rescue animals and the Tuesday night fireworks at Blackthorne Resort scared them. It was explain that Blackthorne Resort had the license to perform the fireworks that are eagerly anticipated each week and we would not be able to stop them but we sympathized with her situation.

Carr received a letter from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation explaining the renewed Air State Facility Permit for GSK was issued and a copy was enclosed.

The County Shared Services update showed that the group did not identify any county wide project where there would be significant savings for the towns to move forward with. The group will start again in September to find a project to come together on.

Legislator Aidan O'Connor arrived. He is looking forward to the shared services meeting starting up in September. He hopes they can have positive conversations to come together on a cost savings project in the upcoming year.

August 15th is the date of the results of Phase 3 of the Broad Band Project, with hopes Durham gets funding for this phase.

O'Connor reported that the new Greene County Jail is on the waiting list and they hope to have more information by the end of the summer to make a decision on it.

A local resident expressed concern that the 10 Mile Creek Project gets underway before it is too late to work in the stream. O'Connor felt it would get underway soon.

He is still planning the September 16th town wide meeting. Looking for all organizations in the town to come together to have a discussion on how to continue to improve our town for the future.

Supervisor Carr received a memo from Jason Priesner, Town Engineer, that Dollar General didn't have the power lines or boxes in yet.

Carr read a letter sent to the town Board from a community member, Jay Garuc, expressing concerns about the sight distance for the Route 145 entrance and exit driveway to Dollar General. He has attended meetings and learned that the Project, as designed, does not meet the sight distance requirements under the NYS DOT rules and regulations. For these reasons, he respectfully requests that the Town Board take all necessary steps to protect the safety and security of all residents who could be harmed by the approval of this Project as currently designed.

Recently Jason Priesner has contacted NYS DOT asking for confirmation that they approve the driveway entrance even though the sight distances do not meeting NYS requirements. In response to his inquiry, NYS DOT is conducting another analysis of the intersection and we are waiting for them to share their findings. The Town is on record as expressing our concerns with this possibly dangerous situation. Garuc asked why

have the Route 145 entrance since there is the Brown Road entrance that can be used. He pointed out that Greenville, Cairo and Tannersville all have Dollar General Stores without state highway entrances. Carr explained the Town Board will wait until they hear back from NYS DOT with their thorough report before decisions are made as to the issuing of a Certificate of Occupancy. Discussion continued as to who had the power to stop the Route 145 driveway construction

Bookkeeper Moore explained she had been contacted by BAS and the town website domain name registry was up for renewal. It would be \$18 a year and the town can renew for 1-9 years. BAS would renew for us, they just need to know how many years to renew.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Marriott to renew the town website domain name, durhamny, through BAS for 9 years at \$18/year, seconded by Nahas, all in favor, motion carried. (4 Yeas, Carr, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott, 1 absent – Breslin)

Linda Sutton announced the Durham Republican Club was hosting a Meet the Candidates Night August 26th from 6-8 in front of the East Durham Hardware Store.

A community member asked about the old equipment stored in the back of the Town Hall property that is unattractive from the road and the trailer park. Carr has walked through the area with Highway Superintendent van Holsteyn. They have worked on getting rid of the scrap metal. There are several pieces that are there for parts. They will look the area over again soon.

Several concerned citizens asked about what progress the town has made on the Furlongs swimming hole issue. Sergeant Sutton reported that some of the affidavits from the surrounding property owners had come back but without Attorney Rapplelea here, he didn't know how many. The police can write parking tickets for parking in the road but not on the side until affidavits are returned and the town has the parking signs put up. Van Holsteyn has made connections to order the signs but doesn't know when he will have them.

A local community member living next to the swimming hole expressed his concern with garbage left on the side of the road, bright lights on at 3 am under the bridge, and people trespassing on posted property. Another member wanted the board to know it was more than the roadside parking that is the problem. It is the drinking, the partying going on down at the creek, and the hypodermic needles found along the creek bed. It was asked how to get more increased patrol. Carr explained they are working on the

problem, but couldn't give a decisive report until he had heard from Rapplelea. He hopes that they will have progress to report at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cunningham to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Nahas, all in favor, motion carried. (4 Yeas, Carr, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott, 1 absent – Breslin)

Respectfully Submitted,

**Janet Partridge,
Clerk/Collector**