

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
JUNE 14, 2018
7P.M. PUTNAM TOWN HALL

The meeting opened with the auditing of bills, the Supervisor's monthly report and the Town Clerk's monthly report.

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilman Kevin Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	John LaPointe
	Councilman	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Kevin Hart
	Councilwoman	Shirley Randall
	Councilman	Greg Harris

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Town Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Bert Windle (Resident, 5211 Sagamore Road), Peter Leyh (Resident, 5560 Evergreen Shores Way), Wayne Busby (Planning Board, 11 Charter Brook Lane), Joe Hoell (Resident, 427 County Route 3), Bonnie Maiolo (Resident, 211 County Route 3), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Russell Jockel (Resident, 705 Gull Bay Road).

Resolution # 66

Accept the minutes of the May 10, 2018 meeting

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Kevin Hart; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 67

Accept the Supervisor's report for the month of May, 2018

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Darrell Wilson; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 68

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of May, 2018

On motion of Councilman Kevin Hart, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 69

Pay bill as audited

On motion of Councilman Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Greg Harris; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolved, the bills on the following are paid as audited.

General Fund	# 147-187	\$10,565.50
Highway Fund	# 66-78	\$9,158.77
Black Point Sewer District	# 5-6	\$3,931.68

Correspondence (7:02)

NONE

Courtesy of the floor (7:03)

Mary Jane Dedrick addressed the Board first complimenting Charlie Bain Sr., Henry Sears, Ellie and Al Collette for planting and maintaining flower gardens at the beach/boat launch area.

Bert Windle addressed the Board next. Mr. Windle stated that for the last 3 years he's asked the same question, "what is the Town doing about the trailers?". Mr. Windle stated he doesn't get a definitive answer. Mr. Windle also stated when he returned this year he noticed more trailers. He asked if the Town Board was going to do anything about it. Supervisor LaPointe replied he had spoken with Mr. Buxton, the Code Enforcement Officer, and Mr. Buxton will be addressing abandoned trailers. Mr. Windle responded the trailers he's speaking of are not abandoned; one recently had electricity hooked up to it. Bob Rudt joined the conversation stating one was on Gull Bay Road owned by Damon Bothelo. Mr. Bothelo had approached the Planning Board requesting a shed. The Planning Board asked for APA (Adirondack Park Association) approval before moving ahead. Later Mr. Bothelo put a trailer on the property without submitting plans. Mr. Windle stated he knew of at least 20 trailers in Putnam and would provide a list to Supervisor LaPointe. Supervisor LaPointe said he'd give the list to the Code Enforcement Officer James Buxton and have him investigate the trailer locations. Mr. Windle brought another concern to the Board, saying there was a problem area on Sagamore Road in front of Barbara Connors driveway, where there is an area that has an old culvert where boundaries have washed away over the years. Currently there is a growing hole that's about 2' deep moving into the roadway, where a cone has been placed to alert drivers. He inquired about any plans to fix that location. Mr. Windle continued by complimenting the new Cummings Park on County Route 2. He stated he's only heard good things about it. He reiterated he would like to see the Town get a professional planner for developing the remainder of the park and for the town beach as well as other areas in town so that any money spent from here on out would be spent on a master plan. Mr. Windle complimented the boat launch attendants, saying they are very helpful, he felt this was very positive. Mr. Windle went on to comment that he's a board member on the LCP (Lake Communities of Putnam). The LCP Board has chosen Peter Leyh as the Chairman of their Water Quality Committee. He continued that Mr. Leyh has a background that makes him a good choice for this. He stated the LCP would like to participate in what's going on at the beach and dredging of the boat launch. He stated he felt it could be helpful to the town to obtain the best product possible.

Russ Jockel addressed the board next. Mr. Jockel discussed the Gull Bay recreational area that included the beach, boat launch and bathroom areas. Mr. Jockel stated he recognized the work being done at the beach with the new drainage and boardwalk. He inquired if there was more improvements planned that that recreational area. Supervisor LaPointe replied that the boardwalk will be completed with lattice work along the front to prevent digging under the boardwalk and the removal of the stones from under the board walk, also blacktop will be placed at each end for access. The boat launch dredging is waiting for a permit from the APA (Adirondack Park Agency). Supervisor LaPointe went on to say Randy Rath would be consulted on the drainage on the south end of the beach; however, no other specific plans have been made. Mr. Jockel asked the Board to consider making improvements to the bathroom facilities stating

“they are one step up from an outhouse”. Mr. Jockel stated he’d like to see a beautification project for the beach recreational area in general and felt developing a committee for this purpose would be prudent. Mr. Jockel continued that the beach on Lake George is Putnam’s “gem” on one of the most beautiful lakes in the country, and should be a pleasant and nice place for families to enjoy. Mr. Jockel stated he’d like to gather input from the community, in the form of a survey or mailing, in regards to what residents would like to see in the Town. Supervisor LaPointe replied a mailing or survey would be possible. Councilman Hart joined the conversation stating that parking is currently a problem at the beach because of limited space. Supervisor LaPointe replied that the Town does own a small piece of property across the bridge that could possibly be utilized for parking. Councilman Hart added that there is remote parking available also. Supervisor LaPointe wrapped up the conversation saying we can work on a questionnaire.

Peter Leyh addressed the Board next. Mr. Leyh confirmed that he had accepted the position of Chairman of the Water Quality Committee of the LCP (Lake Communities of Putnam) because of his experience with the water, and he continues to be active, and have contacts, with various organizations around the lake. Mr. Leyh stated he’d like to be better informed about what is happening on Putnam’s property on Lake George so that he could possibly be of help to the Town and community. Mr. Leyh went on to say he agreed with what Mr. Jockel had to express 100%, and that the bathrooms at the beach need to be cleaned up by painting, or perhaps making the facilities larger. He stated the same could be done with the parking areas. Mr. Leyh changed the topic to Cummings Park saying he felt if another building was ever built for the town hall it should be at Cummings Park. He also stated that Cummings Park would be a good place for an indoor recreational facility. He continued “what sticks out like a sore thumb” was the inability to reach the shore of Champlain, he suggested building steps and a deck with chairs so that residents could enjoy the view. Mr. Leyh also suggested building a dock. Councilman Hart responded that the water is very shallow there. Mr. Leyh suggested dredging if that was possible, to allow boats enter and exit there, as well as dock. He also suggested it might be possible to find more funding for Cummings Park in the form of grants. Mr. Leyh closed saying he looked forward to working with the Town.

Bonnie Maiolo addressed the Board next about dog control. She stated she had a recent incident, while walking the neighbors 3 dogs charged her, while the owners screeched at the dogs. She stated the owner had no control over the dogs. Mrs. Maiolo stated the dogs came to within one foot of her barking and growling. She stated she has not been that scared in a long time and was afraid to walk back home having to pass the dogs again. Mrs. Maiolo contacted Supervisor LaPointe and relayed the incident to him. Supervisor LaPointe replied he had contacted the DCO (Dog Control Officer) that evening who went to the dog owners home that night. The DCO returned the following day and ticketed the owner as none of the dogs were licensed. The owner, since, has licensed and gotten rabies vaccinations for two of the dogs. The dog owner stated that a pen was being built for the dogs. One dog remains to be licensed. Mrs. Maiolo expressed her frustrations regarding the situation with the dogs and the longevity of the problem. Mrs. Maiolo stated the dogs have come to her home and she fears for her small dogs. Supervisor LaPointe replied the DCO will revisit the location to assess the progress of the dog pens.

May Drinkwine-Sheill spoke next saying she wanted to do a follow up with Mrs. Maiolo’s statements, and that she had problems with the dogs in question twice. She inquired about the dog census and what the results were. Town Clerk Darlene Kerr replied that there has been a good response to the letters that had been mailed to unlicensed dog owners, and many have come in compliance by licensing their dog. Mrs. Drinkwine-Sheill stated that no one should be left out of the census and letters regardless of who they are.

Mr. Leyh addressed the Board a second time saying he had passed the ball field on Route 22 the previous weekend and cars were parked on both sides of Route 22 making it difficult and dangerous to pass through. He expressed that improved parking was needed and perhaps develop a way to enforce parking on only one side of Route 22. Mr. Leyh suggested moving the ball field to Cummings Park and selling the property on Route 22 as a commercial property. Councilman Kevin Hart responded saying the property on Route 22 is donated property, the town can’t sell it. Councilman Hart then went on to say “theoretically” if the ball field and tennis court was moved to the new park, along with parking, that

would use the remaining space there. Mr. Leyh replied there is tremendous potential at the new park. Councilman Hart turned the conversation back to the ball park saying event organizers should control parking. Councilman Harris joined the conversation saying event organizers could be made aware of the dangers of parking on Route 22 and asked to have people attending their event park in more appropriate places provided inside the park off the road. Mr. Leyh suggested getting a trooper there when events take place. Councilman Hart replied saying the town had tried that before, however parking is allowed on State roads and there was not a “no parking” zone there. The town then went to the State and asked for a no parking zone, after investigating the area the State determined that there wasn’t a problem there because the difficulty there was occasional, and denied the no parking zone.

Nancy Wolf-Fisher addressed the Board next. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher asked if you have a dog licensed in another state, does that dog need to be licensed in Putnam also. Supervisor LaPointe replied a person has to prove the dog is up to date on rabies vaccination, but two licenses are not necessary. Mrs. Wolf-Fisher continued asking if the new park has a fee for party use. Supervisor LaPointe replied there is a refundable fee of \$200 used as a security deposit for any damage repair or clean up that may be needed after an event. The deposit would be refunded after if the park is left clean and undamaged.

Highway report (7:58)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway was unable to attend the meeting, his written report was read aloud by Supervisor LaPointe. HS Treadway reported three reminders; a resolution to accept the agreement for roadside mowing on Washington County roads, the mowing will begin the week following the meeting and, white goods pick up will be July 11 & 12 this year, weekly recycling pick up will begin in July and run through September. HS Treadway also reported that Cummings Park has been top soiled/seeded and watered to prepare for upcoming events.

Assessment Review Board report (7:59)

Supervisor LaPointe read the report submitted by Cee McKenzie the BAR Chairperson. The BAR met on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 for the review of grievances. There were 15 grievances received, and no assessor corrections. While the Board granted reductions of \$466,900 to the total assessed value, the original grievances requested a reduction of \$1,721,050. The actual reductions represent 0.16% of the total taxable town value of \$285,165,010 as reported on the 2018 Tentative Assessment Roll. Supervisor LaPointe asked Ms. McKenzie if she’d like to add anything, she replied it was a relatively quiet evening and the BAR was able to complete everything in one evening. Bert Windle commented he had noticed in previous minutes that the Town Board made a decision to reduce the assessments on a number of properties, and asked what the justification was to reduce the assessments on those particular properties. Supervisor LaPointe replied the property in question was assessed for more than the selling/buying price therefore the Board felt it was reasonable to reduce the assessment. Mr. Windle then stated the property owners in question has tried to have the assessment reduced for three years via the BAR and the Assessor, but were denied. He inquired as to what changed to justify the reduction. Cee McKenzie the BAR chair replied the first year the owners did not own the property as the closing on the property had not taken place, so a reduction was not possible, the second year the BAR did not feel there was a reduction due, the third year the owners followed through with a Section 7 and a court action which is when the Town Board acted to reduce the assessment. Mr. Windle continued saying he ran a test case on a piece of property he owns in town. Mr. Windle said he showed what he paid for the property, he showed the property was escalated, and he showed the previous assessor had reviewed the property, it was a non-buildable lot. Mr. Windle said it was denied. He asserted this was a test of the system and he believes the system is not fair.

Resolution #70

Enter into a roadside mowing agreement with Washington County

On motion of Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Darrell Wilson; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Planning Board report (8:08)

Bob Rudt reported at June's meeting a public hearing was held for Gerald Jannicelli. Mr. Jannicelli's plan is, to demolish and replace a single family dwelling and guest cottage on 6220 Oliver Way. Mr. Rudt reported the public hearing didn't go well because of incomplete information, specifically the LGPC (Lake George Park Commission) who "are not particularly responsive".

Mr. Rudt moved on to Barb Connor. Ms. Connor had work done on her driveway where there were washouts. Ms. Connors sought permission from the LGPC, and was approved; however neither she nor her contractor realized they needed Planning Board approval as well. Ms. Connors was given retroactive permission. Mr. Rudt also reported, Tim Johnson is proposing a 1500 sq. ft. home on 6512 Royal Anchorage. The proposed home will block an existing roadway through the lot; Mr. Johnson wants to dead end the road. The Planning Board asked for letters of approval from the Royal Anchorage Association and the APA (Adirondack Park Commission).

Mr. Rudt continued his report with Andrew Holding's project at 2234 Black Point Road. Mr. Holding proposed a 280 sq. ft. shed. Mr. Holding's project was approved.

Mr. Rudt addressed the Town Board about concerns that the Planning Board often can't make quorum because members have to recuse themselves or, are frequently not in attendance. Councilman Harris expressed concern about the Planning Board not being fully functional. Wayne Busby joined agreeing with Mr. Rudt's assertion that some members of the Planning Board miss a large percentage of the regular meetings. Councilman Harris and Councilman Hart both expressed to Supervisor LaPointe that this is a problem that needs to be looked into. Supervisor LaPointe asked the Town Board what percentage of meetings they would like to have Planning Board members attend. After a brief discussion it was decided that the preferred number would be 9 meetings out of 12 annually.

Resolution #71

Planning Board members will need to attend at least 9 of 12 meetings annually to maintain their seat on the Planning Board.

On motion of Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Harris; all in favor
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Roll Call: Ayes 5

Nays 0

Putnam Volunteer Fire Company report (8:26)

Councilman Darrell Wilson reported that no meeting took place this month.

Old Business (8:26)

White goods pick up will be July 11th and 12th. Residents should call the Town Clerk to be placed on the pick-up list. Stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, freezers will be picked up. No electronics, televisions, or microwaves.

Park Dedication: Supervisor LaPointe has set a tentative date of August 11th at 11 A.M. for the Park dedication. Further, Supervisor LaPointe set a date of June 18th, at 6 P.M. for a special meeting concerning the Park and its uses/plan. All were in agreement on the dates.

Supervisor LaPointe reported he had contacted the County Code Enforcement about property maintenance. The Code Enforcement Officer, James Buxton, issued a letter to a resident about the condition of their property/building.

Supervisor LaPointe also gave an update of the boat launch dredging. One permit is still outstanding; we are waiting for the APA (Adirondack Park Association) approval of the project.

Councilman Harris asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to the boat launch attendants who help plant and maintain the flower gardens at the boat launch, stating they "go above and beyond". All agreed, Supervisor LaPointe said he would compose a letter.

Supervisor LaPointe raised the topic of plans, which had been looked at a few years ago, for a re-design of the town hall. He asked the board if there is any interest in revisiting that. Supervisor LaPointe also

said he had contacted Betty Little's office and received information that there may be some grant funding available for older buildings. Councilman Harris asked how long is left to pay on the town shed. Supervisor LaPointe replied "one year". Councilman Wilson stated he believes it's worth the effort. Councilman Hart asked of the plans and drawings used a few years ago would be used again. Supervisor LaPointe replied yes. Bert Windle joined saying he remembers there was some opposition to those plans. Mr. Windle said at that time it was asked that the Board consider building a universal building to put the firehouse and town hall under one roof. Mr. Windle raised the issue of parking on the current property. Supervisor LaPointe replied that there are places on the current property that would be appropriate for improved parking. Councilman Harris expressed it might be easier to accept if grant funding was available to help. Councilman Hart asked about the Champlain Hudson Express project and what the current status was. Supervisor LaPointe said he had spoken with Josh Bagnato a few weeks ago and the project is waiting for a resolution from Dresden in favor of altering the permits for the changed route on the project. Supervisor LaPointe announced the Founders annual picnic is July 18th, at 5 P.M. at Cummings Park.

Resolution #72 (8:38)

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Shirley Randall, all in favor Resolution unanimously adopted.

Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Next meeting: July 12th, 2018 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

John LaPointe _____ Supervisor

Darrell Wilson _____ Councilman

Kevin Hart _____ Councilman

Shirley Randall _____ Councilwoman

Greg Harris _____ Councilman