

Town Board Meeting
March 8, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called 8th day of March 2021 at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler
Councilman Douglas Ford
Councilwoman Gretchen Wilmot
Councilman Bruce Bailey
Councilman Brian Harrington

Supervisor Fedler called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Auditing of the Bills

General	#30 – 60	\$ 4,912.08
Highway	#20 – 29	\$21,555.98

Approving of the Supervisor's Report

Resolution #18

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to approve the Supervisor's Report from February 2021.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Approving of the Minutes

Resolution # 19

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by councilman Ford to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2021 Town Board meeting as mailed.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Councilman Bailey said that he had some questions about the solar questions listed in the February minutes. He did not understand what the questions meant. The Supervisor mentioned that later in the meeting they would address solar.

Duell Hollow Farm – Farm Operations in Transition grant application.

Chris Krahlung was present at the meeting from ASA to discuss Farmland Protection for Duell Hollow Farm. John Peabody from Duell Hollow and Chris Krahlung from ASA were looking for support from the Town Board for the Duell Hollow Farm application to the state for the Farm Operations in Transition Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program (Round 17-B). The project is comprised of approximately 200 acres owned by the estate of Henry Peabody and approximately 80 acres owned by Robert Odess for a total project acreage of 280 acres. The farm operation primarily produces beef and hay and is going through a generational transfer and operational expansion to increase beef production while diversifying sales avenues. The property is still private property owned by the private landowner and property taxes paid by the landowner. The ASA is obligated to do a walk about yearly of the property.

Resolution #20

Town Board Meeting
March 8, 2021

Councilman Ford motioned, seconded by Councilman Bailey that the Town of Cambridge conveys full support for the Duell Hollow Farm Application to the State for the Farm Operations in Transition Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program (Round 17 – B).

Vote: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0 Abstain – 1

Brian Harrington abstained from the vote.

Town Clerk Report

The Town Clerk delivered the framed resolution of appreciation and card to LaVerne Davis. He was very grateful for the appreciation. The delinquent tax letters have been mailed. The last day to pay taxes in the office is March 31st.

Planning Board Report

The Planning board Meeting was held February 4th with 4 members and Secretary present. Solar was discussed. Pamela Landi from the County contacted the Secretary to the Planning Board and answered the questions to from the last meeting. Hand out has answered those questions or referred to places that could help answer the questions. Planning Board is leaning towards a Local Law to enforce Solar. Pamela said that she would be willing to set up a Virtual Meeting to help answer any questions that the Planning Board may have.

Matthew and Jessica Wilbur presented a Sketch Plan (Survey has been done for this lot already) of a minor subdivision of tax map #279.-1-6.1. They would like to subdivide off 3.65 acres off of the main farm which is 193.95 acres. The lot is located on Southwest wooded portion of Whiteside Road. Planning Board thought all boundaries looked good. The Wilbur's will finish the paperwork for April 1st meeting and contact surveyor about doing mylar copy of the survey. The Public Hearing will be held at the May meeting.

Jeffrey Audi presented a sketch plan for 1038 Vly Summit Road tax map #270.-2-22 5.0 acres. This property is located at the corner of 74, Vly Summit and Brownell Road. There are two houses on the lot and a garage. He is proposing a subdivision of 2 lots of 2.5 acres each, with a house on each lot. The Planning Board has concerns with the lot that has the garage, it is very close to the boundary. They gave permission to go forward with the survey and suggested to keep this in mind when surveying. Mr. Audi was not sure how quickly this subdivision would move, have to have approval from the bank because of a lien on the property. The Planning Board secretary told him to notify her when he is ready to be on the agenda again.

Next Planning Board Meeting will be April 1, 2021

Councilman Bailey had some concerns about solar. and He mentioned that the Planning Board can not do a Town Law. Any decisions that need to be made must be made by the Town Board. The Supervisor mentioned that a lot of information needed to be gathered. We are still in the early stages of this process. The Supervisor said that the Planning Board will move forward and meet with Pamela and work with Pamela finding out all the information that they can. This meeting with Pamela would be a zoom meeting with information and questions.

Town Board Meeting
March 8, 2021

Highway Report

The Highway men have been fairly busy plowing, sanding, and cleaning up after high winds. Truck #2 went to Milton Cat with all of the symptoms of an internal compression leak. Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. has been working with McFarlane Johnson engineers to submit an application to Bridge N.Y. for the bridge on the south end of King Road. The Stump Church Road culvert is tentatively scheduled to start in April of this year. The contractor would like to use our dump to dispose of the rock and concrete. Jim Buckley Jr. the Highway Superintendent has been participating in Zoom meetings with state officials as they are unable to go to Albany and lobby for CHIPS, Pave, and EWR funds at Advocacy day. Which is what they usually do. It is his understanding that CHIPS funding is still unsettled. Depending on how things play out with Federal money, and, what the state does with the money. He is hearing everything from a 20% reduction again this year, to a refund of 75% of what was taken away last year.

It was discussed about the Stump Church Bridge being slated to start in April and about dumping the rock and concrete in the dump. The Town Board gave permission to dump the rock and concrete from the Stump church bridge in the dump.

Communicable Disease Plan

The Highway Superintendent Jim Buckley Jr. and Town Clerk Heather Greenawalt have been working on the Communicable Disease Plan that is to be in place by April 1st. The Communicable Disease Plan has been submitted to the Town Board for review prior to this Town Board meeting. All of the Town Board said that it looked good.

Resolution #21

Councilman Bailey motioned,
Seconded by Councilman Ford,

The Town Board of the Town of Cambridge adopted the Communicable Disease Plan (Emergency Plan) as presented. The complete adopted Communicable Disease Plan will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office for viewing.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Code Enforcement

The notice for annual reporting was sent on to the County, because the Town is contracting Code Enforcement with the County.

The Supervisor said that she is looking for resolution to give approval for the Town Clerk or the supervisor to sign the LRCC#1 and LRCC#2. The LRCC#1 is signed when a project starts with the county giving approval for the project to start. Signing LRCC#1 tells County if there are any Local laws, ordinances, Site Plan, Mobile Home Ordinance that apply to this project. If there are none then there is a space to check stating that. The LRCC#2 is signed at the finish of the project, at this point the Town is acknowledging that the completed construction project complies with the Town requirements, if there are any. The Town Clerk said that she would only sign after discussing with the Supervisor. This permission to sign is only if the Supervisor is not available and a signature is needed right away.

Town Board Meeting
March 8, 2021

Resolution #22

Councilman Bailey motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Wilmot to give permission for both the Supervisor and the Town Clerk to sign the LRCC#1 and the LRCC#2 for County Building permits.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Town Board

Councilman Bailey read a paper that he had written with different things that had been discussed at Town Board meetings in the past. These were things that he felt were never followed through on. For example: September 2019 LaVerne Davis brought to the Town Board Solar Farms restrictions, LaVerne seemed to disapprove of this development. Councilman Bailey asked if the Town Board is going to do anything about it? August 2019 compared the fee schedules between the County and the Town. Brought up the subject to stop the solar array: what is the Board going to do about it, what is acceptable? He also questioned if the Town Board was going to address land issues in the Town? At this point there is no protection from unwanted development, need to have a discussion on what we do want in the Town of Cambridge. Councilman Bailey said that the Town Board needs to look at the bigger picture, what are people of the Town concerned about? Councilwoman Wilmot was wondering who determines what is unwanted in the town and how do we make that first step towards protection against unwanted development? Councilman Harrington also asked if the Planning Board had concerns about these issues, are there holes that need to be taken care of to protect the Town? Councilman Harrington asked if we were going to address these issues that Councilman Bailey had listed. Supervisor Fedler voiced her concerns of pursuing some kind of Site Plan Review for the Town of Cambridge at this time. She stated that due to the pandemic and all of the restrictions: social distancing and limiting resident's ability to get out and gather in large groups. This makes it hard to have large meetings and still follow guidelines. The Supervisor suggested that the Town of Cambridge wait until some of these restrictions are lifted and the residents feel comfortable coming out. A copy of Councilman Baileys concerns has been filed with the minutes.

Tour of the Battenkill

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the Tour of the Battenkill had been email about the concerns of the date of the race and the request for a more detailed map. The response that the date on the race was firm and that they felt that they have taken all the safety precautions needed. The Town Board still had many concerns about the race. The Town Board felt that they could not support the Tour of the Battenkill at this time because, this race is right at the peak of harvest season. This is a major safety risk and causes economic harm, especially with the large truck traffic, this could be very dangerous. This is not only dangerous for the Town of Cambridge but throughout the entirety of the course due to Washington County being a major Agricultural Area. Therefore, the Town Board requested that the Town Clerk email the Coordinator again about the concerns and disapproval of the race.

County Report

Supervisor Fedler reported that DPW is still moving forward and is hopefully able to do work. Public Health, Public Safety has all sites posted to the pharmacies that are now giving the COVID vaccines. The Supervisor mentioned that they are very busy and anyone can go on the Public Health site and get on the waiting list to get vaccinated. Ag and Planning has a lack of tourism. Tourism has mostly shifted broad stream promotion. They have been promoting Social Campaign to help businesses managing to stay open.

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>

Town Board Meeting
March 8, 2021

There being no further business before the Town Board the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge