

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
July 10, 2008**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Northumberland Town Board was called to order @ 7:30 PM by Supervisor Willard Peck. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck, Councilman Paul Bolesh, Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Councilman Daniel Gale was absent. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy, Highway Sup't Neil Petteys and Town Attorney Douglas Ward.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

1. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to approve minutes of the June 5, 2008 Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Helen Carter, Leonard Street, expressed concern with the condition of 35 Leonard Street; Mrs. Carter stated the property owner moved way, leaving the home vacant. Mrs. Carter stated the grass is over 2 ft high, windows in the home are busted out in the back and there is household garbage stockpiled in the shed out back. Building Inspector Richard Colozza will contact the property owner regarding the condition of this property. Mrs. Carter also stated she would like the Town to place a "Leonard Street" sign at the intersection of State/County Route 32. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys will check into this.

**DESIGNATIONS**

1. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to approve vouchers for payment as presented. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The Saratoga County Fair will be held on July 15 – 20
2. The Town received information from Saratoga County Department of Personnel regarding Lyme disease.
3. There will be a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Workshop on July 31, 2008 @ 6:30 PM at the Ballston Spa Town Hall.

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4. The Town Board received information regarding Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration.
5. The Town Board received a letter from Andrew Cuomo, New York State Attorney General regarding a Community Forum to be held on July 22, 2008 @ 7:00 PM at the Albany High School.
6. The Town Board received a letter from "Music on the Hudson" regarding free music at Fort Hardy Park for the summer months of June, July & August every Thursday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Abandonment of Hill Street Attorney Douglas Ward stated he has talked with the Association of Towns legal council regarding the correct procedure to abandon a portion of Hill Street, between Leonard Street and the railroad tracks. Attorney Douglas Ward prepared a "Certificate of Abandonment" for Highway Superintendent Neil Petteys, which reads;

"I, Neil Petteys, the Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Northumberland, certify that a former Town Highway which is described below has not been traveled or used as a highway for at least six (6) years.

Upon written consent of the majority of the Town Board, this Certificate of Abandonment shall be filed with the Town Clerk's Office in accordance with Section 205 of the New York State Highway Law.

Description of former Highway: All that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Town of Northumberland, County of Saratoga and the State of New York more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the easterly bounds of Leonard Street at the southwest corner of the lands conveyed to John and Susan Balfour by deed dated June 19, 1985, recorded in book 1087 of deeds at page 453; running thence South 40 degrees, 49 minutes and 45 seconds East, along said lands a distance of 142.95 feet to a point in the westerly bounds of the lands of Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company; thence running South 57 degrees, 44 minutes and 46 seconds West, a distance of 33.37 feet to a point in the center of so called Hill Street at the northeast corner of lands to be conveyed to Thomas J and Barbara A Roberts; thence running along said lands, North 40 degrees, 49 minutes and 45 seconds West, along the center of said Hill Street, a distance of 137.98 feet to a point in the easterly bounds of said Leonard Street; thence running North 49 degrees, 10 minutes and 15 seconds East,

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along said Leonard Street, a distance of 33.00 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing .11 acres of land to be the same more or less.

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant introduced Resolution #25 of 2008 – **FOR  
CERTIFICATE OF ABANDONMENT FOR A FORMER HIGHWAY IN THE  
TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Northumberland Highway Superintendent has brought before the Town Board a Certificate of Abandonment for a former Highway in the Town of Northumberland;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Northumberland Highway Superintendent has certified that such Highway has not been used for six (6) years or more;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Northumberland Highway Superintendent has executed the Certificate of Abandonment all in accordance with New York State Highway Law Section 205.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town Board hereby consents to the filing of such Certificate of Abandonment with the Northumberland Town Clerk's Office in accordance with New York State Highway Law Section 205 and each member of the Town Board will provide his/her written consent on the Certificate of Abandonment to such filing.

Supervisor Willard Peck seconded the introduction of Resolution #25 of 2008

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”  
Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”  
Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”  
Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye”      Resolution #25 of 2008 Adopted

2. Supervisor Willard Peck, reported for Councilman Daniel Gale who is absent, that the Schuyler Park Committee received their New York State Department of Environmental Conservation report recognizing no impact on any endangered species and that they are awaiting a final report from the archeological survey. The Committee is close to finalizing an Agreement with the Schuylerville School District and their future usage of the facility.

