

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

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 – PUTNAM LAKE PARK DISTRICT CONT'D

February 26, 2014

MINUTES

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

Salute to the Flag and Roll Call.

Supervisor Griffin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:10 p.m. with 20 in attendance.

Mr. Griffin stated we will dispense with the reading of the Public Notice. I think everyone is well aware of it. The one issue that seems to be the most discussed was the number of members on the Park Board. I see there are some people here tonight from Putnam Lake and I would assume they would like to contribute to the conversation.

Mr. Griffin stated I will re-open the Public Hearing and if anyone has any questions or comments, please come up to the microphone.

Mr. Henry Zemsky stated I think my first question and I'm a little hazy about the clause, but there has never been seven members on the Board. Is that correct.

Mr. Griffin stated to the best of my knowledge that is correct.

Mr. Zemsky stated was it the Town Board that picked the board members or was it DeDe.

Mr. Griffin stated the Town Board appointed the board members.

Mr. Burns stated the original members. There has been attrition over time.

Mr. Zemsky stated yes, there has.

Mr. Burns stated and there has been suggestions from that board for new members to appoint.

Mr. Zemsky stated so, if there were never seven board members and there were at least seven people who applied for it, why weren't the other people considered.

Mr. Griffin stated at the time there were a couple of people that were active members of the Executive Board of the PLCC and the Town Board felt, at the time, it wasn't necessarily appropriate to appoint them to the Park Advisory Board while the PLCC was still actively working in the community and we have not accomplished all of the things that needed to be done for the PLCC to move the property, etc.

Mr. Zemsky stated what would have been the conflict.

Mr. Burns stated specifically it was attorney's fees. I think they were coming back and asking for more money from the Town for attorney's fees and we felt it was inappropriate to be advocating for a position that's adverse to the Town, essentially asking us for more money to work on the dissolution and at the same time then being appointed to the board and working on behalf of the board. I felt that was a conflict. Our suggestion was, if they wanted

to resign the position on the Executive Committee, that would cure the conflict, and they declined to do that.

Audience member shouted "excuse me", that was never asked.

Second audience member stated I seconded that.

Mr. Griffin stated if you would like to make a comment, come up to the microphone.

Mr. Burns stated I'm pretty certain it was, but.....

Mr. Zemsky stated after the PLCC was abandoned, why weren't those people asked to be on the board.

Mr. Griffin stated if my recollection serves me, by then the board seemed fairly comfortable with five members and they requested that it remain that way.

Mr. Zemsky stated there were six then, I believe.

Mr. Griffin stated I won't argue on that Henry. I don't know if there were ever any more than five active members.

Mr. Zemsky stated ok. I guess I've never seen (inaudible) and from what I understand on boards, you need diversity. What it seems like you have now, you have five people that they don't like. I don't know if they stretch anything as far as what they think their priorities are, but I would like to see seven board members, just because that is what the original petition said. I don't understand why there would be five now.

Mr. Griffin stated I don't recall there ever being any specific number in the petition.

Mr. Zemsky stated it was seven, I believe.

Mr. Griffin stated ok, I'll take your word for it. I don't believe that is the case.

Audience member stated it was not stated in the petition.

Mr. Zemsky stated so, where did I read that.

Audience member stated in the law.

Mr. Zemsky stated oh, in the law, who reads laws. I vote for seven members. I think the more the merrier. I know they had a hard time looking for volunteers this year and one of the ways you get volunteers is you get all the board members, the PLCC had twelve members, to try to bring someone along to help make things work. Thank you, I appreciate you listening.

Mr. Griffin stated thank you.

Ms. Meg Cairney stated I agree with Henry. I think it should remain seven people. There is a lot of work that has to be done. The more people you have on your board, the more people you have to do the work. Right now they are only working with four people. It's spread thin. Like Henry said, we were a twelve member board and we had to do a lot of things. I think it would be very foolish to cut it down to five people.

Ms. Pat Ploeger stated I was asked to come here tonight to sit and listen and be part of the group. One of the reasons was that after hearing Alicia Earl reading hers and Margarite's letter two weeks ago, I said to myself, they really said it all. I understand there is nothing as messy as democracy. You made a comment at the last meeting, sometimes you go in with a vision of a forerunner and people get in the way. I just watched "1776" last night and I said, "my god, fifty guys got together and harrowed out the Declaration of Independence and birthed out a Country and they had issues that were in such conflict, the biggest one which was slavery, many others and yet they had a common goal." I think our community has a common goal, regardless of whether they signed a petition or are on the board or whatever. I think to say, "look we are fine in our little group, because it is easier to work with a small group, is excluding other people with their experience and diverse opinions and ideas as well as their manpower." I would strongly suggest that the seven member board stay as it is for that reason and for the reasons stated by Alicia last week. Thank you.

Mr. Cook made a **motion** at 7:20 p.m. to keep the Public Hearing open until the next Town Board meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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ANTOINETTE KOPECK, TOWN CLERK