

Town of Washington

Town Board Meeting

September 17, 2009

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held their regular meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at the Town Hall, Reservoir Drive, Millbrook. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Florence Prisco with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Michael Murphy and William Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex and Bookkeeper Laura Hurley.

Present were Warren McMillan, Tom Beaumont, Jerry Baker and Howard Schuman.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Prisco thanked Jim Brownell for working tirelessly at the Town Park. He has been donating his time leveling off the field and doing sub-grade work, which results in a large cost savings to the town.

Supervisor Prisco thanked Didi Barrett for the successful Community Day this past weekend. The event showcased many businesses, there were many activities and was well attended. From all reports the day was enjoyed by all.

The Historical Society has put together a Walking Tour pamphlet of the community. They are very informative and was a collaborative effort by volunteers. Copies are available at the Town Hall and throughout the village.

Supervisor Prisco reported that the Town has been fortunate once again to receive donations from the Millbrook Tribute Garden Foundation for the following:

\$50,000.00 – Improvements to camp building

\$5,000.00 – Financial Assistance for youth participation in programs

\$5,000.00 – Senior Citizen Bus Trip

\$15,000.00 – Vincent Turletes Memorial Fund

The Town is very appreciative of the continued support of recreational programs in Town by the Millbrook tribute Garden Foundation.

The BAN for the park land is due on September 30th. The Bank of Millbrook has offered a rate of 1.5% for the renewal of the Bond Anticipation Note. The Town will be paying down \$30,000.00 on the current BAN. The Board authorized the Town Supervisor to renew the BAN at the Bank of Millbrook at a rate of 1.5%.

Tom Beaumont advised the Town Board that the time period for residents to respond to the Comprehensive Plan Survey has been extended to September 30th. As of September 1st there were about 495 responses, which is about 14.2%. Although the committee was hoping to have double that number in response, River Street has had communities with a 10% return. To stimulate more interest the Bank of Millbrook will be stuffing a reminder notice in their mailings. Dr. Beaumont said that although he has not read the responses, he has had questions why the Town and Village are not doing

this together. The Village has had some meetings to hear public opinions, they have had other financial considerations and have put their update on hold for the time being. The Town is going to keep moving forward. Mr. Baker said that the Chairs went to the village and asked for appointments of liaisons from the Village community to attend the Town Comp meetings. Mayor Ciferri was receptive to this, and the town is waiting to hear who would like to volunteer for this. Dr. Beaumont said that the Comp Plan was represented at Community Day and they shared a booth with the Town Emergency Preparedness Committee. They were able to answer questions from the public. Maureen King, David Strayer and Howard Schuman were giving out copies of the survey to hopefully get a better response.

The Public Visioning meetings are scheduled for October 28th and November 13th, both beginning at 7:00 PM at the Millbrook Fire House. This is an opportunity for everyone to put in their perspective. Outdoor signs have been ordered to be placed around the community. Mr. Schuman asked when the survey results will be distributed to the public. At this time, the Town believes that the results will be released the evening of October 28th.

Dr. Beaumont asked if the Town could follow up with the Department of Ags and Markets to find out the status of the Farmland Protection grant. Town Clerk Alex said she would do this.

Recreation Director Warren McMillan said that in his six years in his position, this summer has been the worst summer at the park. The weather did not cooperate in June and July. With the reduced length of operation and closing an hour early, the number of resident passes had decreased. By allowing for non-resident daily passes, the income level was maintained. The positive thing about the weather was the water quality was terrific this year. Ms. Higgins the operator of the concession stand said she had an okay year but not as well as she hoped for. She came in at the last minute, and provided good food at reasonable prices.

Mr. McMillan said that as always, Tom Fiore has done an outstanding job at the park. He was also pleased with the lifeguards this year. He advised that the circulation pump failed at the end of the season. It was replaced, and he is looking into having the old one refurbished as a backup.

Sol Resnikoff thanked the Board for allowing him to speak with them. He said in August when he learned that the pool would be closing in August he politely and respectfully called Supv. Prisco about the pool. He has been swimming for over 20 years at the park and used to come there after work and now uses it as a retired person. Mr. Resnikoff said it is not just a pool but a park, one that is beautifully maintained. He has come to appreciate it as his own selfish pleasure and on a sociological place – this is a community. It is moving to see the mix of people that use it: the wealthy, weekenders, all ages, class and ethnicity, young mothers with children and seniors. It has been a pleasure watching the lifeguards grow as responsible people. He said he should have come a long time ago to say what a valuable jewel the park is to the town. He said he was not happy, but he was not outraged, and he is not criticizing a decision that has been made with thought. After speaking with other users of the pool and respecting that we have to economize he would like to offer some suggestions to try and accommodate the longer season:

- Offer a two tiered fee schedule, which would be a suggested increased fee that patrons could choose to pay in support of the operational costs.

- Monitor pool pass use of people picking up campers. It has been overheard that camp families don't need passess, because they are not checked.

- Users would be open to volunteering at the park. (ie painting and maintenance)

- Partition off parts of the pool based on attendance to help reduce lifeguard costs.
- Encourage the evaluation of opening in June by attendance records.
- Develop relationships with organizations to encourage people to enjoy the facility.

Councilman Murphy said he applauded Mr. Resnikoff for coming directly to the Board. His suggestions will be reviewed and discussed.

Mrs. Hurley presented the Town Board with revenue and expense reports, as well as monthly bank balances. The Town has received 93% of its revenue for the A fund and 75% of revenues for the B fund. Based on current mortgage tax information it appears that the town might receive about \$80,000 for this portion of the year. On the expense side, the town will be required to make the first contribution to the MTA Mobility Tax fund beginning on November 2. The amount will be about \$3,500.00. For accounting purposes, an additional line item will need to be established specific to the MTA tax.

At the request of the Bookkeeper, on a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Board moved to establish a Capital Project Account specific to the camp building improvement project. All ayes were recorded.