

PATTERSON TOWN BOARD MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PATTERSON TOWN HALL  
1142 ROUTE 311  
PATTERSON, NY 12563

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 – PUTNAM LAKE PARK DISTRICT

February 12, 2014

MINUTES

PRESENT: MICHAEL GRIFFIN, SUPERVISOR  
KEVIN BURNS, COUNCILMAN  
CHARLES W. COOK, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR  
PETER DANDREANO, COUNCILMAN  
ROBERT MCCARTHY, COUNCILMAN  
ANTOINETTE KOPECK, TOWN CLERK  
DONALD M. ROSSI, TOWN COUNSEL

Salute to the Flag and Roll Call.

Supervisor Griffin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. with 15 in attendance.

Mr. Griffin stated if anyone has any questions, please come up to the microphone and ask your question.

Ms. Deb Lawlor stated I have a couple of questions, as well as a few comments. What does the Town Code actually require right now for the first Section 1, Chapter 1153A, where it says how many members are on....

Mr. Griffin stated currently the code says seven members. The member themselves have come to the Board and asked us to reduce it to five.

Ms. Lawlor stated are there seven members on the Board now.

Mr. Griffin stated no.

Ms. Lawlor stated have there ever been seven members on the Board.

Mr. Burns stated I don't think so. They have been operating with five.

Ms. Lawlor stated who were the original people who were recommended to be on the Board.

Mr. Griffin stated Dede do you want to help us out with that one.

Mr. Chris Lawlor stated the Board picked them because we went for interviews.

Mr. Griffin stated yes, but you are asking me to remember who we put on the Board a year and half ago.

Mr. Major stated we have a microphone Mike, if someone wants to talk shouldn't they go up to the microphone.

Mr. Griffin stated as soon as we get that far, I will ask them to do that.

Ms. Lifgren stated originally we had Meg Cairney.

Mr. Lawlor stated no she was not. She was interviewed but never on the Board.

Mr. Burns stated is the question who actually served on the Board, the first five members.

Mr. Lawlor stated no, seven.

Mr. Burns stated well there were never seven.

Mr. Lawlor stated who were they.

Mr. Cook stated what does it matter.

Mr. Griffin stated I don't have the answer for that question. I will get it for you.

Ms. Lawlor stated and the current Chairperson hasn't changed.

Mr. Griffin stated that's correct.

Ms. Lawlor stated based on that, what I am understanding is that since the recommendation was made by the Town Board to have a seven member board, that basically what the Park District Committee is proposing, is to change the law because it didn't work and they couldn't get seven people to the board.

Mr. Cook stated five people worked well.

Ms. Lawlor stated but were they ever able to have seven people. I'm curious, because I know a lot of people did actually interview for the positions on the board, but seven were never chosen. I just don't understand why.

Mr. Griffin stated there were two individuals that were left out of the original appointment phase because of issues to do with the fact that they were board members of the PLCC. One of them declined shortly thereafter to go on the board and the board functioned for several months. I had conversations with DeDe Lifgren and she said the board is working really well the way it is, we would like to keep it that way. She asked us not to fill the positions. The board in cooperation with the sitting Park Chair Board and her board choose not to fill those positions. They have subsequently moved some people in and some resigned but they are still very comfortable having a five member board.

Ms. Lawlor stated so during the course of one year they have been in existence.

Mr. Cook stated right.

Ms. Lawlor stated in the course of that one year, how many people have been on that board.

Mr. Griffin stated there have been seven people in total who served on the board, but never more than five at a time, that I am aware of.

Ms. Lawlor stated how many sub-committees are within the board.

Mr. Burns stated do you mean how many sub-committees are on the Putnam Lake Advisory Board.

Ms. Lawlor stated correct.

Mr. Burns stated I heard them mentioned, but I couldn't tell you.

Mr. Griffin stated at the present time, I don't know if there are any.

Ms. Lawlor stated so who is in charge of lifeguards and the beaches and the ballfield.

Mr. Burns stated they have done it cooperatively, I think certain people have been point people on certain issues, but I don't know if you would go so far as to say it was a sub-committee.

Mr. Griffin stated the Chairwoman has taken lead responsibility, but ultimately it comes to the Town Board.

Ms. Lawlor stated I guess maybe that is what my concern is. Putting that responsibility onto the Chairperson and not delegating those responsibilities amongst a board of 6 other people is a concern to me. I think that puts a lot of responsibility on the Chairperson to be involved

with not overseeing the committee, which is really what the Chairperson's responsibility should be. To make sure each sub-committee is in charge of what they are supposed to be doing and functioning correctly.

Mr. Burns stated whether you have a board of five or seven, I don't know that sub-committees make a lot of sense with the project at hand. To have a sub-committee for lifeguards, boat renewals and a water quality seems to make it more cumbersome than it needs to be. I don't agree with that assessment, if that is what the chairperson's role is.

Ms. Lawlor stated well then I guess we agree to disagree, I do think that is important. I think this may be tying the hands of future board members, as well. Perhaps in the future as the park district continues to grow, which hopefully it will, and start to function on a more smooth routine, I think that it can be tying the hands of future boards that may want additional people. If you change the law and change it to five.....

Mr. Griffin stated it is not a complicated process. It is a Public Hearing, it's a change to the printed words and.....

