

**Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 5, 2008**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

1. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion to approve minutes of the May 1, 2008 Regular Monthly Meeting with the following correction – Page #4/ #2 Correspondence should read “Jaime O’Neill”. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Hugo Leone asked if the Highway Department has come across any artifacts while doing ditching along Grange Hall Road. Mr. Leone stated that area is known to have artifacts. Highway Supt Neil Petteys stated they have not.

Jack Sullivan, on behalf of many residents of Virginia Place wanted to thank the Town Board for their actions on numerous issues in their Development. The fuel trucks are finally gone. The fuel tanks and fence are still there. Mr. Sullivan asked if Mr. Rosse has given the Town Board any time frame regarding the road. Supervisor Peck stated the Town Attorney has been working with Mr. Rosse’s attorney and things are progressing nicely. Unfortunately, the Town Attorney is not here tonight so Supervisor Peck was unable to answer all of Mr. Sullivan’s questions.

**DESIGNATIONS**

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

**COORESPONDENCE**

1. The Town Board received a letter from Joseph Ritchey, Commissioner of Public Works for Saratoga County responding to the town’s May 2, 2008 request for a plan to eliminate problems with truck traffic and speeding in the Bacon Hill area of County Route 39. Mr. Ritchey stated that County Highways are designated as a rural collector system. As such, they are intended to provide access to neighborhoods and carry traffic from local road networks to arterials. This type of network is vital for the delivery of

*Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 5, 2008*

goods and materials to various markets and projects in our county. Consequently, truck traffic is not restricted on any County Highway. Any deviation from this policy would have a snowball effect since most County highway residents would like to eliminate truck traffic in front of their home. Over sized or over weight is an enforcement issue. For all applications of signage and traffic control devices they are obligated to follow the National Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The jurisdiction for the determination of speed limits on a county highway lies with the New York State Department of Transportation.

2. The Town Board received a letter from Saratoga County Department of Public Works regarding Councilman Paul Bolesh's request for a "Turtle Crossing Sign" for County Road 31 (Fortsville Road). The Public Works Department is required to adhere to the standards set forth by the National Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. There are no provisions that allow for this type of signing. The only non-vehicular traffic warning signs allowed are for large animals that could cause harm to a motorist such as deer, cattle or horses. The purpose is to provide a reasonably safe roadway for vehicular traffic, perhaps the Department of Environmental Conservation has some input to this issue.

3. The Town Board received notification from New York State Department of Transportation that a 45 MPH speed limit has been established for Purinton Road between Stonebridge Road and Austin Road.

4. Supervisor Willard Peck announced that Saratoga County's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Sundae on the Farm" will be held on June 22, 2008 from 12 Noon – 4:00 PM at Kings Ransom Farm. The Town Clerk was asked to contact our Insurance Carrier for a Certificate of Insurance regarding the event since the Town of Northumberland is sponsoring it.

5. The Town Board received information regarding Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial. The Commission is requesting updates and new listings of quad events, projects and celebrations the town will be holding in 2009.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on Schuyler Park: Councilman Gale reported that the Town of Saratoga has taken over ownership of the parcel for Schuyler Park. There was a Press Conference when the transfer of ownership occurred. Certain areas on the property have been cleaned up. Most of the clean up was done by BOCES students and their instruction Dennis Flynn at no cost. Councilman Gale visited the class today, it was student appreciation day and he gave them "Certificates of Appreciation" for their hard work. Co Chairperson Lori Griffin visited Farmer Daughter and they gave each student who

*Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 5, 2008*

participated in the clean-up a \$5.00 gift certificate. The Committee is still waiting for the ok from New York State DEC that there is no endangered species on the site. Councilman Gale stated they are waiting on a 50/50 Grant Award for an archeology dig on site. The Committee hopes to have a good idea on the total cost to construct the park by the end of the summer. Hopefully volunteers will be able to start this fall prepping the site.

2. Hudson Crossing Park Update: Supervisor Willard Peck and Councilman George Hodgson have been looking at putting together a Grant for a joint project between Washington and Saratoga County to restore the Knox Bridge. Councilman George Hodgson wanted to thank Highway Sup't Neil Petteys and the Highway Department for all there help transporting fill to the site. Councilman Hodgson has met with a National Grid Planner regarding an estimated cost to run underground power to the picnic pavilion. Odyssey School of Fine Arts will be holding a Mosaic Stepping Stones Workshop July 7 – 10 from 9 – 1 pm at Fort Hardy Park Youth Center. The participants will be taught how to set glass tiles for a series of stepping stones that will be installed along the main path of the Play Garden. The stones will tell a story of life along the river. Visitors to the park will be able to follow the mosaic tour from beginning to end, reading colorful imagery from nature and science. The cost is \$50.00 per participant. Councilman George Hodgson invited the Town Board Members and Public to attend the dedication of the “Knox Trail Pocket Park” and “The Train of Artillery” metal sculpture on Sunday, June 8 at 1:30 PM.

3. July’s Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting will be held on July 10, 2008 @ 7:30 PM. The date was changed from July 3, 2008 due to the Fourth of July Holiday.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Councilman Paul Bolesh reported that he has requested prisoners for the town hall. They can paint both inside and outside of the town hall. Councilman Bolesh stated that he has requested a few weeks notice.

2. Councilman Daniel Gale stated he has received complaints regarding open burning and requested that the minutes reflect both New York State Uniform Building Codes and New York State Environmental Conservation’s Policy regarding open/back yard burning. Backyard burning is not only an annoying but in many circumstances it is illegal in New York State. It is illegal to burn material (except recreational fires, twigs and leaves) when the smoke is sent directly into the air without passing through a stock or chimney. Burning barrels are illegal according to New York State Uniform Building Codes. Burning of household trash, plastics, etc is not allowed in any circumstances. Backyard burning can produce smoke and emissions that cause odors, along with respiratory problems. Family members, neighbors and animals may be exposed to the pollutants

*Town of Northumberland  
Town Board Meeting  
June 5, 2008*

emitted from the burn barrels by breathing toxic vapors and particles. If anyone is burning garbage, plastics you can call the Forest Ranger Dispatcher @ 897-1300 but you have to be prepared to file a formal complaint. Recreational fires (such as wood campfires) are allowed as long as they are not within 25 feet from a building or flammable materials and it is less than three (3) feet around and less than two (2) feet tall and unless they are in a barbecue cooker. Fires must be attended until the fire is completely out. Material to put the fire out can include dirt, sand, a water barrel, a garden hose or portable fire extinguisher. If you are going to burn twigs, leaves you should contact New York State DEC in Warrensburg (623-1200) to check on local burning conditions.

**COMMITTEES**

Youth: Councilman Daniel Gale stated on September 27 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM there will be a Joint Youth Event between the Town of Northumberland and the Town of Saratoga which will take place at Fort Hardy Park. There will be food, music and fireworks at dusk. Anyone with questions can call either Councilman Gale or Youth Director Dee Cogan. The Summer Program will kick off on July 8 and run through August 14. The Summer Program is completely filled up.

Town Hall: Town Clerk asked the Town Board to consider purchasing new air conditioners for both the Board Room and the Clerk's office. Both of the present air conditioners are extremely old and not energy efficient. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys has agreed to look into the cost and report to the Town Board.

**DEPARTMENTS**

Highway Supt Neil Petteys gave the Town Board an update on the Ithaca Conference for Highway Sup't. There will be significant changes in sign designs.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 8:45 PM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy  
Town Clerk