

September 13, 2010

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m., Supervisor Barrett presiding.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Present: Councilman Paolucci  
Councilman Romano  
Councilwoman Walowit  
Supervisor Barrett  
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Absent: Councilman Hughes

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy  
Michael Shahan, Town Administrator  
Mark Heggen, Comptroller  
John Scavo, Director of Planning

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Former Town Councilman Roth updated the Board on the upcoming Hazardous Waste Day scheduled for September 25th, noting to date 750 people have registered. He said Wednesday is the final day for registration but may be extended.

Supervisor Barrett thanked all involved in the successful Farm Fest.

**PUBLIC PRIVILEGE ON RESOLUTIONS**

No one wished to be heard.

Resolution No. 228 of 2010, a resolution recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Plainsmen Junior Football League.

Introduced by Supervisor Barrett, who moved its adoption, seconded by the entire Town Board.

WHEREAS, the Plainsmen Junior Football League was founded in 1971 by a group of six men who saw the need for a youth football program in the growing Shenendehowa community, and

WHEREAS, the league has grown from 120 children in the inaugural season to more than 500 today, and

WHEREAS, the league is designed to teach players age-appropriate skills and football fundamentals while promoting good sportsmanship and fun, and

WHEREAS, the Plainsmen Junior Football League has provided thousands of children in grades K-7 an opportunity to play football in a safe and controlled environment while enjoying the experience, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is supportive of the Plainsmen Junior Football League and all local youth sports organizations which enhance the health and fitness of area youth and also recognizes the benefits of team sports and competition at all levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board pause its deliberations to congratulate the Plainsmen Junior Football League on 40 years of outstanding service to the community's youth and wishes the league continued success for many years to come.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Romano,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 229 of 2010, a resolution honoring Michael Bloss for becoming the first Clifton Park resident to be elected President of the New York State Elks Association.

Introduced by Supervisor Barrett, who moved its adoption, seconded by the entire Town Board.

WHEREAS, Michael Bloss has been elected to the office of President of the New York State Elks Association for the year 2010–2011, and

WHEREAS, with his election, Mr. Bloss becomes the first Clifton Park resident to ever hold the position, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bloss has been a member of the Clifton Park Lodge 2466 since February 1977 and since that time he has demonstrated his leadership and commitment to Elk Dom in many ways, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bloss has been a leader at the New York State Elks Association level having served a total of eleven (11) years as State Chairman of Community Activities, Elks Memorial Day, Emergency Education Grants and Business Practice committees, and

WHEREAS, in 1999 Mr. Bloss was awarded Honorary Life Membership to the Elks and was recognized as Officer of the Year in 2004-05, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bloss has also served Clifton Park residents as a member of the Shenendehowa Community Coalition as a youth wrestling official, soccer and lacrosse coach, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bloss is an Assistant Director of Information Technology at the New York State Department of Labor and is in his 34<sup>th</sup> year as a civil servant, all in Information Technology, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bloss is a role model of community service to all Clifton Park residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board pauses its deliberations to honor Michael Bloss for becoming the first Clifton Park resident to be elected as New York State Elks Association President and to thank him for his many contributions to the community.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Romano,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 230 of 2010, a resolution authorizing the Comptroller to transfer \$50,000 within the Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1 for grinder pump repairs.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Romano.

WHEREAS, Michael O'Brien, Collection System Manager for the Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1, has indicated that it is necessary to repair grinder pumps within the Sewer District, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to transfer funds to cover the expense of repairing the grinder pumps; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$15,000 from G78110-E3000 (Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1-Laborers) and \$35,000 from G78111-135 (Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1-Engineering) into G78111-34 (Sewer Pump Maintenance) to pay for grinder pump repairs in the Clifton Park Sewer District No.1.

Comptroller Heggen explained the first allotment of \$50,000 in grinder pump repairs has been reached and this will cover for the rest of the year. Mr. Heggen stated this does not change the budget. Supervisor Barrett said over 100 grinder pumps have been replaced and the system continues to be upgraded and maintained.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Romano, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 231 of 2010, a resolution authorizing the Comptroller to transfer \$30,000 from Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park District Fund Balance account into Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park Maintenance.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Paolucci.

