

**Town Board Meeting held June 12th, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in**

**Schroon Lake N.Y.**

**Present:**

**Town Supervisor:** Meg Wood

**Councilpersons:** Richard Gero, Lynn Donaldson, Leanna Welch

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Erica Hedden

**Also Present:** Steve Miller, Brian Ritching, Rhett Bessey, Ethan

Thompson, Sue Palisano, Lynette Colden, Molly Colden, Dax Colden, Loris

Clark, Barbara Connor, Brenda Borquist, Albert May

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

**Public Participation:**

Brian Ritching stated that Hunter passed his test; he is an assistant plant operator.

Lynette Colden stated, The Race this weekend was a huge success. Last year when we were in Elizabethtown we had approximately 50 people, and this time there was over 100. Participation was fantastic. We finally got some rain so that washed away the remaining leftover color, I know that was a concern for some. It was important for us that it was biodegradable and non toxic, and could easily be washed away with the rain. We just had to wait a couple days for it to rain. We received a lot of compliments about the race and we really look forward to planning our next event. Hopefully growing in the future.

**PRESENTATION: Schroon- North Hudson Historical Society;**

Hello everyone my name is Brenda Borquist, what I have presented you with tonight is a summary of the boathouse. Our purpose tonight is to inquire about the possibility of getting a New York state historical marker to celebrate the historical significance of our boat house. We are looking to apply for the Pomeroy grant, through the Pomeroy Foundation, which would completely fund the operation with the exception of digging a hole and erecting the pole. The New York state historic markers are granted by the Pomeroy Foundation, there are 800 markers in NY State since 2006, since the Pomeroy Foundation began. They are cast aluminum they are blue with raised gold

letters. We feel that it is so important that the boat house is celebrated. Celebrated for its history as well as educating the public of their own heritage as well as bringing tourists here. The Pomeroy grant covers more than just buildings; they can also cover, people and pieces of property. They do require a permission letter from the property owner, which in this case is the Town of Schroon. The Pomeroy Foundation can issue these grants for things that took place between 1744 and 1922. The boat house was built in 1874. It was built by Augustus Bogel who came from Dover Vermont, with his wife and 6 children. Both he and his wife and children's names appear on the census report of 1870. It also appears in 1872, according to the records and the books of deeds in Elizabethtown. There is a deed that references Augustus buying a piece of property where the boat house sits today. On the map of 1858 there was nothing there, there wasn't even a road there, but on the 1876 map, we see Lake Street there and a small house on the map, and we can see in the water just beyond, a name written, Augustus Bogel. He was an entrepreneur. He knew he could make money in various ways; so he started renting boats on Schroon Lake. He started with 6 row boats, and he increased it next year by adding 11 more. He kept buying until he had a fleet of 53 boats, row boats, and sailboats and eventually one of the steamboats. He and his son Charles Bogel worked together to create the boat launch, which is still in the same place today. He continued to transport passengers until 1915. In 1902 Augustus died, but his son and his grandson continued to run the boathouse. In 1915 they turned the boat house into a service garage for automobiles, and it remained a service garage until the son and grandson had both passed. At that point it was purchased by a member of the Ritter family, who was married to a woman from NYC, Edna Michelle, who played with the Guarneri Quartet. With their purchase, they brought classical music to the boat house. I suspect it was at that time that the stage was built in the boathouse, I do not have any record of that, and it just seems like a likely time. Concerts persisted and in 1976 the property was sold to the town. At some point during this time period there was a town wide survey of the towns' older buildings to determine which would be best to keep or best to demolish, and the boathouse was tagged for demo. Remarkably, it escaped that fate. Look at its history, and how many people have stepped through the boat house, 1874 to today. People from all over the world, from all walks of life have walked through those doors. It's incredible.

The Boathouse really has been a cultural center for the town, and it's still used today, in many facets. So moving forward what we are asking for is a letter of permission, allowing us to go ahead with this. We can't go any further with this until we get the permission. Thank you so much for your time and consideration and we will await your hopefully affirmative response.

