

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF OSSINING
HELD IN PERSON AT
TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
16 CROTON AVE – OSSINING, NEW YORK
AND VIA ZOOM

MARCH 22, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
7:30 P.M.

SUPERVISOR
Dana A. Levenberg

COUNCILMEMBERS
Elizabeth R. Feldman Gregory G. Meyer
Angelo A. Manicchio Jennifer Fields-Tawil

I. CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ossining was held on March 22, 2022 in the Town Municipal Building, 16 Croton Ave in Ossining, and via video conference, pursuant to Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 signed into law on September 2, 2021 by Governor Hochul and Executive Order 11.4. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Dana A. Levenberg. Members of the Board present were: Councilmembers Elizabeth R. Feldman, Gregory G. Meyer, Angelo A. Manicchio, and Jennifer Fields-Tawil. Also present were Town Counsel Christie Tomm-Addona, Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli, and Deputy Town Clerk Martha C. Quituisaca.

II. PUBLIC HEARING – Draft Comprehensive Plan

At 7:31 PM, the Public Hearing opened.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Tonight, we are re-opening the public hearing on our Draft Comprehensive Plan, Sustainable Ossining. This is our second public hearing on the plan, and it will certainly not be our last, as we await comment on the plan from the Westchester County Department of Planning and a revised draft of the plan from our consultants in response to the comments we have received from the public thus far. As a reminder, this public hearing is not meant to be a discussion, or back and forth with the Board, instead an opportunity for the Board to hear comments from the public.

Kim Jeffery, Ossining, spoke about how there were good and interesting parts in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. She noted that the plan had included ideas that the community had proposed. She spoke about the importance of educating the community more on the Draft Comprehensive Plan. She discussed how in the survey people had mentioned wanting more open space and connectivity between open spaces. Mrs. Jeffery notes that this may be challenging due to equity and affordability. She expressed her concern about clusters in development.

Donna Sharrett, Morningside DR, noted that on pages 119 to 124 there is a summary of what is being proposed in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. In regard to the open space and natural resource community engagement section, Mrs. Sharrett suggested making them stronger. She called for stronger development of outreach campaigns. Mr. Sharrett believe that it would great to add an objective for the Town to seek more storm water funding opportunities. She

proposed bringing the Parks Department and Environmental Advisory Council together when doing projects in the parks and wetlands.

Erin Norris, Riverview Farm RD, spoke about adding the daylighting of streams to the Draft Comprehensive Plan. She discussed how there is a cost for renewable energy. She recommended the Town to utilize what is already there and not to disrupt trees and habitats for renewable energy equipment. She spoke about making people aware of Town ordinances and enforcing them.

Mitzi Elkes, Environmental Advisory Committee, spoke open spaces issues and expressed concern over not seeing an open space fund in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. She expressed her concern over creating such fund. She additionally discussed the bird sanctuary, shopping plazas, and flood zone maps. She asked for the creation of a watershed map for Ossining.

At 7:52 PM, Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer to adjourn the public hearing to April 12, 2022.

III. SUPERVISOR AND TOWN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Levenberg said the following:

Congratulations are in order for Alice Joselow, Ossining Public Library Trustee and Ossining Communities that Care director and founder, who was recognized earlier this evening as a 2022 “Shero” by the Westchester County Youth Board and Bureau for her impact on children, youth, and families in Westchester County. Here in Ossining we have regarded Alice as a “shero” for quite some time, so it is great that she is being recognized on a County level for her hard work on behalf of our youth. I was able to pop on to the event this evening for a short period of time, and offer a proclamation in recognition of Alice. Congratulations Alice, and thank you for all you do!

This Friday, March 25, the Ossining Boat and Canoe Club will continue their Friday Talks with “Next Steps for Clean-Up of Hudson River PCBs” led by Richard Webster, Legal Program Director at Riverkeeper. Learn more about the work done to remediate the Hudson River, which has been designated as one of the nation’s largest Superfund sites, with particular attention on the next phase and what it means for communities in our part of the river. Doors open at 7pm and the talk begins at 7:30pm. Make it an OBCC weekend by stopping by the Fine Art and Craft Sale, a joint venture between OBCC and the Ossining Arts Council, on Sunday, March 27 from 12pm to 4pm.

Westchester Collaborative Theater will be presenting the latest installment of their 2022 Jazz Master Series with a performance by the Willie Martinez Latin Jazz Quartet on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm, and tickets are available now at wctheater.org.

Registration for Spring Events and Summer Camp are open now with the Ossining Recreation Department! Make sure to check out the latest offerings, we have links to enrollment via the Supervisor’s Update, under “Arts and Enrichment.” There are lots of fun programs on deck for the whole family!

Councilmember Feldman announced that this is the last week to sign up to be a vendor at the Annual Earth Day Festival. Green Ossining’s 2022 Spring Community Tag Sale will be on Saturday May 7, 2022.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT ON TOWN OPERATIONS

Supervisor Levenberg said the following:

Before getting into the administrative update for this week, I need to acknowledge a disturbing incident that occurred the week before last. A hate

symbol was found on the Park School playground. The Community Equity Task Force issued a statement in light of this and other recent incidents that make clear the need for, quote, “proactive and sustained commitment to racial equity work, both in and out of schools.” The full statement is posted to our website and has been circulated to local media as a “Letter to the Editor.” You are invited to learn more and get involved in the Community Equity Task Force’s work. Go to the Email Alerts signup page of the Town of Ossining website, enter your name and email address, and then click “Manage Subscriptions” to add yourself to the Community Equity Task Force listserv.

Last week, we had our annual site inspection with our Workers Comp carrier, NY Comp Alliance, and we received some great news – the Town had no workers comp claims in 2021! Huge thanks to our entire staff for taking the time to exercise caution and be safe in the workplace, and our Department Heads, especially Highway Superintendent Pete Connolly and Parks Foreman Mario Velardo, for enforcing the Town’s safety protocols on a daily basis. This is good news for the Town’s bottom line, but also because it is so important to us that our staff shows up to work every day happy, healthy, and safe. Keep up the great work!

We have been working with the Village of Ossining’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative process, which currently has a call for project applications open through March 31 for organizations to seek grants under the \$10 million awarded to this area of Ossining by the State late last year. The initial call for projects is fairly simple, as this process includes funding to help organizations “flesh out” the details of their requests before the projects are brought before the State for final approval. We, the Town, are interested in submitting a request for a project we have kicked around for a long time – building new performance space at Louis Engel Park. Our current stage does not meet our current needs, and it is not resilient against even the mildest of weather conditions because it has no cover and cannot be retrofitted for a cover. We also were successful at getting a Community Development Block Grant to move the comfort station (also known as the public bathrooms), creating more space near the current stage at Engel Park where we could expand the performance space. Even if we are not successful at obtaining any of the \$10 million grant funding, it will be helpful for future grant opportunities to have this project mentioned in the Ossining DRI plan. Does the Board have any questions?

Speaking of Engel Park, another grant funded project got underway today with tree maintenance under the DEC’s Urban and Community Forestry program. The selected contractor started today with pruning, and unfortunately a few removals, at Engel Park. The park is going to stay open during the work, but parkgoers please exercise caution! Also happening at Engel: cleanup of the waterfront, final fixes on the kayak racks, and the docks are now in. More work still to be done but a lot was done yesterday and today.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Water Superintendent Andy Tiess reviewed projects that are being done in the Town of Ossining. One project they are concentrating on is located at Cedar LN Park.

Town/Village Engineer Paul Fraioli spoke about the McCarthy DR project. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May. Budget officer Cafarelli has been sending McCarthy DR residents email updates on the project. Paving at Morningside is underway.

Building Inspector John Hamilton provided the Town Board with an update on the Building Department. Since January 1st, the Building Department has issued 86 permits, 24 title searches, 5 tree permits, and 153 inspections. The TBD

revenue line is currently \$31,140. The TBD will begin its mandatory training programs in April. The TBD recently completed the NYS Stretch Residential Inspection program. They will be completing the commercial one next. The TBD is reviewing various projects to be presented to the Planning Board.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

A. Approval of Minutes—Regular Meeting – March 8, 2022

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the March 8, 2022 minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion: Carried

B. Approval of Voucher Detail Report

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby approves the Voucher Detail Report dated March 22, 2022 in the amount of \$477,741.27

Motion: Carried

C. 2021 Year End Budget Adjustments

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining approves the following budget adjustments for year end 2021:

Town of Ossining Budget Adjustments YE 12/31/2021					
General Fund		Transfer In	Transfer Out		
100-1110-406000-0000-40	OFFICE AND SUPPLIES EXPENSE	350.00			
100-1410-406000-0000-40	OFFICE AND SUPPLIES EXPENSE	20.00	370.00	100-1110-408000-0000-40	CONSTABLE/SECURITY SRVCS
		370.00	370.00		

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We continue to clean up our books for 2021, with a few minor budget adjustments to approve tonight.

Motion: Carried

D. Support for New York State Senate Bill S.8432 in relation to emergency medical services in New York State

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Manicchio that the following resolution be approved.

WHEREAS, New York State Senator Shelly Mayer has introduced proposed state legislation S.8432 entitled, “An Act to amend the general municipal law, the civil service law, the retirement and social security law and the public health law, in relation to emergency medical services” which legislation would define emergency medical services and ambulance services as essential services that must be available to everyone in New York State in a reliable manner; expand benefits available to emergency medical services personnel; and sets standards for emergency medical services and training of emergency medical services personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ossining recognizes the many concerns related to the delivery of emergency medical services throughout the county, state and nation that involve such issues as staff recruitment and retention, the lack of access to alternative revenues such as grants and adequate insurance programs, training opportunities, and clear standards for agencies providing emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical service agencies provide an essential service that should provide equal access to those in need of such services, and also provide essential early intervention health care to patients; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ossining believes that S.8432 is a good first step to resolve the current crisis facing the emergency medical services community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining supports the enactment of S.8432; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval, copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Assemblywoman Sandra Galef, State Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and State Senator Shelly Mayer, the sponsor of S.8432.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Yes, it is shocking to know that Emergency Medical Services are still not considered essential services in NYS! Here in Ossining, we certainly take for granted the excellent services we receive from the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, but this is not the norm across the State and something must be done to assist these vital agencies to stay afloat. Thank you to Village Manager Karen D’Attore for bringing this to our attention, and we urge the NYS Legislature to adopt this bill.

