

**TOWN OF NORTH EAST
TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2022
7pm**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	HERE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	HERE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD	HERE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	HERE

Acceptance of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)
NAYS- 0
The agenda was accepted..

Police Report

Officer Veeder was invited to speak. The Village Police Report for May was distributed among Board members. It will be posted on the Town website.

Supervisor Comments

Covid update- we continue to watch the numbers closely.

Town Hall news- Ann Deneen of Millerton is the new secretary in the Building Department. Appreciation to Pat Millius who bridged the gap and has been willing to train her successor.

Rail Trail- Summer is here and usage of the rail trail has increased a lot. We are working on additional parking. The County has taken down the old brick building on S. Center Street and is going to repave and create additional parking spots. Supervisor Kennan is working with the County to acquire a piece of land off Rudd Pond Road, for additional Rail trail access.

Community Development Advisory Committee of Dutchess County- The committee evaluates grant applications and advises the County Executive. As a new member, Supervisor Kennan feels this will give a good sense of what other Towns are applying for and getting.

Gun Club complaints- though they are grandfathered in, Supervisor Kennan has a meeting scheduled with Skip North and hopes to find some accommodation that works for everyone.

Complaints about speeding on both Beilke and State Line roads. The County Sheriffs have provide us with a trailered speed indicator. Their help is greatly appreciated.

Spongey moths- We have received complaints. They are not under the Town purview. This is a cycle that historically happens every 10-12 years. Expect them to be around for 1-2 years. Many trees will survive.

Department and Committee Reports

Highway- Highway Superintendent, Bob Stevens, reports that the crew have been mowing roadsides and clearing drainage. In July he anticipates having use of the shared paver roller trailer (shared with Amenia, Milan, and Rhinebeck)

Assessor- No report.

Planning, Zoning, & Building Department- Reports were distributed to Board Members ahead of Meeting. No comment.

Town Board Committee Activity

Recreation Committee- Councilwoman Morrison reports that we have a renewed contract with the Village of Millerton, which spans the next two years.

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Buildings and Grounds- No report

Highway Committee- Superintendent Bob Stevens and Supervisor Chris Kennan reported material delays and shortages. This will result in a delay of the building. It is now scheduled to be delivered in early 2023. There will be some grading activities on site and we are working on funding for fencing, through an outstanding application to the County.

Resolution to observe Juneteenth as a Town Holiday

RESOLUTION #342022

DECLARING JUNETEENTH A TOWN OF NORTH EAST HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865 – nearly nine decades after our nation’s founding and more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation – enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas finally received word that they were free from bondage and those that were formerly enslaved were recognized as citizens and black Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that we honor today; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act (P-L. 117-71) into law; and

WHEREAS, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act amends §6103(a) Title 5 of the United States Code to designate June 19th as Juneteenth National Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is now a legally established, and recognized, official national holiday; and

WHEREAS, several states, including the State of New York, have recognized Juneteenth as an official New York State holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the time has come for the Town of North East to also recognize, at the Town level, Juneteenth as a Town of North East official holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that Juneteenth is hereby declared to be a Town of North East official holiday to be celebrated and observed on the same date as Juneteenth is celebrated as a Federal and/or New York State holiday commencing Monday, June 20, 2022 with the date of observance to be set thereafter by the Town Board at its annual reorganizational meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Town Hall shall be closed for business in the same fashion as on other official holidays recognized and celebrated by the Town of North East for Juneteenth and that the same benefits enjoyed by the employees of the Town of North East shall be afforded those employees on the said date of celebration of Juneteenth each year.

MOTION: Councilman Fedele
SECOND: Councilwoman Morrison

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN COOPER	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	Voted AYE
COUNCILMAN MIDWOOD	Voted AYE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	Voted AYE

The Resolution was carried by a 5-0 vote of the Town Board members on June 9, 2022.

Discussion to rescind Town law of 2021 opting-out of permitting cannabis dispensaries in the Town

Pine Plains and the Village of Millerton voted to Opt-in. We should look into it if only to share in the tax revenue. New York State promises 700 permits. If we opt-in, it then goes to the

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Zoning Committee, where they would have to amend the zoning laws. The Municipality has a voice in reviewing the license application and regulating the retail sales, similar to liquor stores. Town Attorney Replansky said it would be a simple process to create a local law rescinding last year's law, which would not be subject to a permissive referendum. Supervisor Kennan stated that he was interested in raising some tax revenue for the town to help the tax payers. Councilman Cooper wanted to be clear about the motive for revisiting the matter. Councilman Fedele would like to look deeper into studies of crime and accident rates in towns with dispensaries. Councilman Midwood said he supported Opting-in for dispensaries. Councilwoman Morrison had no comment.

Presentation by Kathy Chow & Climate Smart Communities Task Force on pending CSC certification at Bronze level.

Supervisor Kennan spoke briefly about the history of the CSC. He said George Kaye learned about the CSC from Dover NY, who were early adapters of the volunteer program. The purpose is to look into a number of different possible actions to help the community adapt to climate change. Our committee is an active task force, under the leadership of Kathy Chow, who has spent enormous number of hours.

Kathy Chow shared a color coded chart for action points that lead to Bronze certification. Announcement of our possible certification will be forthcoming. She also spoke of a developing a bike and pedestrian plan that would have lasting effect on the community and the support of the county.

Presentation included Housatonic Valley Association (HVA)

Amanda Cabanillas, the watershed manager of HVA, spoke to the Board about the Ten Mile River Plan. In 2018 the Ten Mile River Collaborative was formed to monitor the watershed, (which our Town is part of), that flows into Long Island Sound. HVA has a draft blue print of how to protect resources of the watershed and monitor our Town's effects downstream. There are five "frameworks" to support the vision- monitoring the highway garage salt shed removal, the century Boulevard drainage project, a watershed connections program that would recruit a team of students to watch projects unfold, lend hands on experience, and education. The draft plan is on the website: <https://hvatoday.org/explore-the-region/ten-mile-river/>

First Environment, Inc.

Phil Ludvigsen from First Environment shared a PowerPoint that covered the inventory of emission generating activities and properties of the Town of North East. The data is from the year 2020, as it is the most complete and available data set, which will serve as the baseline year inventory going forward. All the data pertains to the Town municipal activities and properties. Major takeaways are the huge contribution of emissions generated by the landfill. On fifteen acres, the landfill ran from 1960 to 1999. The conclusion is to try and capture the methane through one of several options. Using flare out as fuel is not practical. The best recommendation is to offset emissions with a solar farm. A solar field could generate power and actually help residents with their electric bills. Another option is a bio filter around each vent, which could capture up to 40% of the emissions.

The next step is to meet with the Village and work with both municipalities.

ZRC re-appointments for 3 years: Dale Culver, Bill Kish

A motion was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Cooper.

Ayes- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)

Nays- 0

Both Dale Culver and Bill Kish were reappointed.

Public Comment Period opened at 8:35

Ray Nelson, resident of North East, blames the lack of grocery store on the ZBA, or the ZRC. Does not believe in Climate Change. Brought up lack of Town support for Village Police.

Brian Wahl, resident of North East, spoke about the Village Police being key component for safety and growth. He also questioned rescinding the Opt-out Cannabis law without a permissive referendum. He was upset that there are no clear numbers on the proposal to make changes and eliminate the Village Police department.

Grace Nelson, resident of North East, is against having a Cannabis dispensary. She later asked if the Town would offer more money to support the local Village Police.

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Mirabel Wahl, resident of North East, asked where the dispensary would be located. She is in favor of the Village keeping their Police Department.

John Morrissey, resident of North East, asked the Town to do more to influence the Village’s decision about the Police Department and make no hasty decisions before cost analysis. He needed clarity on Village governance. He requested an explanation of how the Town and Village, in regards to the Village Police Department, function.

Carol Lee Andrews, resident of North East, asked if the Village Police would be on the Town agenda anytime soon. Asked why there are two entities: a Town and a Village. She is in support of keeping the Village Police Department.

Linda Kraus, resident of North East, asked how to get the Village and Town talking to each other.

Eric Breen, resident of North East, a Millerton Village Policeman, commented that he believed the Town Supervisor and Village Mayor had conversations about Village Police Department before Mayor was elected.

Public comment ended at 9:12 pm.

Supervisor’s Report

RESOLUTION # 352022
Budget Adjustment #3 of 2022

RESOLVED, to approve Budget adjustment #3 of 2022 as follows:
A Fund- General Town-wide, there is an expense increase of \$1,415 less an expense decrease of \$1,415 for a resulting net of \$0.
Motion made by Councilwoman Morrison and seconded by Councilman Fedele

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)
NAYS -0

The adjustment was approved.

RESOLUTION # 362022
Approval of Special abstract dated May 26, 2022

RESOLVED, to approve Special abstract dated May 26, 2022 totaling \$437.46 broken down as follows:
A Fund- General Town-wide \$437.46
Motion to approve the special abstract was made by Councilman Fedele and seconded by Councilman Cooper.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

The Special Abstract was approved.

RESOLUTION #372022
Approval of Abstract dated June 9, 2022

RESOLVED, to approve Abstract dated June 9, 2022 totaling \$87,145.92 broken down as follows:
A Fund- \$46,094.71
B Fund- \$ 168.50
DB Fund- \$32,308.12
ARPA- \$ 8,326.00
Payroll T&A- \$ 248.59

Motion to approve the Abstract was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Fedele.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)
NAYS- 0

The Abstract was approved.

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The Voucher Committee for July: R. Fedele & G. Cooper

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 05/12/2022

Motion was made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilman Cooper.

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)

NAYS- 0

Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Midwood and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Midwood, Cooper)

NAYS- 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/: Elizabeth “Tilly” Strauss
Town Clerk

Approved: July 14, 2022