**PRESENTATION: Rhett Bessey – Veterans Banners**

Hello everyone, good evening, for those of you who don't know me, I am Rhett Bessey. I am a combat veteran; I served on the global war on terrorism in Afghanistan in 2003. Perhaps while driving through the North Country, many of you have seen the veteran's banners throughout the towns. I want to bring those same banners to our town. When 9/11 happened and I was deployed to Saudi Arabia at the time, when I came home there were flags everywhere, and yellow ribbons on every tree. That was the BEST feeling to come home and see that on every tree. From exit 27 to Plattsburgh, everywhere. With that in mind, I want to express that I am not looking for any financial contribution from the town what so ever, minus what it would cost for the town crew to put banners up. Each banner requires a sponsor which is usually the veterans' family or sometimes local businesses. Each banner costs \$104.95. I am going to pass out a proof of what the banner would look like. There is an additional fee for the brackets to display the flags. I have had meetings and have meetings set up with local businesses to discuss sponsoring the brackets and have had an extremely positive response. Each banner is 2 ft wide by 4 foot in length. Schroon Lake or any hamlet can be put at the top of the banners, even road names. Banners do have to be ordered in sets of 10, if not the price goes up. One unique factor I am hoping to bring to this community is that in addition to our veterans we honor our first responders as well. Schroon Lake has always been rich in community pride with our Fire department and ambulance crew. Banners can be purchased for all those living and deceased; they can be created with or without a photo if one is not available. There is an example of this in Mineville, where there is a banner that has 6 names on it because no photos could be found; it also just happens that those 6 are brothers. After speaking with the town supervisor and the chamber of commerce I understand that the town has plans for the pole on Main Street. Veterans and first responders take it upon themselves to volunteer to protect their community, so what I

propose is to have the banners on the outside of town. That way we can show all those that come to visit that Schroon Lake is protected by the sacrifices of our towns people. A good example of this to is all throughout New Russia, Lewis and Keeseville, there are banners all throughout. I hope that you will consider these banners. Together we can honor all those that served, home and abroad. If you need any other information please contact me, I am happy to answer any questions. There are over 100 different colors and styles to pick from; there are a lot of choices. I am working on getting a sample set up so I can have that to present to you as well. The banners are able to be customized in many ways, with names, areas, we can put multiple names on one banner, and they are extremely flexible and accommodating.

**Resolution #121 Approve Minutes of May 8<sup>th</sup>, and May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meetings**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to approve the minutes of May 8<sup>th</sup>, and May 18<sup>th</sup> 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; Carried

**Resolution #122 Approval of Vouchers**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution Approve the Vouchers, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

General Fund \$ 47,874.84 Sewer \$33,875.37 Water \$ 45,394.28 Highway \$ 40,785.26

Councilwoman Welch stated; we received a bill for 8 tires, the bill included disposal of the tires for \$10 a piece, but we can dispose of them at our facility for \$3.50. I think in the future we need to be mindful of this, disposal fees that we can handle in house, especially for a lower price.

**Resolution #123: Appoint Stephen L Miller to fill vacant seat on Town of Schroon Board From June 12<sup>h</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2023**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution Appoint Stephen L Miller to fill vacant seat on Town of Schroon Board effective June 12th to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2023, unanimous second; carried.

**Oath of Office: Stephen L Miller**

**Resolution #124: Accept resignation of Jane Jenks as member of Town of Schroon Planning Board**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution Accept resignation of Jane Jenks as member of Town of Schroon Planning Board, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

**Resolution #125: Appoint Douglas Bleier to vacant Planning Board seat effective June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution Appoint Douglas Bleier to vacant Planning Board seat, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

**Resolution #126: Approve NYS DOT CHIPS funding, \$271,759.00**

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution Approve NYS DOT CHIPS funding, \$271,759.00 seconded by Councilman Miller; carried.

Supervisor Wood states; As per the highway department the road work to be done with this money will be to take care of 2.5 miles of Charley Hill Rd, right in the middle.

**Resolution #127: Approve water tap installation for Valerie Della Rocco at 30 Hillside Avenue, tax map #147.45-1-22.120. Valerie Della Rocco the owner, at such time all requirements are satisfied, and the Town Water Department s available for the project.**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve water tap for Valerie Della Rocco at 30 Hillside Avenue, tax map #147.45-1-22.120 seconded by Supervisor Wood; carried.

**Resolution #128: Approve summer employees:**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution Approve summer employees seconded by Councilman Donaldson; carried.

**Lifeguards**

Jeanine Melville– Head Lifeguard - \$20.00

Hannah Thompson – Lifeguard - \$15.11

Riley Smith – Lifeguard - \$15.11

Josiah Melville – Lifeguard - \$15.11

Addie Phillips- Lifeguard - \$15.11

Brittany Mieras – Lifeguard - \$15.11

Maura Nestler – Lifeguard - \$15.11

Natalie Cutting – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Rebecca Hartwell – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Drake Belrose – Lifeguard- \$15.00

Sloan Clarke – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Ethan Phillips – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Brielle Emmert – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Nathan Melville – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Justice Hurtado – Lifeguard - \$15.00

Sydney Hart – Lifeguard - \$15.00

### **Lake Stewards**

Ren Colley – Lake Steward - \$15.00

Kathleen O'Hair – Lake Steward - \$15.00

### **Boatwash Attendants**

Benjamin Wisser – Boatwash Attendant - \$15.00

Thomas Farrell – Boatwash Attendant - \$15.00

### **Club House Attendants**

Suzanne Kaskewsky- Club House Attendant - \$15.00

Thomas Farrell – Club House Attendant - \$15.00

Cynthia Thompson – Club House Attendant - \$15.00

### **Golf Course**

Ronan DesLauriers – Student Trainee- \$15.00

Tyler Gibbs – Laborer - \$18.15

### **Resolution #129: Approve Adirondack Technical Services contract to replace an A/C**

### **System on F-3 at the Town of Schroon Health Center in the amount of \$21,453.00**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to Approve Adirondack Technical Services contract to replace an A/C System on F-3 at the Town of Schroon Health Center in the amount of \$21,453.00 seconded by Councilman Donaldson; carried.

### **Resolution # 130 Counter offer to Black Dot for AT&T Cell Tower contract negotiations for**

**3%**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution Approve Counter offer to Black Dot for AT&T Cell Tower Contract Negotiations with 3% seconded by Councilman Donaldson; carried.

**Resolution # 131 Approve the filing of a PERM 33c with DOT to close Route 9 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.**

Supervisor Wood moved a resolution to Approve the filing of a PERM 33c with DOT to close Route 9 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, unanimously seconded by the board; carried

**Resolution #132 Approve a Letter Granting Permission to the Historical Society for the Pomeroy Grant.**

Councilwoman Donaldson moved a resolution to Approve a Letter Granting permission to the Historical Society for the Pomeroy Grant, seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried

**Discussion: Golf Course Maintenance**

Supervisor Wood stated; we have Ethan Tyrell as superintendent for the golf course, we have had many discussions on equipment. At one point we understood that we would be loaned a sprayer for pesticides and fertilizer, and then we were told we could purchase the same piece of equipment for \$2,500.00 that dates back to the 1990's. Then the purchase price went to \$4,500.00. I asked Ethan Tyrell to provide a quote on something new. He received a quote for \$40,099.20 and an attachment it needs for \$7,042.40, so total comes to \$47,141.60. That is not in the current budget. He also found a Smith Co. Sprayer Star for \$ 24,900.00. A Toro Multi-pro 1100 for \$4,500.00. I also told him that although we do not plan on storing chemicals, we understand that it is possible that chemicals would be delivered and he isn't there, that we should be prepared to store chemicals just in case. He provided a list of what improvement would have to be made to the current shed up there, an exhaust fan, a universal spill kit, and an electric space heater. That all came to \$293.21, which is affordable. In terms of what we do, we need to keep in mind that this is a nine hole golf course, that typically does not make any

money and sometimes even loses money. Historically when we sprayed we used to wear back packs to spray these chemicals, when walking the course; it was quite a large task. These are all things to consider. Nothing needs to be decided tonight, this is all just food for thought.

**DISCUSSION: Sidewalk on west side Town Hall**

Supervisor Wood stated; the first thing to discuss is the sidewalk here on the west side of the building. There was a side walk that went out to the road, there was not a sidewalk on Broad street, but there was one that went out to broad street, from the building to the parking lot. When we had the sewer problem last year, the side walk was taken up. Our building and grounds wants to know if we should be grading and putting soil in, or if we should be replacing the sidewalk. I spoke to Jon Senecal, our Codes officer about all this. He stated the emergency egress is easily accessible during the warmer months. The highway department does plow snow along the west side of the building in the winter, so no matter what we do we have to address that issue. He states we don't need a new sidewalk but from a safety stand point, but it is a good idea to have one. One thing we can do is work with the highway crew to make sure that area is always plowed out and accessible. We can also remove the parking space bumper that is at the end of that walkway, so that people know that this isn't a parking space, so it remains open for pedestrian use.