**Motion: Carried
Abstain: Meyer & Fields-Tawil**

E. Permission to Sell Alcohol at Town of Ossining Earth Day

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Captain Lawrence Brewing Company, 6 Degrees or Less Brewery, and Sing Sing Kill Brewery are each authorized to operate a concession stand during the Earth Day Event held on April 23, 2022 at the Louis Engel Waterfront Park in the Town of Ossining and to sell, for consumption by persons over 21 years of age, at the event the companies’ beer products. Captain Lawrence Brewing Company, Six Degrees or Less Brewery, and Sing Sing Kill Brewery will obtain, with consent from the Town, all necessary permits including an event permit from the New York State Liquor Authority and will provide proof of insurance and the letter of indemnity to the Town in a form acceptable to Counsel to the Town.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Mark your calendars for April 23 for the return of our annual Earth Day celebration! For those 21+, we'll be raising a glass of some craft beer with returning vendors Sing Sing Kill Brewery, Captain Lawrence Brewing Company, and 6 Degrees or Less Brewery, but first these vendors need the permission of the Town Board to do so. Thank you to the incredible Suzie Ross for her hard work organizing such a fantastic event!

Motion: Carried

F. Appointment – Town Planning Board

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved as amended.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby appoints Nicholas Emmanuel Enriquez to fill an unexpired term on the Town Planning Board to expire on December 31, 2023.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: With the recent resignation of Jesus Lopez from his position on the Planning Board, we are very pleased to be appointing Manny Enriquez, who currently serves on our Zoning Board, to this vacant position. Manny, thanks for stepping up once again!

Motion: Carried

G. Appointment – Town Planning Board (Alternate Position)

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby appoints Jason Mencher to the alternate position on the Town Planning Board for a one-year term to expire March 31, 2023.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: We have also had the position of Planning Board alternate vacant for some time, and we are happy tonight to be appointing Jason Mencher, who most recently served on our Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, to the alternate position. Jason brings a great deal of professional knowledge in the planning field to the Board, as well. Thank you Jason, also, for stepping up once again!

Motion: Carried

H. Request for Proposals – Meals for the Elderly Nutrition Program

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby issues a request for proposals for the preparation of Meals for the Elderly Nutrition Program and related supplies, with proposals due back to the office of the Town Clerk by 10am on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: Our current contract for our Senior Nutrition Program caterer has come to an end, so we need to go out to bid for another contract.

Motion: Carried

I. Resolution – Adoption of EAF Part 2 for Draft Comprehensive Plan

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

WHEREAS, for more than two years, the Town Board, with the assistance of the Steering Committee comprised of Town residents, stakeholders and officials, has been preparing a new comprehensive plan with public input and participation; and

WHEREAS, the draft comprehensive plan was made available to the public in early February 2022 and the Town Board has been soliciting, receiving and considering comments from the public on the draft comprehensive plan since that time; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board opened a duly noticed public hearing on the comprehensive plan at its March 8, 2022 meeting, which public hearing remains open; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is lead agency pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) for the consideration of the comprehensive plan; and

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board, as lead agency, hereby adopts the SEQRA Environmental Assessment Form, Part 2.

Supervisor Levenberg said the following: As we continue our public hearing process on the Comp Plan, we are approving tonight the Environmental Assessment Form Part 2 on the plan.

Motion: Carried

IX. MONTHLY REPORTS

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby accepts the following monthly reports for the months of January and February 2022:

- **Town Building Department**

Motion: Carried

X. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE RECEIVED AND FILED

Councilmember Feldman moved and it was seconded by Councilmember Meyer that the following resolution be approved.

Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining hereby accepts the following correspondence:

- **Town Planning Board Minutes 2/16/22**

Motion: Carried

XI. VISITOR RECOGNITION

Visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to speak

Donna Sharrett, Morningside DR, disagreed with Town/Village Engineer Paul Fraioli’s comments about storm water issues. She noted that there are storm water issues in the Town, especially when it snows heavily. She spoke about her longtime request for a concrete curve.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:34 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

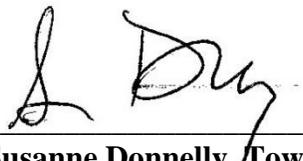
At 8:45 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to leave Executive Session and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

At 8:45 P.M., Councilmember Feldman motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting and Councilmember Meyer seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Approved:



Susanne Donnelly, Town Clerk