

# REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

## MONDAY, July 9, 2012

**(PRIOR TO THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING – 6:30 PM** - there was a joint public informational meeting with the Town of Claverack regarding the proposed Harlem Valley Rail Trail). Approximately 35 people attended (including board members from both municipalities). Lenny Collins, Associate Chairperson of the Columbia County Harlem Valley Rail Trail, presented the program on the goals and vision for the project. He showed maps of the proposed and present trails. Maps were made available for the public (copies of the map and informational brochures are available in the Village Office). Some audience members presented pro and con opinions. A representative from the Philmont Rod and Gun Club noted that the present plan would not limit Rod and Gun Club activities. Mr. Collins stated that “eminent domain” has never been used with this program and will never be used as a way to acquire land. The decision will be up to the private land owner. After a brief question and answer segment, the meeting was concluded).

### REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:

**PRESENT:** Mayor Clarence Speed, Trustees Douglas Cropper, Barbara Sagal, Laurence Ostrander, Matthew Perry, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons.

**MOTION** to approve minutes of the previous meeting made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve Treasurer’s Report made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #2, Water Abstract #2, Sewer Abstract #2, Library Abstract #2, T&A Abstract #2, DPW Garage Project Abstract #1) made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

### PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Steve Benson expressed anger and concern that the DPW crew removed about six (6) trees that were located on his property then gave the wood to a neighbor. The Attorney noted that if this was indeed the case, an easement should have been obtained. He will look into the situation and keep Mr. Benson informed. The board agreed that they would “make it right”. Mr. Benson also asked that any other plans for his property be discussed with him first.

Ms. Chadwick requested that the board consider changing the “Winter Parking Law” to an “Odd-Even Parking Law”. The attorney noted that there would be limitations on the smaller roads but could be done by modifying the current law and possibly creating “snow emergency” no-parking (where signs go up when a storm is predicted). There will be more discussion at the workshop.

Mrs. Oakley requested that the DPW not “throw” the recycle buckets back after emptying them.

### REPORTS:

**ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:** Noted that he is working with the clerk to update internal workplace policies as requested by NYMIR Insurance and will have something ready by the next board meeting.

**CLERK/TREASURER MORRIS:** Water/Sewer bills were mailed out on June 29<sup>th</sup> and are due through July 31<sup>st</sup> without penalty. Also, the annual report for the NYS Department of Audit and Control has been completed and submitted. A copy is available in the Village Office for review. Some reimbursement has been received from FEMA for Hurricane Irene expenses. There should be one more (large) check to come. Also, the bonding process has been completed and funds have been deposited in a special account for work on the DPW Garage Project. Usual items...tax collections, water/sewer billing and collections, garbage sticker sales, bill payments, end of month reports, end of quarter reports and end of year reports have been completed.

**POLICE REPORT:** (Officer not available)...report handed in after the meeting. A copy of the report is available in the village office for review.

**LIBRARY REPORT:** The report was provided by Director Garafalo and given by Trustee Sagal. It was noted that the summer reading program will begin 7/10 pitting adults against youth in amount of time spent reading. She reminded all that museum passes are available at the library for The Norman Rockwell Museum, Berkshire Museum, Eric Carle Museum and The Clark. Passes can be checked out for three days at a time. There will be a concert this week by the Tablesaw Acoustic Band with several Taconic Hills teachers performing. On July 26<sup>th</sup> Zack Marshall will open for Valinda Brandow. Both concerts will be at the Village Green. Teens have started working on the organization of a book sale. More books are needed, especially non-fiction. Six teens came today and “exhausted” the director. (Suggested she may be getting too old for this!!)

**COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT:** Provided by Director Maxwell and given by Trustee Ostrander. Reported that there were 3 participants in the yoga class. She also noted that there were 15 kids per night for “game night”. She also reported that the Mobile Locksmith has been contacted about having the locks redone.

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK/COUNTY OF COLUMBIA:** (Provided by Supervisor Andrews)  
(TOWN)The youth programs will run for six weeks with a nominal fee for bussing. She also reported that there will be a public hearing at 6:30 PM prior to the next town board meeting on revised zoning issues. She also noted that the Claverack Seniors felt they were outgrowing their present meeting place and were looking for a new meeting place.  
(COUNTY) The next meeting is Wednesday. All financials are now posted online, and board meetings are now videotaped for public access cable.  
She also congratulated the Village of Philmont on their successful Community Day and noted that the fireworks and the Elvis Impersonator were great. She thanked all for their hard work.  
ALSO...Many have probably heard that (Ms. Andrews) is running for State Senate. She is excited about the opportunity to serve all at a higher level but will continue to work hard for Claverack.

**MAYOR SPEED:** Attended Community Day activities and received all positive feed- back on a job well done. He thanked Dick Howard for all his hard work. He enjoyed handing out the trophies for the car show and the speeches from all. He also, has checked into complaints received throughout the month.

**TRUSTEE PERRY:** Attended grant meetings, Community Day activities and HVRT meetings. He also took some phone calls and assisted residents, and spoke with “Walking The Dog” theatre.

**TRUSTEE CROPPER:** Reported he is in contact with the Health Department regarding playground safety. He also met with the work crew from Hudson Correctional regarding projects to be done. He enjoyed working on the Community Day Committee and thanked Dick Howard for his dedication. He also has been checking village properties on a regular basis and all is fine. At this time Dick Howard gave a final progress report on Community Day. He noted that a workers picnic is scheduled for 9/22/12. Also, next year Community Day will be held on June 29, 2013.

**TRUSTEE SAGAL:** Reported that two street lights were reported “out”. She also attended the grant meeting. She thanked Dick for all his hard work on Community Day.

**TRUSTEE OSTRANDER:** Attended the Fire Company meeting. He has also been keeping up with several e-mails regarding the Summit Lake Grant. He enjoyed the Community Day activities and complimented Dick Howard on the success of the day. He also gave the Fire Company report provided by Chief Vernon Higgins.

**DPW/WATER/SEWER REPORTS:** Reports were provided by Supt. Scheller and given by Mayor Speed. Copies of all are available in the village office for review.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE – LIST PROVIDED TO THE AUDIENCE.**

#### **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **MOTION** to appoint Edward Brabender as a permanent DPW employee upon completion of his six-month probationary period ending 7/30/2012 made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Cropper suggested buying a PA system for events. He will ask Paul Slusar for assistance in choosing the right system for our needs.

**MOTION** to adjourn in memory of Pat Near -past Village Clerk/Treasurer made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris  
Clerk/Treasurer  
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT