

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

PUTNAM TOWN BOARD
JANUARY 9, 2020
7P.M. PUTNAM TOWN HALL

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilman Charles Bain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Christopher Mallon
	Councilman	Charles Bain
	Councilman	Greg Harris

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14)), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Larry Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Jodi Frasier (Planning Board, 123 Hutton Square Road), Leslie L. Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Road), Robert Geh (Resident, 146 County Route 2), Carole A Schneider (Resident, Pulpit Point), Martha Atwood (Resident, Pulpit Point), Ricky Quesnel (Resident, County Route 2), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 23 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883) Several others were in attendance but did not sign in.

Public hearing on the revised Site Plan Review Law

Supervisor Wilson opened the public hearing at 7:03 P.M.

Resident Leslie L. Bain addressed the Board first. Ms. Bain expressed that she was not in favor of any mention of agricultural standards in the current draft. She explained she felt it was intrusive and without merit, thus making it unnecessary as New York State already regulates agriculture. Ms. Bain also raised the question as to who would determine what is acceptable regarding “aesthetics” of the Town. She continued pointing out her idea of what is aesthetically pleasing may not be the same as others in Putnam. Ms. Bain continued stating she lives rurally because she doesn’t want to live under “city” rules or answer to a home owners association, and appreciates the freedom living rurally affords her and her farm animals.

Resident Martha Atwood spoke next supporting, as well as reiterating Ms. Bain’s sentiments, saying that people come to Putnam to see a rural area they don’t come to “see the city”.

Resident Carole Schneider addressed the Board next. Ms. Schneider asked what is being proposed for farmers. She asked if farmers would need to ask permission from the Planning Board to build a barn. Ms. Schneider continued saying she had spoken with a fellow at the County who told her she could build what she wanted to, but recommended she didn’t build directly on the shore of Lake Champlain. Ms. Schneider asked why Putnam needs the Planning Board at all since people in Putnam are already subjected to the regulations of Washington County Code Enforcement, the Adirondack Park Agency, the Department of

Environmental Conservation and the Lake George Park Commission. She also stated that she believes “it’s a waste of money”.

Resident Robert Geh spoke next. Mr. Geh asserted he believed that there is no land available in “the crossings” suitable for building so no one can build a house here. Mr. Geh addressed a second issue outside of the discussion regarding a nuisance property and the slow progression of the clean-up at said property. Supervisor Wilson replied that the property owner is under court supervision and is meeting the standards put forth by the court and the Assistant District Attorney. Failure to comply could result in a fine or possible jail time. Mr. Geh stated he’d rather see the property owner in jail for 90 days, and believes the clean-up of the property will be dragged out over a period of years.

Karl Ohly addressed the Board, for several minutes, reading a statement. (A copy was not provided) Mr. Ohly is not in favor of any agricultural activities, specifically buildings or uses of, being included in the revised Site Plan Review Law.

Supervisor Wilson addressed the attendees saying proposed changes regarding the agricultural portions of the Site Plan Review Law have been discussed. The Board first wanted to hear the public’s comments before making any decisions. The proposed change will exempt farm structures in Putnam. A comical “I love you” was heard from the crowd lightening the atmosphere with laughter.

Mr. Ohly asked about the “change of use portion” of the proposed Site Plan Review Law, stating that farms often hold events and activities as a means of promoting the farm. Bob Rudt, a member of the Planning Board, responded saying he doesn’t believe there would be an issue if the building’s purpose was changed from holding chickens to holding cows or housing farm equipment, however if it was going from farming activity to being used as a commercial building that would increase traffic and host crowds of people, it may be of concern to the Planning Board in regards to public safety issues. Mr. Rudt gave examples of what the Planning Board would consider, how would human waste be handled, or traffic control, at such an event. Attorney Breitenbach joined the conversation stating Mr. Ohly has a valid point about how agricultural use is defined, but, Mr. Rudt also has a valid point that even with agricultural use the Planning Board would be concerned about public safety, and should review the change. Mr. Breitenbach continued, the Site Plan doesn’t say you “can’t”, it’s just making sure the activity doesn’t negatively impact others in the town, or the health and safety of the public. Mr. Rudt then gave examples of other agricultural properties in town that have hosted activities such as Billy Bob’s orchard and Bucket’s Bog, both of whom were approved by the Planning Board with stipulations regarding the public’s safety.

Supervisor Wilson asked if anyone else would like to review or comment. No one replied.

Supervisor Wilson thanked everyone for their participation, comments and discussion.

Resolution # 33

Close public hearing

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

Resolution # 34

Accept the minutes of the December 12th 2019 meeting

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

Resolution #35

Accept the Supervisor’s report for the month of December 2019

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

Resolution # 36

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December 2019

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

Resolution # 37

Pay bill as audited

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

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

General Fund	# 1-17	\$6014.39
Highway Fund	# 1-3	\$534.58
Black Point Sewer District	# 1	\$19,584.86

Correspondence (7:40)

Supervisor Wilson acknowledged and expressed appreciation for an email from resident Dave Manchester. Mr. Manchester offered editorial comments regarding the proposed Site Plan Review Law.

Courtesy of the floor (7:41)

Leslie Bain addressed the Board regarding paving on Peterson Road. Ms. Bain asserted she, and her neighbors do not want Peterson Road to be paved. She expressed she felt paving the road could possibly increase traffic on the dead end road and encourage development. Ms. Bain expressed that if paving were to be done she felt the appropriate areas would be where the pot holes are at the bottom of the road and not on the hills. Supervisor Wilson replied his understanding the areas marked for paving would enhance the ability to maintain the road especially in the winter months. Ms. Bain expressed she felt the road hasn't been properly ditched because the highway crew hasn't had time; with all the other tasks they've been working on. Councilman Harris joined the conversation saying the Highway Superintendent would be making that decision.

Highway Superintendent report (7:48)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway was not in attendance but submitted a written report that was read aloud by the Town Clerk.

HS Treadway reported that the live edge plow, as well as the salt brine, has proven to be impressive tools in improving road conditions. The sand stock pile is hold up well and salt usage is about average. Large amounts of salt were used in the recent ice/freezing rain events. The equipment is in good shape with no major upcoming repairs at this time.

Supervisor Wilson followed up on the report commenting on the live edge plow and brine. He expressed that the two being used together have the potential, and is currently saving the Town significant amounts of money in regards to winter road maintenance. Supervisor Wilson stated it's environmentally better, saving money and more effective. Supervisor Wilson continued the Town is analyzing data collected thus far to determine if replacing an older plow with a live edge plow is reasonable. Live edge plows are reported to be more effective at cleaning the surface of the road, and last longer than a traditional plow.

Planning Board report (7:53)

Bob Rudt reported the Planning Board met the prior evening. Mr. Rudt reported the meeting was relatively short; there was only one applicant on the agenda. The applicant is still waiting for approval from other agencies and will return next month. Mr. Rudt reported the Planning Board received documents from the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) that pertain to the Sheila White subdivision. The White project has been underway for a decade or more, due to legal issues unrelated to

the Planning Board, the project has been delayed. Mr. Rudt also stated the Planning Board had a lengthy discussion about solar farms and possible future applications. Town Attorney John Breitenbach suggested the Town may consider a moratorium on solar until a policy can be developed and put in place. Mr. Breitenbach also suggested forming a committee for discussion and development of a plan. Supervisor Wilson explained to those in attendance that a moratorium is not a long term stop of solar applications, but rather, gives the Town a specific period of time to develop a plan.

Fire Department report (8:05)

The Fire Department will meet January 20, 2020 for a close out meeting and to discuss the 2020 budget.

Old business (8:06)

Site Plan Review Law with the proposed agricultural and editorial changes.

Resolution #38

Accept the Site Plan Review law with agricultural changes and editorial clean up

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor

Roll Call:

Greg Harris- Aye

Charlie Bain-Aye

Christopher Mallon-Aye

Darrell Wilson-Aye

Resolution unanimously adopted.

New business (8:14)

Supervisor Wilson communicated that the town shed doors will be serviced; the Town side doors of the shed (the Town shares the shed with Washington County each occupying half of the structure) have never been serviced. Should the doors fail they could be a danger. The Overhead Door Company has been consulted and will service the doors.

Supervisor Wilson's move, through election, to the Supervisor's Office has created a vacancy on the Town Board. There are three applicants, Galen Seerup, Cee McKenzie and Larry Shiell who was on the ballot in November. All three candidates offer strong skills and a willingness to serve. The person appointed will have to seek election in November of 2020 to finish out the term Supervisor Wilson vacated, then run for re-election in 2021 for a full four year term. The Board discussed the three candidates and the qualifications they bring. All three are strong candidates, however the Board concluded that Mr. Shiell put the effort into running in the November 2019 election and received over 100 votes in an off year election where there were just over two hundred voters turned out, evidencing strong support from the voters. The Board concluded the voters will, and should be heard.

Resolution #39

Appoint Larry Shiell to the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Greg Harris, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor

Roll Call:

Greg Harris-Aye

Charles Bain-Aye

Christopher Mallon-Aye

Darrell Wilson-Aye

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Mr. Shiell was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Resolution #40 (8:25)

Adjourn the January 9th, 2020 Town Board regular meeting

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

Regular meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned 8:25 P.M.

Next Town Board meeting February 13th, 2020 at 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson _____ Supervisor

Christopher Mallon _____ Councilman

Charles Bain _____ Councilman

Greg Harris _____ Councilman