

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board

May 13th, 2021 at 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilwoman Carole Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Christopher Mallon
	Councilman	Larry Shiell
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider
	Councilman	Charles Bain

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), David Hayes (PVFD, President-elect, Resident, 560 Gull Bay Road),
Present via ZOOM: Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Galen Seerup (Planning Board Chair, 17360 State Route 22), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Briana Milanese (Guest representing the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan).

Resolution #42

Accept the minutes of the April 8th, 2021 meeting

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #43

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of April 2021

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 44

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of April 2021

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 45

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of April 2021

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Pay bills as audited

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

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

General Fund	# 94-129	\$6,192.46
Highway Fund	# 40-49	\$11,239.10

Guest: Brianna Milanese New York State Deferred Compensation Plan Representative

Supervisor Wilson introduced Ms. Milanese. Ms. Milanese explained how the plan works. Councilman Shiehl asked how much this would cost the Town. Ms. Milanese explained there is no cost to the Town. The only thing the Town will do is collect the money from participating employees and send it to the NYSDCP. The cost to the employee is a \$20 (twenty dollar) a year fee that is collected in two increments of \$10 (ten dollars) one in April and one in October. (See attached or go to www.nysdcp.com).

Resolution #46

Adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees of the Town of Putnam for voluntary participation of all eligible employees

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiehl;

Roll Call:

Chris Mallon	Yes
Larry Shiehl	Yes
Carole Schneider	Yes
Charlie Bain	Yes
Darrell Wilson	Yes

All in favor; Resolution unanimously adopted.

Correspondence (7:20)

Supervisor Wilson read an email from Dave Manchester regarding the proposed septic inspections in the watershed of Lake George. Mr. Manchester is in favor of a septic inspection program.

Supervisor Darrell Wilson
Putnam Town Board
c/o Darlene Kerr

RE: Proposed Action on Septic Inspections

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I read, with interest, the letter that was apparently forwarded by Mayor Robert Blais of Lake George Village, regarding a uniform initiative regarding septic system inspections at the time of property transfer. When I first heard of this initiative in Fort Ann, I questioned both the efficacy and the cost of such an obligation. However, as more and more information comes to light regarding the risks to water quality in Lake George, I have become convinced that this is a “necessary evil”. I don’t like the idea of an additional cost of property ownership, but I am also a huge fan of quality water in Lake George. Septic systems – especially failing systems – are a very real and present danger. That threat trumps my aversion to new regulation and cost. Putnam – and all communities around the Lake – are economically tied to the attractiveness of the lake. If we fail to protect that Lake, the area’s economy – and all of our property values will be horribly compromised.

I urge support for coordinated action by all of Lake George’s communities – and by the State of New York. (I was glad to see that the 12/4/20 letter from Dr. Carol Collins was being sent to the Governor, NY Senators, Rep. Stefanik and other key players.)

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, David Manchester 5177 Sagamore Road

The Board will re-visit the septic inspections topic at June's meeting.

Courtesy of the floor (7:22)

Nancy Wolf-Fisher addressed Supervisor Wilson inquiring about his meeting with Kevin Wood at the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) regarding recycling in Putnam. Supervisor Wilson acknowledged the discussion with the DEC, he also indicated that a viable vendor that will accept recyclables is needed, then a schedule for an economic path forward can be developed and reviewed.

Cee McKenzie the Board of Assessment Review Chair gave a reminder that Grievance Day is Tuesday May 25th, 2021 via ZOOM from 4pm to 8pm.

Highway report (7:28)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that the tractor and mower have been ordered. They are expected to be delivered in July. The crew has been working on spring cleanup and road patching. Parking areas at the beach will be worked on in coming weeks to try to improve the tight parking situation. An alternate parking location off from Sagamore Road is also being considered for additional parking. The Sagamore Road location will be connected to the beach area via a short trail. Boardwalk maintenance is being performed; the boardwalk will be ready for the beach season beginning July 1. The crew has also been working on Cummings Park preparing for the wedding/summer season. HS Treadway also reported that the Clemm Ulcher ball field on Route 22 needs repairs, the tennis and basketball courts as well as the bathrooms need attention. There is a significant cost to the repairs needed, a plan will be developed. Supervisor Wilson advised the Board that a platform with rails for the Town Justice will be built in the meeting room. Work will begin the 19th of May. Incremental improvements to the Justice's space are planned for the future. HS Treadway also raised the topic of the annual contract with Washington County for roadside mowing. The County has 10.6 miles of road in Putnam and pays \$2867.48 (two thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars and forty-eight cents) annually for the mowing.

Resolution #46

Enter mowing contract with Washington County for 10.6 miles of County roads in Putnam

On motion of Councilman Charlie Bain, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

HS Treadway advised that the 2021 white goods pick up will be the Wednesday July 14th, and Thursday July 15th. Residents who have items for pick up should call the Town Clerk's office to be placed on the pick-up list.

Councilman Shiell asked about the electronics collections event discussed in the last month's meeting. A price list provided by one company was distributed. The Board reviewed the pricing and the possible costs, as well as how to offset costs. The discussion was tabled for a later date. More research can be done, and a plan will be developed.

Planning Board report (8:04)

Planning Board Chair Galen Seerup began by reporting on April's meeting as it took place after the Town Board meeting in April. Chairman Seerup reported that in April there were four site plans and one subdivision. One site plan was approved for a porch. A subdivision on Hutton Square was approved. In May's meeting Glen Brownstein proposed demolishing a deck and replacing it with an addition. His application is currently under review by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC). No site plan review is needed for Brownstein's proposal as it falls under the threshold for review. Jesse Berube has proposed a two-parcel subdivision on Craig Road, a change in the subdivision was made and a new map was submitted to the Planning Board. Scott Hay presented a site

plan proposal for a 12' x 24' storage shed on his property on Schwerdtfeger Road. An LRCC1 was signed for Larry Shiell for a porch rebuild. The porch falls below the Site Plan threshold.

Fire Department report (8:10)

David Hayes, President of the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department reported that the FD will hold a “pop-up” COVID vaccine clinic on May 27th from 11AM-1PM.

President Hayes reported eight – 911 calls in April, three were EMS, two Stand-by, one motor vehicle, one call for smoke and one structure fire in Ticonderoga. The Department also finalized the purchase of the new truck. Delivery is expected in 14 to 16 months. President Hayes also indicated that on June 20th there will be a community “Firehouse clean-up” day. July 24th the FD will hold a chicken barbeque. President Hayes reported that the FD has approximately \$109,000 (one hundred and nine thousand) in the Department’s operating budget account, with contracted debts satisfied for 2021.

Old business (8:15)

Dog Control Law- Supervisor Wilson advised that edits are being considered based on feedback from the public and will be re-visited at a later date.

Solar Law proposal- The purpose of the law is to balance the potential impact on neighbors when solar collectors may be installed near their property while preserving the rights of the property owners to install solar collection systems. Adequate setbacks, land grades and decommissioning plans were lightly discussed. Councilwoman Schneider firmly expressed discontent with the possibility of commercial solar in Putnam. Town Attorney John Breitenbach suggested targeting specifics about what the concerns are, for example if visual impact is a concern, then refine the regulations on those issues. Mr. Breitenbach opined that straight prohibition of commercial solar would be challenged legally. Copies of the draft of the Proposed Solar Law can be obtained at the Town Clerk’s office. A public hearing is scheduled for the June 10th Board meeting.

Cummings Park Cancellation Policy- The State policy for state rentals was reviewed and used to develop a cancellation policy for Cummings Park. The terms of the policy are as follows; reservations cancelled 30 days or more before the date will received a full refund, 29-10 days prior will receive a refund that is half of the use fee, 9 days or fewer no refund. All fees are retained if there is failure to use the park on the reserved date. Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Resolution #47

Adopt Cancellation Policy for Cummings Park Pavilion fees

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

Cemetery Repair- Supervisor Wilson addressed two issues currently being faced at the Town’s cemeteries. The Town does not have a formal policy for stone placement. Many of the foundations of the current stones are failing. The stones need to be repaired, and a policy needs to be developed for stone installation and for grounds regulations regarding decoration/plantings/structures etc. placed on plots by family members. The cost of stone repair is that of the Town, installation costs are that of the family, but once the stone is in place it’s the Town’s responsibility to maintain it. Supervisor Wilson suggested reviewing policies from various cemeteries in the development of the Town’s cemetery policy.

Rabies Clinic- A rabies clinic is scheduled for Wednesday June 2 from 6PM to 8PM at the Putnam Town Hall. The clinic will be a drive-up style with the veterinarian seeing patients on the front porch of the Town Hall.

Boat launch- Supervisor Wilson advised that the boat launch attendant building will have power and lights installed.

(8:57)

Resolution #48

Motion to move to Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Mallon, seconded by Councilman Bain; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Executive session- Contract negotiations, no action taken.

Resolution #49

Motion to exit Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Shiell, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #50

Motion to adjourn the monthly meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Bain, seconded by Supervisor Wilson; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 9:40 PM

Next meeting: June 10th, 2021 at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Larry Shiell _____ Councilman

Carole Schneider _____ Councilwoman

Charlie Bain _____ Councilman