WHEREAS, the Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park District have projects planned for the Park District, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to transfer funds to cover the cost of the projects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board, as Commissioners of the Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park District, hereby authorizes the Comptroller to transfer \$30,000 from the Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park District Fund Balance account into SP37131-24 (Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park District-Maintenance).

Comptroller Heggen explained this is a request from the park district. The budget adopted in 2009 did not anticipate all the projects, however, there are sufficient funds in the fund balance account for the rest of the year.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Romano,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett  
Noes: None  
Absent: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 232 of 2010, a resolution appointing Greg Wing as a member of the Clifton Park Open Space, Trails and Riverfront Committee.

Introduced by Councilman Paolucci, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Romano.

WHEREAS, an opening exists for a member of the Clifton Park Open Space, Trails and Riverfront Committee, and

WHEREAS, Greg Wing, 9 Rolling Brook Drive, Clifton Park, has been recommended to fill the position, and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Greg Wing would confer a benefit to the Clifton Park Open Space, Trails and Riverfront Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Greg Wing is hereby appointed as a member of the Clifton Park Open Space, Trails and Riverfront Committee, term to expire December 31, 2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Romano,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett  
Noes: None  
Absent: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:10 PM  
TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT FINAL RECREATION PLAN OF THE  
TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as published in The Daily Gazette on September 1, 2010.

Supervisor Barrett thanked all who attended the public meetings during the time of the study, noting that input is what drove the results of the plan.

Director of Planning Scavo introduced Ben Syden and Nicole Allen of the Laberge Group who presented a power point overview of the Recreation Plan, attached.

Mr. Syden noted the Town of Clifton Park has 33 parks = 1 park for every 1500-1800 people.

Supervisor Barrett commented the resulting study was very good. He noted the town has received many grants over the last ten years. He further said the town will continue to partner with the school district and other towns, noting the more the town works with other entities, the more is achieved. The Supervisor stated some very important amenities that the town doesn't currently have are brought up in the study and this is a good start for discussion and road map for the future. He further noted studies and plans have always been done before taxpayer money is spent.

The public hearing was opened for comments from the audience at 7:44 p.m.

Pam Marshall, Fairlawn Court, said she attended workshops 1 and 2 and the listing was expected. She pointed out there are two different guidelines that are used to assess the facilities – one being the state guidelines which uses acreage and a minimum population density to support recreation and the other, which she prefers, is the national guidelines which take into account community demands for recreational resource before making a decision and this is an important key.

Sally Burke, Evergreen Terrace, a member of the Clifton Park Community Chorus, a founding board member of the Not So Common Players, as well as secretary to the Community Arts and Culture Commission, asked for greater awareness of the need for a community arts and cultural center. Ms. Burke expressed appreciation and recognized the Town Board for supporting the community chorus, Not So Common Players and establishing the Arts and Culture Commission. She noted various cities, towns and villages around Clifton Park have community centers. She said a community center could house a center for visual and performing arts, lectures and workshops all generated by the citizens of the Town of Clifton Park. Ms. Burke said there are many empty spaces in town that would be perfect to build “toward a dream”. She asked the Town Board to consider these viable options for a community center. She stated as Not So Common Players has demonstrated, thousands of people are brought to the town for musical theater productions and spend money at various establishments throughout the town. She distributed Not So Common Players statistics to the Board, attached. Ms. Burke said the Players look forward to expanding their commitment to include theater for children as well as an educational arm.

Kristen Knapp-Inez, Cranberry Lane, commended the town for building the trail system; however, safer and more enhanced crossings are needed.

Dan Hartnett, Southbury Road, member of Open Space Committee, spoke in favor of town work on trails. He said there is no sports and exercise programming for the 20-30 young professionals other than at the YMCA.