Ms. Lawlor stated does it have to be determined that it is a board of five. Can't we just say, at least, or something like that.

Mr. Griffin stated what I am trying to say is it is not a complicated process to change the law back to seven.

Ms. Lawlor stated ok. Those were my concerns about Section 1. I have no concerns about Section 2. In Section 3, I was wondering what newspapers would the Town use to notify for boat confiscations.

Mr. Rossi stated we use a paper of general circulation in the Town that way we can ensure flexibility of it.

Mr. Griffin stated the Courier.

Ms. Lawlor stated is there any other source.

Mr. Cook stated the Courier is the official newspaper and we have also agreed depending on the subject matter, we would put ads and press releases in the other weekly papers.

Mr. Rossi stated Debbie if I could, the purposes of this law we could be dealing with abandoned boats, I don't know if the Town is going to commit to putting a press release into the papers, that is different than a advertisement. The law has a few aspects to it. Number one; if the boat had been registered, which it should be, if it is going to be kept on the lake, then the Town would send notice to the owner of the last registrant. That is one layer of notice. Also, publication and I think there is a provision in there for posting around the Town.

Ms. Lawlor stated Section 4, I'm very happy to see that put into law, trash and garbage would not be allowed on any park land property. Would that be enforced by the Town Code Enforcer and would fines be issued.

Mr. Griffin stated there would be appearance tickets issued and the fines would be up to the judge.

Ms. Lawlor stated but the Town Code Enforcer would be the one to contact should you see someone doing that.

Mr. Griffin stated yes.

Mr. Cook made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Burns. All In Favor: Aye. Carried.

Ms. Margarite Shortt stated I assumed the Public Hearing was going to be held in the Recreation Center. That's what I was thinking.

Mr. Griffin stated appears that you and the Lawlor's are here to talk about it.

Ms. Shortt stated I don't think many people were aware.

Mr. Burns stated if you are going to make any comments we have to re-open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Burns made a **motion** to re-open the Public Hearing.

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All In Favor: Aye. Carried.

Ms. Shortt stated I apologize. All I wanted to say was would it be possible to postpone its vote until more people are aware of the five members board question.

Mr. Griffin stated do you have an opinion on it.

Ms. Shortt stated yes I do. I think it should be seven.

Mr. Griffin stated we are not going to adopt the law tonight. If the Board feels it is appropriate to hold the Public Hearing open, they can do so.

Ms. Shortt stated my reason for seven is that there is so much work that has to be done. I think a seven member board would be able to help out and reach out into the community. It is difficult for five people. There is so much work to do.

Mr. Cook stated so we can expect your letter of interest.

Ms. Shortt stated I actually have it. Thank you.

Mr. Rossi stated if you want to leave it open for another public discussion or you can leave it open seven to ten days.

Mr. Griffin stated I see no reason to leave it open for written comment. If we are going to leave it open, let's leave it open until the next meeting.

Mr. Cook stated if this is the issue at hand, we could just change going to a five member board to say not to exceed seven or up to seven members.

Mr. Griffin stated I'll defer to Counsel on this, but if you have a seven member board, we are under some obligation to fill the board.

Mr. Rossi stated or having it open to regular comment and discussion. I like the idea of having a set number and as you said it is a very simple matter if it turns out that the work load is becoming too heavy or you have other potential committee members to serve you might want to take advantage of you can always do it.

Mr. Griffin stated the only problem with amending Town Laws, it gets very expensive because this goes up to General Codes, General Codes produces the changes, and Antoinette we get a big bill when we make code changes.

Ms. Alicia Earle read a letter from Marguerite Shortt and herself:

To the Putnam Lake Park District Advisory Board,

First, we would like to thank the board, with its past and present members, for your dedication and perseverance in the formation of the Park District. It was an enormous undertaking and you worked tirelessly to accomplish it.

However, knowing the burden of working with only a five member board, we would now like to request you reconsider your vote to remain five, and ask that you increase the Park Advisory Board to a full, seven member board, as was originally intended. The reasons are:

- \* The addition of three, new members could help lighten the workload of the present board, while adding more diversity to better represent the community as a whole. An

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example of this would be to provide more representation for the various, community demographics, encouraging better communication and providing more skill sets needed to enhance the district.

- \* Availability; most, if not all members, already have full-time work positions as well as other obligations, thereby limiting their amount of volunteer time. Back-up coverage would also be an added benefit in case of scheduled, meeting conflicts.
- \* Potential, new responsibilities. For example, in addition to the men's softball league and children's swim team, consider alternative committees (as well as subcommittees) that would potentially interest and engage additional, community members. In other words, offer venues for additional recreational and social events to foster a better sense of communication, thereby building relationships and a closer community.
- \* Other job responsibilities within the board for consideration could be a potential treasurer, board secretary (i.e., taking minutes of all public and work session meetings, correspondence, appointments, etc.); assistance with public relations to offer more community outreach as well as soliciting volunteers, etc.

We feel open board positions should be widely advertised to encourage any resident who may wish to apply (i.e., community bulletin board, advertisement board at the Putnam Lake Market, etc.).

Mr. Cook made a **motion** at 7:25 p.m. to keep the Public Hearing open until the next Town Board meeting.

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All In Favor: Aye. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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ANTOINETTE KOPECK, TOWN CLERK