Councilwoman Welch asked; that sidewalk is only used for emergencies correct?

Supervisor Wood stated, to the best of my knowledge. Do we want to leave it as is?

Councilman Gero stated; Ethan and I talked about it the other day, about putting it back based on Jon's suggestions. I don't think it's needed. It goes to a road that no one uses to come into the town hall. I just don't know if it's worth the expense. Also, something else we may want to consider is that at one point in time we were considering putting an EV charging station over there. I would hate to invest money into something that down the road we take back out, if we eventually move forward with the EV charging station.



Supervisor Wood stated; OK I suggest that we leave it as is, with an open mind for the future. The other part of this is the sidewalk and the parking lot area in front of the parks building. Its in pretty rough shape, parking lot is in rough shape, building is in rough shape. Ethan would like to address the side walk now.

Ethan Thompson stated; I would just like to get a plan of action

Supervisor Wood stated; we figured 120 feet by 4 feet wide, materials would be \$3,500 and labor would be 80 man hours. I understand that we do the sidewalk before we do the parking lot.

Ethan Thompson stated, so the discussion really evolves around the sidewalk, do we want it there or do we want it to just be pavement. There is a driveway going across either side currently that's just paved. It's a curb cut. In front of parks, it's your typical paved sidewalk so there is a 4 inch lip right now. My understanding was that there was a pavement ramp put in to help eliminate the bump into the parking lot, but every winter it wears away more and more. So if we are going to pave the parking lot, which we really need to do, do we just pull the side walk out and pave from the road, right through where the sidewalk was, or do we put in a sidewalk that is at driveway height?

Councilman Gero stated; you know what happens in the winter here, you know that no matter how careful you are that sidewalk is going to be damaged in the winter. I would almost be in favor of just ramping it down on either side, and eliminate it. I just worry that it's going to get damaged. It's a narrow road to begin with, even coming in with our own parks trucks, it's tough. It's also a lot more expensive to form and cut the sidewalk then it is to just pave it.

Ethan Thompson stated; part of the thought is that if your going to do a side walk, is to do the whole 120 feet, to do from one side of the driveway to the other, to keep that lower level to keep it flush with the road.

Supervisor Wood stated I figured, with the cost of material and the man hours, this project could cost us upwards of \$10,000 to do the sidewalk.

Councilman Gero stated, we also need to figure out exactly what we are going to do with the parking lot. If they are going to do reformatations and grind all that out, there is always a chance that they will damage the sidewalk. We might want that done after. It all depends on what we decide the fix is for the parking lot.

Ethan Thompson stated; exactly. There is no guarantee that this will happen this year, I just wanted to bring it up, so that everyone is aware and it's on our radar.

Councilwoman Donaldson asked, does that parking lot need to be that big?

Ethan Thompson stated; I think so; it does fill up quick with equipment. We talked before about possibly putting some commodity bins there, on the edge of the parking lot, mulch and top soil and such. Also, the salt bin that is there needs to be redone, it's causing some issues and leaking.

Supervisor Wood stated, that is something for us to consider.

Sue Palisano stated; speaking of side walks, is there any consideration to the side walks on Main street? There are some pretty large cracks and we have had some people tripping and falling.

Councilman Gero stated, I had a couple conversations about this already we had \$20,000 budgeted for side walks. We had talked about starting within the village limits. My other suggestion was if we are going to do anything outside the village limits, we should do maybe between the bridge and all the way to the lodge. I think we are going to have an increase in pedestrian traffic there this year. But we do need to wait on that until after the bridge project is done. I think if we are going to do anything this year we should do within the village.

Supervisor Wood stated; I just have a few things to make a note of, we will have to revise our committee list. On Wednesday at 3 p.m. there is the safety meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I sent out a request to members of our staff to attend this meeting, anyone who will be helping out and working on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Also, Essex County got a grant for 5 sunscreen dispensers, to be placed around the county and Schroon Lake Beach was chosen to be one of those locations. I have accepted the grant. Interestingly enough Essex county has a higher than average rate for melanoma, in NY State.

Our equalization rate was finalized with the county, we are happy that we are still at 100%. Crown Point and Elizabethtown were in the 80's Keene and Moriah are 75%. Ticonderoga is 87% and Wilmington is 80%. So we are doing ok. The state is happy.

Over the weekend there were people playing pickle ball and they had some suggestions. They wanted 2 tennis courts to be changed to only pickle ball and the other courts to stay tennis courts. Several people that play tennis regularly at the courts were not happy with this suggestion. But there have been requests to make the court more of a dual court. We will need to look into what we can accommodate with that.

### **Public Discussion ;**

Sue Palisano stated; I just wanted to say, we had over 60 paddlers on Saturday, at the Schroon Lake Paddle challenge. It was co-sponsored by the Schroon Lake Association, ROOST and the town. The only criticisms we received from any one was about the launch site on Route 74. The Schroon Lake Association is going to take into consideration as to what we can do about the site and hopefully with the town we can come up with some improvements to the site. The launch is basically unusable, it's dangerous. You walk down the stairs to a 4 foot drop. We did have a gentleman in the water helping people to launch and it was still very difficult. I don't know what the options are, we need a launch on 74 for access to the river but the question is, where should it be?

Supervisor Wood stated; the problem is we don't own any land other then there. Where would we put a launch, we would have to rely on the generosity of a land owner to allow this to be put on their property.

Sue Palisano stated; Maybe it's possible that, that site is able to be rehabilitated and made safe. We would need a floating dock, there used to be one, but we do not know where it is hiding. The good news is that for this event, everything went fine and no one was hurt. One last thing I want to bring up is the litter; there was a lot of garbage in the river. That may become part of the clean up that we do, that the Schroon Lake Association does. One of the reason we launched the

Schroon Lake paddle challenge, not only to get people out to enjoy our beautiful river, but we are also using it as a platform to educate people about lake preservation. To keep the lake clean in conjunction with what the Schroon Lake Association does.

### **Public Discussion: Cross Walk Concerns**

Councilman Gero stated, I wanted to bring this up because last week when we were coming out of church I witnessed a young man almost being struck by a vehicle in that cross walk, due to the lack of visibility. At the last minute the young man stopped, the truck passing through didn't slow down; he probably didn't even see him. I know enforcement is going to be an issue, but I know I have seen in a few places they have come in and put the splash marks on the pavement. Maybe that would be a little bit more of a deterrent. It might keep people from parking there. If people park right there, it directly inhibits the visibility of that cross walk and it's dangerous.

Supervisor Wood stated; we have the same issue with people parking down by the bridge where the road narrows. That is not a parking spot and people still park there and traffic moving past has no choice but to go into the other lane to avoid hitting the parked car. By doing so the parked car is blocking the crosswalk and people coming around the corner to the bridge have no idea what is in front of them.

Sue Palisano stated; there is also the issue of people parking in front of the chamber driveway. Most of the time they say they are just running in to grab coffee, but none the less it is a driveway and they can't be parking in front of it.

Councilwoman Welch asked; what would it take to get signs from DOT

Councilman Gero stated; probably a formal letter with the request. We could reach out to them and see what is required from us.

Lynette Colden stated; I agree. You can't even see where there is a no parking sign because of where people are parking. You really have to creep out in order to see. If there is a car parked on the corner by Segal, you can't see around that corner. I'd love to say that just the slash marks will be a solution, but I don't think that it will be. It would be a place to start. This is a huge problem.

Councilman Gero stated; another option we have is that we can have pylon that we can put in the parking areas. They have rubber pylons with No Parking From Here to Corner. It's not in the road, it would be on the sidewalk.

Supervisor Wood stated; let's make a list, let's make a list of possible solutions to this.

Councilman Gero stated; I know that this may upset some people; parking is at a premium in this town. By making those areas off limits, we are not taking away any parking spaces. People shouldn't be parking there to begin with. So in all actuality we are not removing parking spaces, we are enforcing the no parking in areas that parking has never been allowed.

Supervisor Wood states; let's do this, by the end of the week lets make a list, and let's contact the people we need to reach about the signs or the slashes, and let's get this ball rolling. It would be a good idea to have him come down to do an inspection. We have other issues to, Keith Merrill said that he has witnessed people coming down route 9, pretty fast, at that turn by dollar general and when people cross the road right there, it is dangerous.

Councilman Gero stated; have you seen what they did up in Lewis and North Hudson? They put in those flashing speed signs that could act as a good deterrent, and a reminder for people to watch their speed.

Councilman Gero made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

I, Erica Hedden, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript from the minutes now on file in my office and of the whole such original minutes.

Dated: June 21, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_Deputy Town Clerk

