June 5, 2023

State of New York
2679 Route 8
County of Hamilton
Town of Lake Pleasant

A Meeting of the Lake Pleasant Town Board was held on June 5, 2023 at the Lake Pleasant Library 2864 State Route 8, Speculator, NY 12164. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., to make approvals, give reports, establish organizational tasks, and conduct any business that may come before the Board.

The following were present:
Supervisor: Betsy Bain
Councilman: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, RaChelle Martz and Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent - Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Chris Ambrose, Eileen LaVarnway, Karen McComb (Library President), Katrena Cohea, Lisa Swift, Stephen and Lorie Whiting and Nancy Carr.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #78 To approve the minutes of May 15, 2023
Offered by: Martz
2ND by: Braunius
Discussion: none
Be it resolved, that the minutes of May 15, 2023 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- New York State has started heat in place paving from Wells to Lake Pleasant on Rt 30. Paving should take three to four weeks, weather permitting. Today State trucks were out wetting down and sweeping state roads.
- Town of Lake Pleasant is helping Hamilton County with paving starting north and working south.
- Highway crew has been mowing. A new mower and weed wacker have been purchased so that more ground can get mowed and no employees are left to stand idle. With more equipment jobs can be completed in less time.
- Ditching has started on Page St.
- It was reported that the health center had fans blowing and it was 80 degrees. Boxes were off of thermostats and off of their default code. LaVarnway reset codes and thermostats, setting them back to their default codes.

- LaVarnway announced that he will be attending the Highway Association Annual Conference this fall and will be staying in his camper in order to save the tax payers his hotel fees.

Old Business:

1. **State Camp Site Update –**

Bain announced that there is no new information at this time. She was told to set up a public hearing or meeting. Lake Pleasant Central School is not available due to renovations so now looking into the movie theater in IL.

2. **BTI Final Report –**

Completed after water levels went down. Plentiful small larva was found. Dry weather helped. Discussion on how BTI has helped our area and that there are two different types of black flies was had. Bain let the board know that they have plenty of treatment for next year but a few new sprayers may have to be purchased.

3. **RO System –**

Wallers and Blenis systems have been installed by Bill Dievendorf.

4. **Community Garden –**

Bain announced that pricing on a new 5-6 in. fence is being collected. Once the fence is purchased, they will need volunteers to install it at the community garden.

5. **Library Report –**

McComb announced that Katrena Cohea will be taking over as the Library Manager after June 30th. Lake Pleasant Town Board welcomed Katrina and congratulated her on her new position.

New Business:

Resolution #79 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the Standard Work Day Resolution for Elected Officials dated 5/5/2023.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Martz
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Smith explained that this is to approve the resolution form for the State Retirement System for Judge Visscher who is the only elected official that the town had to report on this year.

1. **Youth Recreation –**

   Martz announced that youth recreation schedule is set and will go home with students any day now. Two recreation aids have been chosen that have lifeguard and CPR qualifications after running an ad in the paper for two weeks. Approval to hire and wages determined at the last meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – SHORT TERM RENTALS

Supervisor Bain Declared the public hearing open at 7:15 P.M.

Following distribution of the Short-Term Rental Law to the town board members on May 15, 2023, notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Hamilton County Express Newspaper on May 24, 2023, with same being posted on same date at the Town Hall shadow box.

Bain asked Katherine O'Connell to give the Short-Term Rental Report. O'Connell gave a background on the Committee forming with seven individuals from different backgrounds and interests in STR. From September of 2022 to now the committee met. She preceded to review what they discussed and what they came up with for STR. Simple registration for STR owners, law to follow and use as a guide, and poster to get posted at rentals. Proposal was given to the town board on March 6th to pass a law for STR. Final was brought to the town board on May 1st which resulted in changing some dates. Final law and registration form is in the hands of the public and town board at this meeting.

Whiting asked what the fee will be and O'Connell responded with $50.00. The town will be able to address this cost yearly. Costs are to offset costs for printing posters and inspections if they are needed after a complaint is filed.

Whiting asked about septic and carbon monoxide detectors being inspected. McGovern responded that inspectors will not be sent to inspect unless neighbors formally complain. Swift asked if this was an on your honor and the board responded that yes it will be on your honor for owners to check these safety checks. Occupancy rules were asked about and the board answered that if there are questions about occupancy then they should ask Steve Page the code enforcer. Bain informed all that if there is a septic complaint it needs to go to the Hamilton County Board of Health. Swift asked if water testing will be a requirement and the board answered that it is up to the owners to get their water tested. McGovern stated that the town is not certifying these properties they are registering them. O'Connell stated that the law and form is for property owners to be aware of safety needs for their properties. Swift commented that this is great to have an emergency number handy if an emergency situation with the property arises but how does the town plan to get them all listed and reach all the STR owners. O'Connell responded with time and getting the word out. There is a provision for a penalty that can be enforced if property owners choose not to comply with registering.

Whiting asked if this will supersede the state and she was answered with no the state will set what they wish. O'Connell made the point that the states proposal does not contain anything about safety. This was the main consideration of the Committee in moving forward with this law. O'Connell explained that this will not be in place until this coming fall. Swift asked if property owners could get the good neighbor posters before the fall and O'Connell said sure.

Whiting suggested that the addresses be visible for emergency purposes. This requirement should be mandatory. SVAC is selling them right now for $25.00 through June 30th.
Braunius mentioned that years ago everyone knew who owned what and now we don't know who is who at individual properties so property identity is now very important when emergency situations arise.
LaVarnway brought it up that the dumpster that is out at the town hall had to be dumped three times Memorial weekend and was mostly full this past weekend. STR users made one of the town employees aware of the fact that some STR's have posted that the dumpster is available for garbage to be dropped off. LaVarnway wants STR owners to know that their guests need to take garbage to the transfer station and only use the overflow dumpster at town hall if the transfer station is closed. An adjustment will be made to the poster to make this clear. LaVarnway also explained that parking at STR's in the wintertime often becomes an issue when vehicles and trailers are not parked in appropriate areas when snow plows are at work. It was discussed that the Sherriff's department must be contacted when vehicles are illegally parked and at risk for damage. Swift feels that the town having rules set helps her as a manager of properties, for herself and others, to enforce rules that she is already trying to enforce with renters.
McGovern mentioned the towns parking ordinance that needs to be followed. Calls for tow truck if vehicles are not parked legally can be made. He said that a local manager/contact is wise. Braunius explained that a contact for owners is necessary in case they need to be contacted. McGovern asked O'Connell to explain to the public that seven members were on the committee from various interests and experiences with STR. O'Connell listed them as one from zoning, one from real estate and community outreach, one STR owner, one towns person and one village person, a neighbor of a STR and an attorney.
Nancy Carr asked if the fee was prorated if starting midyear. The answer is no that the registration is once a year.
O'Connell said that suggestions tonight are about parking, garbage, and a visible address on the poster seem to be the concerns that the public is asking about. She asked the room if she was to proceed tonight with changes to these topics would that be the route to go. The room agreed that these were the right topics to address.
Changes to poster: removing parking on lawns and keeping stay off roadways and park in designated areas.
Town of Lake Pleasant has a parking ordinance that prohibits parking on town roadways.
McGovern mentioned that there is a county law that requires all streets to be named and addresses be issued to properties and posted in a location that is visible all year.
Whiting asked how they determine max occupancy. McGovern advises to check certificate of occupancy when house was built. If this is not available, the town codes enforcer can be contacted for a home inspection and advise on what should be listed for a property.
Bain explained that this was the initial plan of approaching this STR wave softly. Other municipalities are getting stricter with their regulations.
Discussion on where to have the address posted so that residents can easily see for emergency purposes was had. Whiting asked if this involves other towns and the village. O'Connell responded that it is just the Town of Lake Pleasant only.
Registration will be available this coming September with the poster available prior to registration.

With all persons desiring to be heard, Supervisor Bain closed the Public Hearing at 8:10
Resolution #80 to close public hearing on Short Term Rentals.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #81 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to approve the STR Law and Registration form.
Offered by: Martz
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

2. **Pretty Good Band - tabled**

Committee Reports –

Youth Recreation – Covered in old business.

Cemetery committee – LaVarnway asked that the committee meet this Thursday June 8th at 3:30.

Website committee – The garbage schedule was updated on the website after it was brought to Martz's attention that it was posted in two different spots and one was last years schedule.

Resolution #82 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #19 dated 05/19/2023, #2789-2789 in the amount of $1,015.55. Abstract #20 dated 05/31/2023, #2790 - 2792 in the amount of $28,057.41. Abstract #21 dated 06/01/2023, #2793-2827 in the amount of $49,783.84.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: none
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
- McComb praised the Hwy crew for doing a great job cleaning up the pathways and picnic areas. LaVarnway stated that someone else cleaned up the picnic area.
- Whiting asked about the road paving. State of NY is doing the paving that started June 5 and will go about 4 weeks. The crew started south and will finish at COTW's. Paving will stop for the holiday weekend.

Roundtable:

- Martz announced this Thursday through Sunday is the annual Hamilton County Birding Festival. Over 95 registrants to date with 6 of the 17 countywide walks are in the Town of Lake Pleasant and Speculator area.
- Applications for 4th of July parade are being collected. Always looking for volunteers.
- LaVarnway let all know that the pickleball box is back out at the tennis courts and signs remain up. Whiting asked about the Elm Lake courts and was told that nothing is moving with it at this time due to some roadblocks.
- Bain reported that Cris Mixner has raised $1,460.00 in donations from a new fundraiser she has been doing for the Museum. To date the total is $32,586.00 raised for the museum. Contact Cris Mixner to purchase tickets for the current fund raiser.
- Agriculture Market report for the towns dog shelter was received and everything looked good.
- Bain mentioned getting 4th of July parade committee thank you for the town's donation.
- Ken Kuhrt stopped by and spoke with Bain about SVAC EMT students completing the course. Next they will be taking their written exam then their practical exam this coming weekend. New officials for SVAC will be: new board of Director - Dave Abrahamsen, New Chief - Ken Kuhrt, Vice President - Wade Hartman. Contact Ken Kuhrt if you want to volunteer. Drivers needed.
- Sally Cross, with the historical society let Bain know that the historical society has their 501 C3.
- McGovern and Bain are working on changes for the clinic for Consolidated health. Whiting asked if this was a yearly contract. McGovern said it is a sustaining contract that they are asking for a two-year contract. For the past thirty years it has been a yearly contract.
- Bain let all know that a veteran's service agency had been coming up to the County but after only two veterans in the past year coming in, they are moving back down to Gloversville again.
- Bain announced that KVS, herself and the treasurer's office would be meeting to go over the new computer system that was budgeted last year for the towns billing.
- Bain mentioned the Golf course buildings new siding looks great.
- Bain thanked O'Connell for having the 6th grade class hang the flags for Memorial Day in the cemeteries. Bain has pictures if anyone wants to see them.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday June 20, 2023, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** McGovern
To Adjourn @ 8:26 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk