

**Town of Northumberland
Town Board Meeting
July 11, 2024**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Northumberland Town Board was called to order @ 8:00 AM by Supervisor Willard Peck. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck; Councilman Paul Bolesh; Councilman John DeLisle; Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Also attending were Clerk Denise Murphy, Building and Zoning Administrator Michael Terry and Town Attorney David Brennan.

Highway Supt David Coffinger came before the Town Board to give a quick update on paving. Highway Supt Coffinger stated that Stonebridge Road, Thomas Road, and Grange Hall Road are progressing nicely. Highway Supt Coffinger stated that currently the Radar Signs are on Brampton Lane and San Luis Road. He is hoping to move one of the Radar Signs to Grange Hall in late July. Supervisor Peck asked Highway Supt Coffinger if he has had an opportunity to put up a “Stop Ahead” sign at the intersection of Stonebridge Road and State Route 32N. Highway Supt Coffinger stated that he has contacted NYS Department of Transportation regarding adding a sign since it falls under their authority. Highway Supt Coffinger believes it has been installed, but he will drive down there to verify. Supervisor Peck stated that he contacted NYS Department of Transportation regarding cutting brush down at this intersection since it blocks visibility coming off Stonebridge Road. Supervisor Peck stated that he also asked for the placement of Radar Signs on Route 32N in that area. He was told that the Town must fill out a “Permit” application. Supervisor Peck gave Town Clerk Murphy the contact information with the NYS Department of Transportation. Town Clerk Murphy asked if Saratoga County Public Works should be contacted regarding setting up Radar Sign on the Wilton Gansevoort Road (Co. Route 32) since we receive the most calls for speeders on that road. Town Clerk Murphy stated that she will talk with Christina Kilburn, Highway Clerk, to see if a Permit would need to be obtained for that area. The Town Board Members praised Highway Supt Coffinger for the outstanding job his department is doing and thanked him for coming this morning.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Gougler, 665 West River Road, came before the Town Board regarding a problem he is having with a neighbor. The neighbor at 693 West River Road is raising pigs on his property. Mr. Gougler stated the smell at times is so bad they cannot sit outside or leave his windows open. Mr. Gougler stated that he knows that this parcel is in the Agricultural District which allows farming on 10+ acres. Mr. Gougler has lived at this residence for 20 years and has never had any issue with this degree of foul smell. Supervisor Peck advised the Building and Zoning Administrator to contact NYS Agricultural and Markets Legal Department to see what the standards for the care of pigs are. Town Attorney Brennan stated that Saratoga County Soil & Water came out for a similar problem on Beaver Street and produced suggestions. Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Terry will reach out to Saratoga County Soil & Water to see if they can produce suggestions.

Holly Rippon-Butler, Planning Board Member and Susan Martindale, Planning Board Chairman came before the Town Board to discuss a proposed Subdivision before the Town Board. The applicant/owner is Stephen Spencer, and he is looking for a Conservation Subdivision on Colebrook

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Road and Brampton Lane. The final approval of the conservation subdivision is subject to Town Board review and approval of the future protection/management of the open space resulting from the cluster development and road bond. The 2024 version to the Planning Board shows four lots located along a shared driveway, with 50' access easement and no turn around at the end of a 700 +/- foot long driveway. Town Engineer Charlie Baker, EDP, reviewed of the pre-application and stated it is the Planning Boards experience that this has shown that these types of arrangements have the potential to provide issues for the town. Maintenance would be the responsibility of the four homeowners. Should there be issues between the individual neighbors sharing these costs, the problems are often presented to the town. Should the town be required to take over the future ownership of the access easement due to problems, the road is not built to town standards, and there are no provisions for snowplows to turn around. It was the consensus of the Town Board to highly discourage shared driveways. Two of the remaining proposed lots are shown with keyhole lot access to Brampton Lane. This arrangement will not be favored by the residents within Brampton Woods, the potential impacts (increased traffic) from two proposed keyhole driveways would be less than if a town road were to be constructed. Building and Zoning Administrator Michael Terry provided a map of the Wetlands associated with this property and where the Conservation Area would be established. At this point Holly Rippon-Butler turned the discussion over to Rob Davies, Executive Director with Saratoga PLAN. Mr. Davies explained how Land Conservation works, what is involved in the Transfer to either a non-profit or government and restrictions. Mr. Davies stated that Saratoga PLAN is more than happy to advise in the construction of the Easement. Mr. Davies stated that they prefer the Town take over easement. Mr. Davies also explained keeping a buffer for potential future trails. Mr. Davies stated they encourage requesting the Developer to design and to set aside a twenty-five' easement. The Town Board Members thanked Holly Rippon-Butler, Susan Martindale, and Rob Davies for attending today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Town Board Meeting. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Dog Control: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer, submitted his Dog Report for June, 2024. Mr. Cross answered five (5) Complaints, brought one (1) dog to the Animal Shelter, issued one (1) Warning, issued one (1) Summons, and had two (2) Dog Bite Cases.

2. NYS Department of Taxation & Finance/Office of Real Property Tax Service: The Town of Northumberland received the certificate of the Final State Equalization Rate for the 2024 Assessment Roll. The Final State Equalization Rate is 58 %. 2023 Final Equalization Rate was 63 %.

3. NYS Agriculture and Markets: The Town received an Inspection Report from Christina Cookingham, Animal Health Inspector for NYS Agriculture and Markets. She did an inspection of the records of the Town's Dog Control Officer. The inspection was completed on June 18, 2024. Ms.

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Cookingham reviewed Mr. Cross's records and found no areas of concern.

4. Hudson Crossing Park (HCP): Kate Morse, Director, reached out to the Town of Northumberland to apply for funding from the 2024 Saratoga County Trail Grant Program to help fund understory planting of native trees on the existing "Meadow in the Sky" trail at Hudson Crossing Park. Supervisor Peck submitted a letter to Saratoga Planning Department requesting funding. The HCP staff and volunteers will administer the trail grant project under an existing park maintenance and operations agreement with the Town. The Letter would certify that the Town will serve as the grant awardee and will submit the final invoice and required documents upon completion of the project and that the grant funds received will then be passed directly to HCP.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Turning Point Parade: The Town of Northumberland received a letter from Paul Chojnacki, Parade Chairman asking for financial support for the 2024 Parade. Councilman John DeLisle made a motion to be a \$500 sponsor for the Turning Point Parade. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Surrender Day: The Town received an email from Steve Bulger, County Administrator for Saratoga County. Mr. Bulger stated that the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors passed a Surrender Day Resolution to commemorate this historic event in our County. The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors would like to have all 21 municipalities in Saratoga County pass a similar resolution to show that this anniversary is very real and important throughout the County. Councilman John DeLisle introduced Resolution # 49 of 2024

**PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 17, EACH YEAR AS "SURRENDER DAY" IN THE TOWN OF
NORTHUMBERLAND**

WHEREAS, on October 17, 1777, British General John Burgoyne surrendered his sword to Patriot General Haracio Gates, marking the first time in history that a British army ever surrendered; and

WHEREAS, this historic moment, known as the Turning Point of the Revolutionary War, happened in Saratoga County and saved the American's war for independence; and

WHEREAS, we wish to honor the heroic patriots of the past and the generations of Saratoga County public and private citizens who secured and commemorated the Turning Point victory; and

WHEREAS, Saratoga County will commemorate the 250TH anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga and Turning Point victory in 2027; and

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WHEREAS, October 17th has been celebrated in communities surrounding the sword surrender site as “Surrender Day” for more than one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, we wish to elevate this commemoration to a countywide holiday to commemorate the Battles of Saratoga, the siege of the British Army, and its ultimate surrender to the Patriot Army; and

WHEREAS, a commemoration as such will facilitate the appropriate deference to the substantial impact the victory had on the founding of the United States of America and the future prosperity and manner for which citizens in the public and private sectors may honor its legacy for generations; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such holiday in public communities across the region in appreciation of the Saratoga Campaign and its heritage will promote regional pride and tourism; and

WHEREAS, we encourage the countywide recognition of Surrender Day by providing any town, village, or city that adopts October 17th as an official holiday to be known as an Affiliated Community Partner of America’s Turning Point; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Northumberland Town Board proudly proclaims October 17, each year as Surrender Day in Saratoga County in recognition of the Turning Point of the Revolutionary War, which happened in Saratoga County and saved the American’s war for independence.

Councilman George Hodgson seconded the introduction of Resolution #49 of 2024.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye”

Resolution #49 of 2024 Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

1. Comprehensive Plan: Councilwoman Patricia Bryant stated that she has reviewed the latest Draft Comprehensive Plan. Councilwoman Bryant stated that she found minor errors. Clerk Murphy will forward them to Tracey Clothier. Councilman George Hodgson asked the Town Clerk to reach out to Ms. Clothier regarding an updated Zoning Map with the roads named.

2. Stonebridge Farm PUD: Supervisor Peck, along with Mike Terry, have not met on site with their Engineer to discuss what they are proposing to amend with PUD. Town Attorney David Brennan stated he will reach out to their Attorney to discuss a Meeting date.

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DESIGNATIONS

1. Approval of Vouchers: Councilman John DeLisle introduced Resolution # 50 of 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, the following Vouchers to be paid as presented:

A (General Fund) Vouchers # 181 - # 212 Total: \$ 30,691.74
DA (Highway Fund) Vouchers # 196 - # 226 Total: \$ 39,067.71
SS (Sewer Fund) Vouchers # 8 Total \$.85
TA (Trust & Agency) Voucher #5 - #6 Total \$3,980.22

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the introduction of Resolution # 50 of 2024.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”
Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”
Councilman John DeLisle – “Aye”
Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”
Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Aye” Resolution # 50 of 2024 Adopted

DEPARTMENTS

Building and Zoning: Building and Zoning Administrator Michael Terry stated that he was approached by the owner of 165 Route 4N, Tricity Systems, LLC (the old Fane Property) regarding converting the old warehouse to apartments. Currently they are doing Flea Markets.

Town Attorney David Brennan stated that this property is in the Hamlet Zone and would require a PUD.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion @ 9:30 AM to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting.
Councilman George Hodgson seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk

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