

Town Board Meeting

March 21, 2022

Zoom: Meeting ID: 886 8293 9923 Password: 091640

Present: Supervisor Aaron, Councilor Tucker, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Legg, Councilor Dove, Attorney Smith

Also, Present: Karen Barkdull, Kim Benda, Keri Fey, Miranda Robinson, Brian Buff, Chris Buff, Tim Dobrovosky, Shane Christman, Josh Allyn, Terry Landers, Jason Gabak.

Highway: Highway Superintendent Dobrovosky reported the Highway Department had plowed and treated roads 7 times since the last meeting. He reported Dave Bader, Steve Bryant, Dan Dobrovosky and Dana Pickering took the CPR class. They were repairing potholes, clearing brush, and continued to do repairs and maintenance.

Transfer Station: Municipal Recycling Liaison/Refuse Officer Brian Buff reported since the last meeting they had sent out 5 trash dumpsters, 5 open top containers and 3 recycling dumpsters. They sent out a load of cardboard, 4 pallets of E-Waste and are working on cleaning up from the winter. Cardboard is now at \$145 per ton and is going to a facility in northern New York and not to Canada. They changed out 4 more lights in the recycling building to LED.

Mr. Buff reviewed the trash and recycling report he submitted to the Board. They had a savings of over \$13,000 so far for 2022 with the changes made at the Transfer Station. Councilor Legg stated this is a fair comparison and is a significant savings. He thanked Brian Buff.

Councilor Legg stated he had scheduled a meeting with Amy Rolleri on Saturday to review the Spring opening of the Swap Shop.

Parks: Parks Director Sue Murphy reported Spring had started in the Parks. They had taken down the snow fences, put up the tennis court nets and had begun cleaning up the fields for Spring sports. The internet had been installed at the Mandana parking lot. One camera is out to be replaced and once that is installed the cameras should work much better this season. She had been conducting interviews for the seasonal summer staff, including Playday Councilors, Lifeguards and Park laborers. Playday registration had begun, Junior Playday closed out the first day. They are working on getting additional councilors to accommodate those on the wait list. Farmers Market rules went out to vendors. They continue to work on the new Parks registration program.

Councilor Alexander reviewed the new Parks registration program. The new program is a great addition. All the required forms can be uploaded and submitted. Sue Murphy stated all the forms and reports had been approved by Onondaga County.

Councilor Alexander and the Board thanked Sue for all the work put into this new program.

Staff Engineer and Water Department: Town Engineer Robinson reported on the following:

Water:

The Water Department replaced a service at 650 School Street, there was no flow but a lot of pressure. It was a two-day investigation and job completion, but it was well worth the education to find out what was actually installed in 1932. Big thanks to Dan Dobrovosky, Dana Pickering, and Dave Bader for all of their help. Dave is a good teacher!

- We continued our EPA Lead Service Line investigation.
- We are updating the Emergency Response Plan, Vulnerability Assessment and Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessment for the Department of Health.
- The RFP bids are due by Friday at 2pm, C&S sent out the RFP also, so we should have a good response.

Engineer:

- The Skaneateles High School Solar Panel Club met with Tru Green Capital to discuss the solar farm at the transfer station. They highlighted the importance of all roles that are involved in getting a solar farm constructed. Politicians, designers, ditch diggers, electricians, programmers, linemen, and engineers. We are planning a field trip/ribbon cutting sometime around Memorial Day Weekend/Early June.
- The camera at the Mandan Parking Lot was found to be a hardware issue and it is going to be replaced with a direct shipment to the Town Hall.
- The streetlights program has been successfully turned over to Kim Benda and a big thanks to her for taking over while I'm out of the office.
- Work continued on the RAISE grant with a major thank you to Karen for doing all of the work.

Minutes of March 7, 2022: On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with a (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, minutes of March 7, 2022, were accepted as presented.

Safety Meeting Update: Councilor Dove reported she had held a safety meeting with the Department Heads as well as Dan Dobrovosky, the Safety Officer for the Highway Department.

