

**TOWN OF SAND LAKE
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
March 31, 2021**

A Meeting of the Sand Lake Town Board was held on March 10, 2021 at the Sand Lake Town Hall. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following answered roll call:

PRESENT: Councilman Bulmer
Deputy Supervisor Erickson
Councilman Film
Councilman Nippes
Supervisor Perry
Town Attorney Ely - Absent

RECORDING SECRETARY: Barbara Hansen, Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Perry opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

OTHERS PRESENT: David & Regina Post, Jim Snack, Amy Lent, Adam Muhs, Lisa Colton, Garrett DeGraff, John Slyer, Wayne A. Gendron,

BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION: 2021-03-18

Appointment of Counsel for Zoning Board of Appeals Legal Consultation

Moved by: Supervisor Perry

Seconded by: Deputy Supervisor Erickson

Be it Resolved, that the Sand Lake Town Board hereby retains Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C., as special counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals with respect to all matters arising from or related to a Special Use Permit application filed by applicant Joseph Jankovic, based on a fee schedule of \$225 per hour as contained in the Letter of Engagement and Retainer dated March 22, 2021, provided that such authorized fees shall not exceed \$5,000 without further approval by the Board.

ADOPTED AYES 5 – NAYS 0

RESOLUTION: 2021-03-2017

Appointment of Youth Director/Summer Camp Director

Moved by: Supervisor Perry

Seconded by: Councilman Bulmer

Be it Resolved, that the Sand Lake Town Board hereby appoints Tiffany Buker, 779 NY 351, Poestenkill, New York, as the Town of Sand Lake Youth Director/Summer Camp Director, effective March 1, 2021, for an annual salary not-to-exceed \$10,850.

ADOPTED AYES 5 – NAYS 0

Supervisor Perry asked Councilman Nippes to explain how the security cameras at Butler Park and the Beach operated. He reported at present you need to have a monitor to view what is on the camera since there is no wi-fi. Installing wi-fi will make monitoring the cameras much easier. Councilman Nippes is going to be meeting with Spectrum to get details to have wi-fi installed at the Beach and Butler Park.

Supervisor Perry introduced David Post, Chairman of the Planning Oversight Committee (POC) which was formed last fall. She noted the POC has been very active and we are proud of their activities. They have been invited here tonight to give us an overview of what they've been working on, and to present their recommendations.

Mr. Post invited all members of the POC to come to the podium to be introduced to the Board and viewers at home. Members of the Committee are: Laurie Leckonby, Vice Chair, Garrett DeGraff, Secretary, Amy Lent, Lisa Colton, Adam Muhs and Jim Snack. Rob Dressner and Sally Perry were unable to be here tonight but were joining remotely. Deputy Supervisor Erickson is the Committee's liaison to the Board and Monica Ryan, Planning and Zoning Coordinator helps with resources.

Mr. Post said he would start with an overview of The Town's Comprehensive Plan (The Plan) adopted in 2019, and the role of the POC in conjunction with that Plan. He then would like to introduce two Proposals for the Town to consider.

The 2019 Plan continued to build upon the goals of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan and the 2011 Hamlets Master Plan and Linkage Study. As times have changed and the Town has grown, the 2019 Plan better reflects current circumstances and shows great vision for the future.

The POC studied the 2019 Plan in great detail and came up with 5 priorities they want to address. Sub-Committees were then formed to oversee each of the priorities:

- Community Engagement – Amy Lent
- Infrastructure – Sally Perry
- Business Development – Garrett DeGraff
- Recreation Venues & Facilities – Adam Muhs
- Arts, culture & Historical Resources – Jim Snack

The POC proposed two actions that will provide a foundation for progress on implementing the 2019 Plan:

1. Improving Communication by establishing a Communication & Marketing Committee
2. Increasing Community Involvement by establishing a Community Engagement Committee

Mr. Post turned the floor over to Jim Snack who teaches at SUNY Albany's Department of Communication. Mr. Snack explained there are 2 kinds of communication, internal and external. By internal he means how the Town communicates with its residents. On the other hand external communication depicts how we market our town to the outside world. Sand Lake is a great place to live and many outsiders are starting to recognize that. He referenced a recent Times Union article which recognized West Sand Lake as the 2nd best place in the Capital Region to buy a home and the 4th best in the entire State, with Averill Park ranking 12th. Our new Town website is easily accessed and has vital information about activities and services in Town, such as the Community Calendar, monitored by the Sand Lake Library. Mr. Snack suggested we also utilize the Town's Facebook page more to reach out to the Community and outside public.

Mr. Snack, believes a Communication & Marketing Committee would promote our Town's recreational, cultural, arts and historic resources. He believes this would make a huge impact on highlighting Sand Lake's resources. The podium was then turned back to David Post.

Mr. Post explained the second proposal was to increase community engagement and involvement. He wants to build a framework to connect community volunteers and community projects. To further expound upon the POC's second proposal he introduced Adam Muhs, Chair of the Recreational Committee and Lisa Colton, member of the Community Engagement Sub-Committee. They also believe our website and Facebook could be used more effectively to connect volunteers with community organizations. To accomplish this liaison between volunteers and the community needs, a kick-off event is being planned for a Town wide clean-up day on April 24 (with rain date of May 1). This coincides with Earth Day, and we hope to accomplish bringing people out and improving Town areas.

Dave Post commented that he hopes the Town Board approves the POC's proposals and will assist the Town Board to get things up and running. He believes the proposals provide substantial benefits at very little cost and will help to accomplish some of the goals of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. The POC plans to meet again to report on progress and make additional proposals to further implement the Comprehensive Plan. They welcome comments, questions and suggestions, so please email the POC at: SLPOC@sand-lake.us or on the Town website under Committees.

Councilman Film thanked the Committee for all their work and noted they've done a lot in a short period of time. Supervisor Perry complimented their presentation.

Supervisor Perry clarified that the Town Board would be instrumental in setting up the two committees proposed, and then would solicit members of the community along with members of POC to serve on those committees.

The Town Board agreed that a Clean-up day was a good way to start to implement some of the POC's ideas. Councilman Bulmer agreed and suggested some of the Town's common areas would benefit greatly. Deputy Supervisor Erickson said it would be a great opportunity for groups in Town to promote their organizations. Supervisor Perry made a Motion, seconded by Councilman Film, to request a "voice vote" on the following:

1. Establish a Communication and Marketing Committee
2. Establish a Community Engagement Committee
3. Establish a Town Wide Clean-Up day of April 24, 2021 (rain date May 2, 2021)

All Town Board members voted in favor: MOTION CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Supervisor Perry assured the POC that the Town Board will be working with the Committee to get this into The Advertiser and on the Town's website. Mr. Post also stated that student volunteers would be very welcome.

Councilman Nippes, a member of Kiwanis, offered to be a liaison to anyone interested in joining and exploring the many activities Kiwanis is involved in. Wayne Gendron, Vice President and membership Chairman of Kiwanis, had applications with him if anyone was interested in joining. He noted Kiwanis meets every Monday at 6:30 pm, currently on Zoom.

Councilman Film said there is much to be done at the Town Beach and it would be great if the Beach area could be targeted on Clean-Up Day to accomplish some of the goals for the Beach set forth in the Master Plan.

Supervisor Perry reported that at the last Town Board Meeting she reported some information she received that was inaccurate. She said the Town would be receiving \$92,000 in Stimulus Relief Money, when the Town is actually going to be getting \$920,000. At present the funds have not been allocated to projects, so further information will be coming.

Councilman Bulmer reported the Park and Beach Committee will be meeting on April 6, 2021 to discuss improvements to the Park and Beach. He also reported that he attended a Zoom meeting with NTSEDA about the new updated Energy Code, New York State Program. He asked that the Board take a look at the new code since there is a money for grants. Supervisor Perry thanked Councilman Bulmer for bringing this to the Board's attention and said it was already in the works to be introduced as a Local Law at the April 10th, 2021 meeting.

Supervisor Perry made a motion to adjourn the March 31st, 2021 Town Board Workshop Meeting at 7:50 pm. It was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Erickson.

MOTION CARRIED: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara Hansen, Town Clerk