3. Town Hall Roof: Highway Sup't Neil Petteys and Town Engineer James Mitchell went up on the Town Hall roof and looked to see what was causing the leaking and

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design a plan to rectify the problem. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys stated he will report back to the Town Board when he knows more.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Hudson Crossing Park: Councilman George Hodgson reported that everything is progressing nicely. The dock is going in next week on the canal side. 40 – 6 ft willows were just planted to form a maze. Councilman George Hodgson reported that Saratoga County and the New York State Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership have agreed to be the sponsor and the applicant, respectively, for a federal Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) Grant to rehabilitate the Dix Bridge. Councilman George Hodgson introduced Resolution #26 of 2008 – **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DIX BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Dix Bridge is an historic Warren High Truss bridge built in 1895 which spans the Hudson River and connects the Town of Northumberland and Greenwich, and

**WHEREAS**, the Dix Bridge is co-owned by Saratoga and Washington Counties and has been closed due to structural problems since 1996, and

**WHEREAS**, the Dix Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and if rehabilitated, has the ability to provide the only safe pedestrian multi-use crossing of the Hudson River between Saratoga and Washington counties, and

**WHEREAS**, when rehabilitated the Dix Bridge will provide an important pedestrian bi-county trail connection between Saratoga and Washington counties, Hudson Crossing Park which is located within the Town of Northumberland, and to a number of local, regional and statewide recreational trail projects such as the Hudson River Greenway, the NYD Canalway Trail System, and Lakes to Locks Passage, providing important and safe public access to hikers, bicyclists, snowmobiles, equestrians, and others and

**WHEREAS**, federal Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) grant funds are currently available to rehabilitate the Dix Bridge, and said bridge rehabilitation project meets many of the eligible categories which qualify it for federal TEP funding consideration, and

**WHEREAS**, Saratoga County and the New York State Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership have agreed to be the sponsor and the applicant, respectively, for a federal TEP grant application submission, which, if approved, will provide 80% of the necessary funds to rehabilitate the Dix Bridge, thereby preserving all the bridges historic

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characteristics while providing much-needed multimodal pedestrian trail/park uses, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Northumberland supports the submission and approval of the aforementioned federal Transportation Enhancement Program grant application to the New York State Department of Transportation to provide the necessary federal Transportation Enhancement Program grant application to the NYS Department of Transportation to provide the necessary federal funds to complete the Dix Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the introduction of Resolution #26 of 2008.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution #26 of 2008 Adopted

Councilman Hodgson stated that he had recently been notified by Riverstreet Planning that a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWWRP) grant award for \$272,000 had been made to the Town of Saratoga by the New York State Department of State. Of this amount, \$30,000 is for a Schuylerville “Main Street” façade program, \$61,000 for a Town of Saratoga towpath trail design, with the remaining \$181,000 dedicated to the construction of the Hudson Crossing Park Riverwalk Trail (from Dix Bridge south along Hudson River). Councilman Hodgson noted that the grant applicant is the Town of Saratoga and the Hudson Crossing Park portion is fully matchable under the existing \$225,000 Canal Corporation Grant. Councilman Hodgson also stated that a second LWRP Grant Award had been previously made to the Town of Saratoga by NYS Department of State for a Hudson Blue Trail which will provide funding for the selection and design of a canoe/kayak launch site, also at Hudson Crossing Park. Supervisor Peck noted that these grant awards were the result of recommendations made in the earlier LWRP multi-municipal Old Saratoga on the Hudson Waterfront Revitalization Plan completed in June of 2007.

2. Cold War Veteran’s Exemption from Real Property Taxation: Supervisor Willard Peck informed the Town Board Members that Saratoga County Board of Supervisors just adopted the Cold War Veteran’s Exemption from Real Property Taxation for the county portion of the tax bill. Supervisor Peck stated he has received numerous calls from Northumberland residents to see if the Town of Northumberland was going to do the same. Sole Assessor Walter Smead has recommended that Article VII authorizing a Partial Exemption from Real Property Taxes on Residential Property owned and occupied by Veterans of the Cold War be added to the Town Code. Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law, defines “Cold Ware Veteran” to be a person, male or female,

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who served on active duty for a period of more than three hundred sixty-five days in the United States armed forces during the time period from September second, nineteen hundred forty five to December twenty sixth, nineteen hundred ninety one and who was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions and has been awarded the Cold War recognition certificate as authorized under Public Law 105-85, the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2008 – A Local Law adding article VII to the Town Code, authorizing a partial exemption from Real Property Taxes on residential property owned and occupied by Veterans of the Cold War, on Thursday, August 7 @ 7:15 PM at the Town Hall. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Town Clerk Denise Murphy informed the Board members that she will be closing her office on July 16 @ 11:30 AM to attend the Saratoga Town Clerk's Association Meeting. Saratoga County Board of Election Commissioners will be attending to discuss the new electronic voting machines.

Councilman George Hodgson made a motion @ 8:25 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal issues. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 8:50 PM to convene the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Willard Peck stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 8:55 PM to adjourn the Meeting. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Murphy  
Town Clerk