Kathy Brousseau, Juniper Drive, President of the Shenendehowa Crew Club, asked the Town Board to support a waterfront facility and a community boathouse. She explained Shenendehowa Crew Club is an organization open to all middle and high school students and all participate and compete. Ms. Brousseau reported there is also a Masters Program open to anyone out of high school. She said the Club is looking at expanding and adapting a rowing program for handicap individuals. She explained most of the regattas are held on Saratoga Lake and at times bring in hundreds of teams and thousands of spectators. Ms. Brousseau said the Club is also interested in working with emergency services, explaining as part of a boathouse the Club envisions a bay for a water rescue boat. She further explained the Crew Club is not a school sanctioned sport and receives no support from the school. The Club pays the school for use of the buses. Funds are raised through membership dues and fundraising. The Club currently uses facilities in Niskayuna.

Norman Goldman, London Square Drive, asked why Shenendehowa facilities were not included in the Recreation Plan. He said the largest park in town, Saratoga County Forest (Kinns Road Park) has “gone to the dogs”. He is concerned that the town is imagining too much.

Supervisor Barrett said the town uses school facilities and there is reciprocation, however, there is a “hefty sum” to use school facilities.

Paul Tashjian, Stratford Drive, said sports teams get assistance from the school, however, though Shenendehowa Crew Club represents Shen High School competing in various regattas, they receive no funding from the school. He noted the current facilities are small and are rented from the Burnt Hills School District. Mr. Tashjian said with room to expand, there could be additional competition and revenue generated for the town.

Tom Heckert, Nottingham Way South, Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission, stated the Commission applauds the Town Board for re-establishing the Arts and Culture Commission in 2008. At that time Commission saw the need to get arts and culture activities centralized and to be a vibrant part of the community. He said the Commission supported the study of a recreational plan and from attendance at the workshops it was clear the residents of the town valued arts and cultural

activities in their daily lives, whether active participants or passive observers. Mr. Heckert said the draft plan contains specific items that address the need for a dedicated arts facility and quoting from the report “incorporation of the work of local artists into the fabric of the town’s activities”. He reported the Commission has started implementing the plan as they partnered with Farm Fest and the Grooms Tavern to exhibit the photos from the Commission’s Rural Roots photo contest. The Arts & Culture Commission has sponsored round table discussions and input received notes there is no unified venue to do things. He said the need is to collaborate to see how limited funds can be used for multiple uses. Mr. Heckert said the Commission supports the majority of recommendations in the report and recommendations for Arts and Culture are “spot on” for the most part. He doesn’t agree with charging for premium seating as this is hindering access to all residents. He stated there should be access to all residents. He reported a community arts center has been in the town Master Plan since 1975.

Laura Andruski, Sylvan Lane, member and former Chair of the Arts & Culture Commission, commended the town for doing this study. After attending the workshops, she said it was clear people want action and not another ten years of feasibility studies before needs are addressed. She stated it is important that everyone’s endeavor - Park & Recreation Department, Arts and Culture Commission, the Friends of Grooms Road Tavern, and the Library be included as all struggle to continue to keep a very high level of awareness that there are arts and cultural events happening in this town but without a centralized venue many of the residents don’t know these events exist. Ms. Andruski said there are many opportunities in the town, partnerships and collaborations to be made with existing underutilized facilities, empty/abandoned buildings that should be taken advantage of so town citizens can have the advantages they ask for.

Supervisor Barrett stated all Not So Common Players performances in town, as well as Sunday Nights in the Park, are free.

John Burke, Evergreen Terrace, read a letter from David Rossi, Director of Clifton Park Community Chorus and musical director for many Not So Common Productions, attached.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, said it is important for the Players to “capture” the people who go to the performances to put a little pressure on the Town Board. He noted he has attended performances and they are great. He said when the group came requesting a skate park, the town built it. He urged the Shen Crew Club not to give up. He said the Town Board has done a lot for a lot of organizations and should consider the Shen Crew’s request. Mr. Baisley explained the 13 park districts are all separate entities that pay their own way but something needs to be looked into where the town will maintain park district facilities.

Marty Egan, Carriage Road, member of Arts and Culture Commission, reported years ago there was a columnist that implied Clifton Park is only a collection of housing developments and he wished he could see the various topics this evening. He asked that the Town Board guide various groups into researching grants.

Supervisor Barrett thanked everyone for their comments and noted the Board clearly knows where different groups stand.

Cindy Nagle, Winkle Way, member of Arts and Culture Commission and board member of the Not So Common Players, said she is tired of hearing Clifton Park referred to as a bland suburb with chain restaurants and sports rivalries. She stated the arts are alive in Clifton Park and are looking for more awareness and to do so need a central place to house them and to grow. Ms. Nagle said the town is fortunate that the Town Board has supported the arts in so many ways to allow access to everybody. She stated the arts are a vital part of a strong and successful community and a measure of the quality of life of a community. Referring to the town’s motto of “Great Place to Live, Work and Play”, she said the town has done a great job with “Live” – beautiful housing areas, “Work” – job opportunities, but too many people are going elsewhere to “Play”. She said it is important for children to be well rounded individuals and them, and their parents, are asking for arts opportunities. Ms. Nagle reported the photo exhibit at Grooms Tavern may have been the first time children had an opportunity to see a photo exhibit and vote on it and where else could they have done this in Clifton Park unless the town actively and vocally supports the arts. She stated the arts are the soul of the community and so much more can be done to encourage the arts.

Youseff Ballout, Torrero Drive, said the report is well written but hopes the town will take a serious look at this study in terms of neighboring towns. He said the report does mention school facilities but does not include, in any depth, the school facilities. The report speaks of the concept of community streets and recommends when new streets are put in town that attention be paid to bicycles, pedestrian, access to parks and trails. Mr. Ballout urged the Town Board to look at active facility needs and also passive facilities such as Garnsey Park and asked that the Board move forward on that park. He asked that the report prioritize. He stated what is most important is what action is taken. He stated he supports an arts and community center and a facility for the Crew Club.

Supervisor Barrett questioned the 60 acres for field games noted in the presentation, stating he thinks that is a low number and will discuss it with the Laberge Group.

Alla Kogan, Via da Vinci, said she hears of plans being drawn up by the town but then doesn't hear anything more about it. She asked whatever happened to the Exit 9 Study, is the study done for western Clifton Park being followed. Supervisor Barrett said the Western Clifton Park GEIS has been implemented. Ms. Kogan said the new apartment building on Waite Road seems out of place. She stated she is disappointed there wasn't a representative of the school or the library at the workshops. Supervisor Barrett reported there were people from the school at some of the workshops. Ms. Kogan said it is necessary for the library, school and town to work together on a plan. She asked what part of the plan can be done right now versus later but thinks more studies will be done based on this study. Ms. Kogan said improvements to the Common can be done right now; e.g. better parking, sidewalks. She recommended separating the plan into two parts – the future vision versus what can be done right now, also recommended residents pay \$2.00 for a performance with money put aside toward a community center. Ms. Kogan stated the state assessment said greatest needs are pools but many residents have pools. She said she doesn't understand park districts or why they are necessary – should be just town parks each with a bathroom.

Ryan Sherry, Casablanca Court, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, crew member, said the boathouse is too small to accommodate the amount of rowers and there no room to modify boats when necessary.

Ethan Stevens, Taylor Drive, 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, crew member, said crew keeps kids out of trouble and out of the house.

Director of Planning Scavo said he will provide updates to the Town Board and work with the Board on the implementation. He reported some recommendations have already been implemented explaining Skidmore College is planning to do a phosphorous study within the stream at the Dwaaskill Nature Preserve.

Supervisor Barrett said the town does partner with the library and school and other entities in town. He noted Mohawk Landing has been opened allowing access to the waterfront and the town will continue to improve trails and parks. Supervisor Barrett commended the Not So Common Players for their hard work and great performances.

Everyone was given an opportunity to speak in favor of or against the proposed local law and no one else wished to be heard. Supervisor Barrett declared the public hearing closed at 9:06 pm.

#### PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

Norman Goldman, London Square Drive, questioned size and legality of political signs.

MOTION by Councilman Paolucci, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 9:13 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell  
Town Clerk