Councilor Dove report she would be reviewing the Town of Skaneateles Cyber Security Policy with Engineer Robinson and Town Clerk Stenger. The policy was last updated in 2018.

Councilor Dove stated currently the Town does not have a policy regarding the inspection of Town Vehicles. Municipalities are exempt from NYS vehicle inspections. She asked the Board if they would consider a policy that would require all town vehicles to be inspected yearly under the NYS Inspection Law and if the vehicle does not pass inspection, it would be taken off the road until a time that it passed NYS inspection.

The Board agreed to this policy; town vehicles must pass the yearly NYS Inspection and that all vehicles be maintained to pass inspection at all times.

On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board approved the policy that town vehicles must pass the yearly NYS Inspection and vehicles be maintained to pass inspection at all times, or be taken to off the road.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Presentation: Councilor Alexander reported the Conservation Committee had recently discovered Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Conservation Area. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an invasive species that is native to Asia. It can be identified as a woolly mass that forms on the

underside of Hemlocks, near the needles. What this invasive species does is they continue to work on the tree over a number of years and typically within four to 10 years, the tree's health declines, and the tree will die. The Conservation Committee is looking to preserve the Hemlock trees in the Conservation Area. Hemlock trees are extremely important to our environment. They are ecologically important. They also are critical to the watersheds, while the Conservation Area is not in the watershed, we do have Guppy Falls and the Beaver Pond which we want to preserve. Hemlocks provide stabilization in the banks along the pond and next to Guppy falls, there are several Hemlocks that are holding up the bank.

Councilor Alexander reviewed treatment options and stated they had been working with Onondaga County Soil and Water and Baltimore Woods. The Conservation Committee had been working with Baltimore Woods. Randy Nonnenmacher recruited approximately 12 People from Baltimore Woods to help identify Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The Committee had been doing research on this and have been constantly monitoring the trees. The Committee discovered this invasive species on the Hemlocks at the Conservation Area in mid-February.

Councilor Alexander stated Onondaga County Soil and Water had a program that trees can be treated for free, but they have to be within the watershed. The Conservation Area is not in the watershed. They had researched funding options, such as grants. If we do not receive any funding for treatment, we could lose the trees over the next few years.

Councilor Alexander reviewed the options for treatment. There are two ways to treat the trees; you can treat with insecticide, which is what we are recommending, and you can also treat biologically. There is a bug that eats the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and then when released into an area the insects eat the invasive species and save the trees. This type of treatment is not approved yet and it could take at least 5 to 10 years before that would be available. Onondaga County Soil and Water is recommending what is being done throughout the county, treating with an insecticide. The committee would like to treat with the long-term insecticide because it had just been found on a few trees and believe if we use the long-term insecticide, it will protect the trees for 4 to 7 years.

Councilor Alexander stated the treatment the Conservation Committee is recommending is \$1.25 an inch per tree. They have estimated to have about 25 acres of Hemlock trees in the Conservation Area and you can treat about 180 inches per acre.

The Conservation Areas need to have a management plan put in place to get this done and the Spring is the best time to do it. We would prioritize the trees and work with Onondaga County to decide which trees are the most valuable to get treated in the first year.

Supervisor Aaron discussed the two treatments and how one would take effect more immediately but not last as long, the other may take a little longer before it's effective, but it lasts for years longer. The Committee discovered the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid early so there is time. The committee recommended the long-term treatment.

Councilor Dove asked if only the infected trees would be treated or all the trees. Councilor Alexander stated they would treat all the Hemlock trees, if one is infected it will spread to the other trees. When you treat the tree, it protects the tree for 4 to 7 years. This is a short-term mitigation until they come forward with the proposed biological controls.

Supervisor Aaron stated the cost would be approximately \$5,000. Councilor Alexander stated to treat 25 acres at \$1.25 an inch at 180 inches per acre it's \$5,625. The Conservation Committee has a little

over \$6,000 in their budget, but that budget is for all services and maintenance at the Conservation Areas. She stated she had spoken to Bookkeeper Fey and the Board could choose to fund it out of the unappropriated fund balance, or they could utilize the ARPA funds.

Councilor Alexander stated the Conservation Areas, and the Parks were the most used during COVID-19 therefore we could use some of the ARPA funds in the Parks and the Conservation Areas. We saw such an uptick of use and it hasn't stopped people really value these lands and they value the outdoors and the beautiful places that we have.

The Board discussed the process and the options. Onondaga County Soil and Water would be administering the treatment and the cost would be \$5,625.

Councilor Legg stated Keri Marcher who prepared the New York State Hemlock Initiative, came, and briefed the Sunrise Rotary Club a couple of weeks ago and they are working with Baltimore Woods to try to help them find funding and possibly some longer-term grants to be able to help treat this invasive species. Their recommendation to prioritize the areas and to consider prioritizing treating younger trees versus older trees and you could save your younger trees and they could grow to replace the older Hemlocks. One of the essential things about the Hemlock is that it can grow in dappled sun, so they do replenish themselves and are slow growing.

Councilor Alexander stated the people who would be administering the treatment know how to prioritize the trees. It is recommended to keep pets and children off treated area until spray is dry. Councilor Legg stated this was discussed and Ms. Marcher said it would not affect other animals in the Conservation Area.

Councilor Legg stated he was in favor of this going forward. He stated the funding should come from the general fund if the money is available. He stated he is happy that Onondaga County Soil and Water is engaged, and they are working with Cornell Cooperative Extension. A lot of these Hemlocks are on private property and the more we can do to make people aware the better.

Councilor Alexander stated whether we go ahead with this or not we should make some fliers up with information for property owners to make them aware of the problem.

Supervisor Aaron asked Bookkeeper Fey if the Board approved this could the funds come from the contingency account, unappropriated funds balance or the ARPA funding and what would she recommend? Bookkeeper Fey stated it could come from any of those funds if approved by the Board. The ARPA funds would depend on what the Board had planned for the rest of the ARPA monies. The funds are available.

The Board agreed the ARPA funds could go to so many other places and this is a small amount and should come from other funding.

Councilor Alexander stated there is a lot of tree maintenance and safety concerns that are needed to be addressed in the Conservation Area and would recommend the Board set up a reserve fund for these areas.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board approved to transfer an amount not to exceed \$6,000 from the unappropriated fund balance to treat the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid invasive species at the Conservation Area.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Legg and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board declared the action a Type II under SEQRA, “maintenance of existing landscaping or natural growth”, and the treatment of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid be performed and administered under Onondaga County Soil and Water contract.

Conservation Area/Community Garden Update: Councilor Alexander stated The Skaneateles Community Garden Group had asked the Town for their support of a Community Garden. Chris Buff addressed the Board and stated this garden would be a community effort and the produce would be donated to local groups such as the senior facilities and the Food Pantry.

Ms. Buff reviewed the location at the Conservation Area and the plantings, they are presenting 10 raised bed gardens for the community to access. There would be temporary fencing to protect the plantings.

Josh Allyn thanked the Board for their support. The plan would be to start small. He reviewed the design with the Board. They could have sponsored beds that would be from donations. This would be low impact on the environment and could be easily removed if it did not work. We would donate a lot of the goods to get the gardens going and rely on support from community members as well. This would be no cost to the Town besides lending us a little bit of space. But we are excited with having a small goal in this year, producing food for our senior citizen centers and the Food Pantry.

Councilor Alexander stated the Conservation Committee took a look at some of the preliminary information. One of the Committee members works with Josh Allyn at Taproot, Matt Leveroni and the whole committee is very excited. The land next to the parking lot is farmed but it was not farmed last year. This would be a great place for the Community Garden.

Councilor Alexander stated the Committee had a few concerns. One concern was the possibility of vandalism. Would there be another area that would be less accessible?

Josh Allyn reviewed the space and would get back to the Committee with the location and suggested to add some solar lights to help with vandalism if the Town agreed.

Councilor Tucker stated maybe near the road would be a better choice. Josh stated that could work and they would look at it.

Josh Allyn stated this might help to get the community involved with the maintenance at the Conservation Area and they would like to help as well.

The Board thanked Josh Allyn and the Community Garden Group and asked them to continue working with the Conservation Committee and keep the Board updated.

Announcements/Correspondence/Updates

- *Easter Holiday Schedule: Town Hall closed at 12:00 p.m., Transfer Station closed at 10:30 a.m.:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town Hall would close on April 15, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. and the Transfer Station would close at 10:30 a.m. and reopen Saturday at 7:00 a.m.
- *Shredding Day at the Transfer Station – April 23, 2022, and September 17, 2022, 9:00a.m – 12:00 p.m.:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town would be holding a Shredding Day at the Transfer Station – April 23, 2022, and September 17, 2022, 9:00a.m – 12:00 p.m.
- *Summer Employment Opportunities Town Parks Department:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Parks Department is hiring for seasonal employment.

- *Cornell Cooperative Extension – Skaneateles Educational Programs March updates:* Supervisor Aaron announced Cornell Cooperative Extension had scheduled their educational programs. The schedule would be posted on the Town of Skaneateles website.
- *Supervisor update – Mayors and Supervisors of Onondaga County Meeting:* Supervisor Aaron announced she had met with Onondaga County Mayors and Supervisors. Dan Kwasnowski from Syracuse Onondaga County Planning Agency was there, and he presented their recommendations to the County Legislature to amend the requirements that certain zoning permits would no longer need to be referred to the County Planning Board for their comments. The list included variances, subdivisions, site plan reviews and special permits. The list is very specific to the type of permit application. Supervisor Aaron reviewed the list of permits and zoning actions. This has been submitted to the Towns and Villages for comment. It was first submitted to the County Legislature. She stated her recommendation would be to submit this to the Town’s Planning and Zoning Boards for their review and comments.

Attorney Smith reviewed the current law referring to referrals to the County Planning Board. At times this does not fall in the time needed for the Planning and Zoning Boards to review since the County Planning Board only meets once a month. After the referral the Boards have to wait 30 days. Most of the time the County Planning Boards comments it is of “local concern” or no comment. This would be helpful to the Towns and Villages.

On a motion of Councilor Legg, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Board referred the recommendations of the County Legislature to amend the requirements that certain zoning permits would no longer need to be referred to the County Planning Board.

- *Comp Alliance Safe Workplace Award:* Supervisor Aaron announced the Town was in receipt of the Comp Alliance Safe Workplace Award for their performance during the policy year 2020.

Public Comment: Chris Buff asked Councilor Alexander about the treatment of the trees at the Conservation Area, and would it effect the wildlife? Councilor Alexander stated the treatment is very low on the tree, it would only go up about 4 feet. The areas being treated would be closed on the day and would be opened up the next day when it was dry.

The Board thanked Ms. Buff for her pictures of the bald eagle at the Conservation Area.

Budget Amendments: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the following budget amendments for abstract #22-06:

\$5,351.00	Increase	070204.01.004.00	Recreational Admin Contractual Expense
\$5,351.00	Decrease	019904.01.004.00	Contingency

Cost of Edmunds GovTech annual contract

Abstract #22-06: On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board vouchers #22-0288 - #22-0367 were authorized from the following funds:

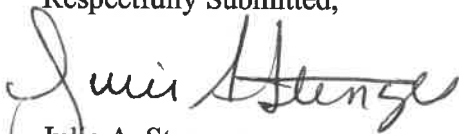
General Fund:	\$ 90,990.87	Highway:	\$ 9,732.05
Water:	\$ 4,304.21	Part Town:	\$ 5,016.19
T&A:	\$ 408.01	Sewer:	\$ 36.48
Highway PT	\$ 2,491.38	Limeledge Wtr	\$ 591.10
TOTAL:	\$ 113,570.29		

Executive Session: On a motion of Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Alexander and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. for attorney advice and discussion of personnel.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Dove the meeting was returned to open session at 9:20 p.m.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor Tucker and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk